

# Chedburgh Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of a Meeting held at the Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh on  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council)  
5 Members of the public.

### 15. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Pat Fisher and were approved.

### 16. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interests.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interests.

### 17. Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th May 2018 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

### 18. County and Borough Councillor's Reports

- a. County Cllr Soons had sent apologies for being unable to attend but had submitted a written report which had been circulated. Cllr Varney noted that the outcome of the consultation on School Transport had not been mentioned in the report. She felt strongly that the County Council's decision works against the interests of the village and she would be keen to hear how C Cllr Soons had voted, given the level of opposition amongst residents in her ward. It was noted that the decision had been called in for review.  
Cllr Varney also referred to the consultation on the provision of support for Special Educational Needs which has just started and was pleased to report that the Council seemed to be making greater efforts to listen during this consultation.
- b. Borough Cllr Mike Chester tabled a written report covering various issues. Amongst these the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, currently out for consultation, provoked discussion. It was agreed that the Commission's proposals ignored the arguments that the Council had submitted in the previous round of consultation. It was resolved to re-submit the arguments in relation to the now firm proposals. The consultation period expires in the last week of August.

### 19. Public Forum

Two members of the public spoke to thank the Council for its careful consideration of the now withdrawn planning application in relation to the site at Queen's Hill.

A member of the public reported that there had been fly-tipping along Queen's Lane and asked what could be done about it. It was noted that the best response is to report such matter to the County Council via their web portal. The more people who report such matters the more likely it is that prompt action will be taken.

### 20. Decisions taken since the previous meeting under Delegated Authority

There were no relevant matters to report.

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## 21. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that Westcotec had now billed the Council for work undertaken to the VAS last year - it had been hoped that they had decided not to charge, as a case for this approach had been argued to them. The invoice would be paid and a third of the cost recovered from each of Chevington and Wkepstead Parish Councils, as per the shared use agreement. Road safety stickers had been ordered. A further planning consultation had been received after the deadline for the present agenda and it was agreed to convene an additional meeting of the Council to discuss it - the Clerk will arrange this.

The possibility of developing a protocol to allow for the more effective consideration of planning applications that arrive between meetings, and with deadlines before the next scheduled meeting, was discussed. It was noted that the former practice of private consultation and discussion was outlawed under the Transparency regulations of 2015. It was resolved to consider a protocol at a future meeting and the Clerk will draft a proposal.

## 22. Planning and Environment

- a. **DC/18/1018/FUL** - Discussion of the matter was deferred as a small number of amendments to the proposal will now result in a re-consultation and it was agreed that it would be more productive to have a single debate.
- b. There were no update reports on applications considered previously.
- c. **Brocket Park Development** - The Chair reported that, upon further research by the Borough Planning Department, it had been found that the S106 agreement that it had been believed had been put in place as part of the planning approval process had not in fact been made. It is understood that there is some form of agreement of funding to Havebury Housing Association for distribution to local projects but the Local Authority has no involvement in that and it is unclear how this would work.

The Chair, in his role as Borough Councillor for the ward, will press for further clarification and also for clarity about the responsibility for maintaining the common areas and public open space, both of which are in a state of neglect - albeit that there are signs of some work starting.

- d. **Marquis Cornwallis Pub** - The Community Interest Group has raised pledges in excess of £40,000 but is still short of being able to make an offer for the pub. In the meantime the land around the pub has not been maintained and the hedge is encroaching on the road, forcing traffic into the centre of the lane.

The Clerk will write a letter to the owner requesting that corrective action is taken.

It was noted that the holding has been split up and that some of the land is owned by a different company. However, last time that this was checked it had been noted that the entire site is still under the control of a single ultimate owner.

- e. The Handyman's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was considered. In discussion it was agreed to allow for a sum up to £75 for maintenance and repair works to woodwork in the play area, benches and noticeboards and for the cost of white paint for the picket fencing at the entrances to the village on the Bury Road.

The very substantial benefit of the work of the Handyman and the team of volunteers who support him was noted, as was the fact that, although the results are not always immediately apparent, visits to other villages (where signs and equipment are often dirty or hidden by vegetation, footpaths difficult or impossible to pass and matters of general maintenance in a state of gentle neglect) quickly reveal the beneficial impact of his work in Chedburgh.

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to Ian for his work in also chairing this year's fete committee - with very successful results.

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**23. Marking the Centenary of the WW1 Armistice - 11th November 2018**

The Vice-Chair, with contributions from the Chair of the Community Council and Ian Leggett, reported on progress to date: the hall has been booked (at no fee), the choir will sing songs of the period (this will be a performance rather than an sing-song); tea, cake and possibly mulled wine (November can be very cold) will be served; there will be a display of related memorabilia, photographs etc; the Rector has agreed to lead a thanksgiving; a local Colonel in the CCF is willing to read out the names of those from the village who gave their lives. Plans are afoot to construct a beacon (at minimal cost by using reclaimed materials)

Consideration will be given to organising a sing-song and to involving young people, possibly via the primary school.

Cllr Rickard will continue co-ordinate and will also liaise with Ian Leggett. In the meantime the project was allocated a budget of up to £500 and Cllr Rickard was given delegated authority to assign the funds across the project.

**24. Finance & Governance**

- a. The Council received the Bank Reconciliation for the first Quarter of the 2018/19 year and considered the schedule of receipts and payments. The schedule of payments was approved.

**25. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas**

- a. Cllrs Chester and Noyes reported on the well-attended public meeting held at Chevington Village Hall, to allow residents to inspect the plans for the Open College of Equine Studies at Queens Hill. The meeting allowed residents to gain an understanding of the proposals, express their views and ask questions of the applicant. The event was overseen by the Chair of Chevington PC, Alistair McCormack who ensured that the over enthusiasm of one or two members of the public did not get out of control. Two main points became apparent, the first is that there was still considerable misunderstanding of the nature of the application and the process through which it is considered and the second is that the concern of the members of the public who attended was overwhelmingly in relation to highways issues and indeed this seemed to be the only point in which the majority of people had an interest.
- b. There were no forthcoming meetings requiring representation of the Council.
- c. Parking on Paddock Way would be placed on a future agenda (see 25d, below).
- d. Cllr Varney reported that only two residents had followed up the initial enthusiasm for exploring the matter of parking in Paddock Way. It had previously been noted that it would be unlikely that the County Council would fund any works and that money would therefore have to come from within the Parish. It was agreed that in order to be able to discuss the matter at a future meeting, a letter would be sent to all residents of Paddock Way asking for their opinions on parking and whether they would be willing to make a financial contribution to any ensuing works.

**The meeting closed at 8.58pm.**

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date