

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mike Chester (Chair), Margaret Rickard, Pat Fisher, Teresa Landymore, Alan Noyes, Sam Parrett and Clare Varney.

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

77. Apologies

There were no apologies as all Councillors were present.

78. Declarations of Interest

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

79. Minutes of the last meetings

- a. It was resolved that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th January 2018 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.
- b. It was resolved that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th February 2018 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

80. County and Borough Councillor's Reports

- a. *(This item was dealt with adjacent to item 84d)* County Cllr Soons had submitted a written report which had been circulated to Members and was received by the Council. C Cllr Soons highlighted several areas including that Council Tax would rise by 3.99% (2.99% general and 1% Adult Social Care) and that significant cuts would be made to all but the highest priority spending areas; that SEND provision had been inspected and that although at a strategic and management level things were now satisfactory, delivery was still seriously below standard; and that CAB funding had been sorted out for the current year and next year's funding would be discussed to try to ensure that it would be adequate - a large number of electors had expressed concern about CAB funding.

In discussion it was queried whether the CAB is the first port of call for Trading Standards issues and C Cllr Soons will check this. C Cllr Soons also highlighted that the cuts to school transport services would come into effect for the coming academic year and that the service was now to be an opt-in service, meaning that parents or guardians have to sign-up for the service and will otherwise cease to be eligible. In discussion there was concern that the news about this would not be seen by all the relevant people. It was agreed that the Clerk would put up notices and alert the village Facebook group.

With regard to the ongoing matter of speeding, C Cllr Soons reported that the cabinet member for Highways is being lobbied for a speed survey at Horringer and is planning a visit there. C Cllr Soons will seek to have that extended to Chedburgh so that the Parish Council can put its case for changes. There was discussion that the stretch of the main road under consideration was not the only, or even possibly most urgent, area for attention. A meeting would provide the opportunity to discuss the whole matter.

The matter of road repairs was also raised as, contrary to what was understood to now be policy, work had been carried out on two potholes (in Chevington Road) with many others left to be mended on a further visit. C Cllr Soons will raise this with the Highways cabinet member.

In response to a question about the logic of cutting Highways' budget when only recently having had to borrow £21m to deal with the urgent backlog of road repairs, will also establish and report back on what constitute Statutory obligations on the part of Highways and what are non-statutory.

In response to a question about the funding of public bus services, C Cllr Soons reported that spending on these was stable and that she had been part of a working group that had defined criteria against which prioritisation of funding could be assessed. The criteria included matters such as the degree to which a particular service was the only provision, the reliance upon services by people getting to work and so on.

- b. Borough Cllr Mike Chester tabled a written report covering various issues and this was received by the meeting. Members asked whether this could be made available in advance and B Cllr Chester agreed to forward a copy to the Clerk for circulation ahead of meetings. Arising from the report there was discussion about the difference between a borough and a district (in the light of the formation of the new West Suffolk District Council on 1st April). It was reported that the difference was historic, with negligible effect other than that a borough council could elect a mayor whereas as a district has a Chair. It was noted that provision of parking in Bury remains a concern and that there had been unfavourable comment about the Borough's plans in the local press.

81. Public Forum

It was suggested that the Council consider the possibility of acquiring a defibrillator for the village and this will be placed on an agenda for a future meeting.

82. Decisions taken since the previous meeting under Delegated Authority

There were none to report.

83. Clerk's Report

There was no correspondence to report. The Clerk reminded members that elections would be held in May and distributed nomination packs. Nominations do not open until the 26th March but it is advisable to get papers in as soon after that date as possible so as to allow for any problems. Forms must be submitted by hand (to West Suffolk House) but do not have to be delivered by the candidate. Applications must be handed to one of the returning Officer's team and must not be left with reception. The Clerk is happy to advise if there are any questions and he will circulate a brief guidance sheet before the opening day. Cllr Chester offered to take any forms into West Suffolk house when he is there on Borough business.

Plans need to be made for the Annual Parish Meeting and it would be held on the same day at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May - an email discussion will be initiated by the Chair.

84. Planning and Environment

- a. There were no Planning Application Consultations.
- b. Update reports on applications considered previously:
 - DC/18/2402/FUL - Marquis Cornwallis, The Street: Change of use from public house (A4) to 1 no. dwelling (C3) (Previous Application DC/18/1294/FUL). Permission Refused.**
- c. Brocket Park Development - The pavements are still not finished and the Public Open Space is still fenced off. Enforcement had informed B Cllr Chester that in law there is no obligation to finish pavements until the last house is sold and so no action could be taken on this point. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to the developer in a co-operative tone, in an effort to ensure that the pavements are prioritised by them. The fencing has been removed from around the Public Open Space.
- d. The Handyman's report was tabled and was received by the Council. It was noted with concern that the rationalisation policy in regard to the mending of potholes did not seem to be operating (see item 80 above). It was also noted with concern that the identical potholes had first been identified and reported in December, but that Highways had denied

the need for any work, yet when re-reported and copied in to Councillors the work was deemed to need attention.

In discussion it was noted that the slimey and dangerous state of the path and road around the church and not been attended to by the operators of the grain store. The Clerk will telephone them to chase this up (Cllr Chester will provide him with the number).

In relation to concern regarding the badly damaged kerbs at Lancaster Close, C Cllr Soons reminded the meeting that there is an emergency number on which dangerous problems can be reported.

85. Grant Applications

This item was deferred to the May meeting as the budget for grants for the current financial year was now exhausted.

86. Forthcoming Elections

The process for nominations and elections had been highlighted under item 83.

87. Roundabout for the Play Area Project

The Clerk gave a verbal update, informing the meeting that although an advertisement had not been possible in the Parish Magazine, a small survey of play area users had been carried out and that the vast majority had been in favour of a roundabout. Some concern was expressed about whether a roundabout was wanted but it was also pointed out that opinions have been publicly sought via the noticeboards for the past six months, that over 80 residents (representing a significant proportion of the adult population of the village) had already supported the idea with fundraising and that several more have made substantial pledges. The Council had resolved to make a final decision about the matter at this meeting. The balance to raise stood at £1,600. On balance it was agreed that the project should go ahead and so it was resolved to commit to the project and mandate Ian Leggett to raise the remaining amount.

88. Finance

a. The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments.

89. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Noyes reported on his attendance at a workshop which had been advertised as being focused on improving design in the planning process but which had largely been about Neighbourhood Planning and as such had been interesting but not of great relevance to Chedburgh.

No other matters were raised.

90. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub/ Chedburgh Marquis Cornwallis Hub

This item was dealt with as a reserved Matter and so the minute will be appended as a confidential document.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date