

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 11th July 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Michael Chester (Chair), Teresa Landymore, Sam Parrett and Margaret Rickard, Clare Varney.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council),
2 Members of the public

Appendixes referred to below form part of the authorised minutes.

14. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fisher and Westcott and were approved.

15. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations for which dispensations had not been duly authorised.

16. Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting dated 31st May 2016 were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting dated 31st May 2016 were also agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chair.

17. County & Borough Councillor Reports

a. County Cllr Terry Clements presented written reports and there was brief discussion about regional devolution. Concern was expressed as to whether devolution would result in the same amount of overall funding being spread more thinly as a result of the cost of an additional tier of government.

b. Cllr Angela Rushen invited questions on her written report which had been circulated in advance. Concern was expressed about the limit of parking time at the Apex in Bury St Edmunds as it was considered to be inconvenient to the public and a potential limit to economic activity in the town.

18. Public Forum

There were no contributions from the public.

19. Presentation from Little Tea Pots Pre-School

Mrs Linda Longhurst (Chair of Trustees) and colleagues from the Pre-School made a presentation about its work. The genesis and development of the pre-school from playgroup to its present form was described.

About 25% of the children (the largest single cohort) are from Chedburgh. Each child has an individual learning journey mapped out, grounded on base-line data and ongoing progression. All teaching and learning is play based. Reference was made to the use of the funds recently donated by the Council, for play equipment.

The Council warmly thanked Mrs Longhurst and her colleagues for the presentation and congratulated them on achieving their third successive result of 'Outstanding' from their recent Ofsted inspection.

20. Decisions taken since the previous meeting

No decisions had been taken under delegated powers since the previous meeting.

21. Clerk's report

- a. A progress report on actions arising from prior decisions was circulated (Appendix A).
- b. The Clerk highlighted the changes to the planning service provided by the Borough council, particularly the introduction of charges for pre-application advice.

22. Planning and Environment

- a. DC/16/0528/HH - Thornwood, Queens Lane; Extensions and re-positioning of gates. It was noted that this application had been approved by the planning authority.
- b. There were no planning applications to consider.
- c. There was an update on the Fireworks Factory site development and it was noted that the Planning Authority had received more details of site levels and planting relating to the ongoing works, especially concerning the open public space, from the developer's agent. The Authority's initial reaction had not been favourable as there were still many infringements of the existing approval, and the proposals as varied seemed to compound the problems. Discussion between the Authority and the developer continue. It was noted that such planting as had been carried out was now being dwarfed by weeds.

The issue of ownership of the verges was raised (believed to be the developer's for the time being) as it was considered that insufficient maintenance was being carried out.

- d. The Council noted that the long-term development plans for Bury St Edmunds and for West Suffolk are now available on the West Suffolk Councils web site (under the [Vision 2031](#) banner). In considering the section relating to Chedburgh, which had been circulated previously, it was noted that a long-standing inconsistency, whereby the Parish is described as a Local Service Centre whilst not conforming to the criteria as such, had been repeated at section 29.2.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Council to clarify that Chedburgh is not and has not been a Local Service Centre and to point out that, contrary to section 29.4.h, the capacity of the foul sewage system, as well as the surface water drainage system, continued to prove inadequate.

- e. The Council considered whether the footpath to the church should be widened. It was noted that some years ago a request to widen the path had been made to the Highways Authority and their response had been that the path was of an acceptable width already. The existing section of wider path had been funded by the developers of Brocket Park as a planning condition, so as to create a strong link with the rest of the village. It was agreed to ask the Highways authority whether there is scope for further widening.
- f. Two reports were received from Ian Leggett (Village Handyman), one was based on information from the deployment of the VAS over three separate periods and the other on general maintenance in and around the village (*Appendix B*). It was agreed that it would be helpful to send the VAS information to the co-ordinating contact within the police service, to enable them to gain an overview of speeding patterns in the village and wider county. The issue of speeding on Queens Lane was raised and it was agreed that IL would identify the best position for an additional pole for the VAS in Queen's Lane and then discuss/ agree that positioning with the Highways Department. The new position would then be included within the routine rotation of the VAS.

23. Community

- a. A verbal report on the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations was given by Cllr Perratt. The event had been very successful and used little more than half its budget. A written financial

report was tabled, outlining expenditure. (Appendix G)

- b. A verbal report on the Summer Fete was given by Cllr Landymore. The event had been well attended and feedback had been very positive. The Council would be receiving a proportion of the net surplus and it was noted that last year this revenue was donated back to the Community Council.

Next year's event will take place on 24th June 2017 and the Council gave approval for the field to again be used for that purpose.

24. Responsible Finance Officer's Business

- a. Summary Accounts for Quarter 1 of 2016/17 (*Appendix C*) were considered. The RFO pointed out the budget did not seem to reflect actual or planned expenditure. It was noted that a number of changes had taken place since approval of the budget but it was agreed that the projected outcome would be satisfactory.

Cllr Varney raised the question of the Precept paid by the households occupying the new houses in the village and whether this increased the Council's income. The Clerk will check the position.

The Council approved the Q1 Summary Accounts.

- b. The bank reconciliation to 30th June 2016 was received and approved. (*Appendix D*);
- c. Staff Pay (Reserved Business - see Page 6)
- d. The schedule of receipts was reviewed and approved (*Appendix F, Part 1*);
- e. The summary of payments was received from the Responsible Finance Officer and the payments set out therein were approved (*Appendix F Part 2*). The Chair and Vice-Chair signed cheques arising from the approval, together with the supporting documents.

25. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- a. There were no reports on meetings attended.
- b. There were no forthcoming meetings requiring representation of the Council.
- c. No items were proposed for future agendas.
- d. No matters of relevant information were communicated.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

Signed as an true record by authority of the Council:

Chair

Date