

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

of a Meeting held at the Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh on

Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chair), Jon Cardy, Michael Chester, Teresa Landymore and Margaret Rickard

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);
4 Members of the public.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

22. Apologies

All members were present and so there were no apologies.

23. Declarations of Interest

- a. Cllr Cardy declared a potential Pecuniary Interest in item 29b. As the interest is only potential the Clerk recommended that Cllr Cardy simply abstain in any voting on the matter.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.

24. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th July 2021 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

25. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a. County Cllr Soons had submitted a report in advance and this was received by the Council. C Cllr Soons added that although most teenagers were eligible to receive a single Covid vaccination some more exposed groups, such as those undertaking training in social care, would receive a double dose. Picking up on the response to a question that had been asked previously as to why there was a specific cabinet member for Ipswich, C Cllr Soons expanded that the reason for a cabinet member having a specific interest in Ipswich was that, as the largest town in the County by a considerable margin, it had particular issues.

With regard to the long-term flooding issues on Queens Lane, it was agreed that Cllr Cardy would send pictures, to add to the Clerk's, of the full drains in the middle of the driest part of the year. The Clerk would then select the most representative pictures to forward to C Cllr Soons.

- b. District Cllr Chester gave a verbal report and his written report and this was received by the Council. D Cllr Chester drew particular attention to planning training and engine idling. In discussion, the Council was keen to take up the offer of planning workshops and would be especially keen to develop good relations with the planning team; a focus on material planning considerations and the ways in which they are applied would be most useful.

On balance the Council supported the call for engine idling to be punished with £20 fines and it was suggested that a District Council generated leaflet about the consequences of engine idling (to the environment and in terms of any new enforcement that may be agreed) would be a helpful resource for members of the public to be able to use when challenging engine idlers.

It was agreed that some of the links contained in the report would be useful to add to the Parish Council's website.

26. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

27. Clerk's Report

- a. There were no matters to report in terms of use of delegated powers.
- b. The following correspondence was reported:
 - ◆ West Suffolk Council had sent a matrix of their information and designation of Chedburgh in relation to the emerging Development Plan, for checking in relation to accuracy. Chedburgh has been designated an 'A' type village (previously designated a service centre). The updated figures for the number of houses in the village and population are 264 and 668 respectively which represents significant growth over the past 5 years. Villages have also been designated red, amber or green in relation to proximity to bus services but no explanation of the significance of these designations had been given and the Clerk will seek to establish this and then respond.
 - ◆ Traffic on Queens Lane - No further response from Anglian Water had been received - this is awaited.
 - ◆ The External Audit Report had been received and confirmed that the Council had met all statutory requirements. The audit fee, of £300 plus VAT, was larger than before because of the one-off boosts to our income arising from S106 money and funding for works to the Erskine Centre)
- c. **Progress Report on Actions Arising from Prior Meetings** - The Clerk reported as follows:
 - ◆ **Advertising** - for volunteers for a Speed Watch scheme and for general jobs had been sent out to the Parish magazine. Laminated copies would be made available for posting on noticeboards and electronic versions could be posted on social media.
 - ◆ **Co-Options** - Mr Mark Hill had come forward and is keen to serve. His personal statement was considered by the Council and it was unanimously resolved to co-opt him to the council. Amy Savage, who was present in the public gallery and who had led the Wildlife Village meeting and proposals was asked if she would consider standing for co-option and she indicated that she could be open to the possibility. The Clerk will liaise with her with a view to bring forward a proposal for co-option to the next meeting.
 - ◆ **Crumbling wall on Queens Lane** (at edge of Majors Close) - The Clerk had been in further discussion the District Council and was still pressing the case for them to take responsibility for its maintenance.
 - ◆ **New Litter and Dog waste bins**- The costs have proved to be higher than anticipated. In discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would establish whether the contents of litter bins and dog waste bins were treated separately when they are collected (as it was believed that both types of bin are emptied into the same wagon) and whether there are certain types and specifications of bin approved by the District Council. If possible, multi-purpose larger bins would seem more flexible than two single purpose bins in each place. There was also discussion about deploying wheelie bins but, on balance, it was felt that these would not be ideal whereas reasonably large bins, that would be fixed to the ground were preferred. Once the facts are established, the Clerk and Cllr Cardy will put together a costed proposal for the type, number and positioning of bins for the next meeting, at which a final decision could be made.
 - ◆ **Queen's Jubilee celebrations** - In response to our approach, the Community Council have indicated that it will be planning an event and will be glad of support from the Council in due course.
 - ◆ **Repairs to the Noticeboard** - A new board had now been made and installed for less than the cost quoted for repair of the old board.
 - ◆ **Installation of Bench near the War Memorial** - This work has now been commissioned to be placed in a new position on the green itself, as previously agreed, at a price of £1,070.
 - ◆ **The Defibrillator** has been dispatched to our supplier and should be delivered within the next few weeks.

28. Planning and Environment

- a. Planning Applications** - There were no responses to planning application consultations to consider.
- b. Planning Application Updates** - There were no updates on planning application consultations considered previously.
- c. Mulberry Park development** - There has still been no maintenance of the roads or the public open space since the last meeting. District Cllr Chester will speak to officers to see whether the road can now be adopted.

29. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub

- a. Update** - A member had been to view the building, as he could be interested in acquiring it for himself in order to re-establish the pub, and reported that he had only been able to access part of the building and that there was conflicting information about the nature of the sale and what would or would not be included. He is awaiting clarification about the information and is waiting to hear about viewing those parts of the building that were not available to be seen.
- b. Asset of Community Value (ACV)** - The Council considered the draft application for renewal of ACV status and resolved to submit the application as drafted. Cllr Cardy abstained from the vote.

30. Operation of VAS

Cllr Cardy reported that the cables for uploading data were out of date and not compatible with his IT equipment. Cllr Chester offered assistance in that regard and it was agreed that it is useful to maintain data collection, not least to use in any further attempts to get the speed restriction on the A143 extended.

The Council resolved to consider replacement of the VAS once number plate recognition models come on stream for use by parish council.

31. Wildlife Friendly Village

The Council received a paper from Amy Savage, outlining a comprehensive proposal for making the village wildlife-friendly (attached to this briefing). There were two dimensions to the proposal - changes in the public areas of the village and changes within people's gardens.

The proposal is that people with gardens can do small things to effect change and that if enough people do so this can form wildlife corridors that are even more effective at encouraging wildlife.

In terms of the public realm, the proposal covered action in just one or two areas of the village, through to a wider-scale effort across the whole village. The idea would be to start small and expand the scheme according to the appetite and commitment of the community. The ultimate aim would be to have between 10% and 20% of outdoor space, private and public, actively used to foster wildlife.

At a public meeting held on the 6th of September 2021 (run by Ms Savage and attended by 23 members of the public) there was great enthusiasm and very strong support for the concept, together with many offers of support and commitment. Email addresses were gathered and the list has already been used to circulate a guide on making gardens wildlife friendly.

In order to have a small start-up funds of up to £250 were sought - this would be used to buy materials for things like seeds, bee hotels, bug houses and bird and bat boxes. The funds would be held within the PC's account and made available as needed. The Council is keen to support the project and engagement with it across the village and resolved to grant £250, as well as mandating Ms Savage to take stages 1 and 2 of the project forward.

32. Community Engagement

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to allow for full discussion. It was suggested that if it were possible it would be helpful to have an additional meeting and the Clerk will explore possibilities. In the meantime Cllr Chester suggested that presence at community events and he suggested a Parish Council entry to the forthcoming fundraising quiz. Members and the Clerk expressed enthusiasm for

the idea and agreed to liaise independently.

33. Finance

The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.

34. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no reports.

The following will be brought forward as agenda items:

Queens lane / Quiet Lanes and tidying of the recycling area.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Signed as a true record by authority and on behalf of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date