



From the Chair

SWT's COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Well, the July 26th deadline for submitting Somerset West & Taunton questionnaires is behind us now and what will be will be.

First and foremost, we'd like to thank those of you who took the time and effort to complete them and/or e-mail your views. Many of you said you would, and our last-minute scramble to get paper copies through everyone's door hopefully boosted the number of responses.

We'd like to share with you the circumstances that led up to that point.

You may remember that SWT sent out a postcard-sized mail-shot some weeks ago. The small print on the back of the card invited anyone wishing to have a paper questionnaire to request one from SWT. In fact, some residents have since told us that they thought the flimsy card was unsolicited advertising and binned it without a second glance. We'd also like to bet that many who read it missed the small print, or simply couldn't be bothered to apply. This low-profile style of communication is typical of SWT's so-called 'public consultation' on this vitally important and far-reaching Community Governance Review.

It turns out that the paper copy was at the back of a 19-page information booklet. It explained what SWT are doing but – yet again – failed to identify any way in which the re-parishing would benefit anyone living anywhere within our parish. No surprise there, as there are only dis-benefits to all of us.

So, our first sight of the paper booklet-cum-questionnaire was less than a week before the July 26th deadline. We immediately queried with SWT why they had not sent such a helpful booklet out to everyone in the parish (we say 'helpful' because the comprehensive summary effectively confirmed the lack of benefit to our parish). We told SWT that the booklet was the ideal means of public consultation because it provided in one hit all the relevant CGR information and a questionnaire for those unable or unwilling to go online. We added that, in our opinion, anything less than what was in the booklet did not qualify as meaningful consultation. The answer was: "That would have been far too expensive!" With less than a week left, we decided to print our own copies of the SWT questionnaire and deliver them across the

parish over the weekend. This was an extremely difficult task but, with the generous help of community volunteers and our printers (Character Graphics owner Graham lives on Summerleaze), we somehow managed to get it done.

So, what's next? Well, the ball is now in SWT's court, so who knows?! Rest assured that we shall be fighting SWT's cynical re-parishing exercise to the bitter end!

Jason Woollacott, Chair, Cheddon Fitzpaine PC

Tel. 07940 277413, e-mail jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk

VILLAGE VEGETABLE & FLOWER SHOW AND FETE

We were delighted to see the flowers, vegetables and other community produce on display once more in the Memorial Hall on Saturday the 30th of July (see page 3 for more words and pic's). The outdoor attractions also proved popular thanks to the perfect weather conditions. All in all, this was the perfect come-back for a show that was thoroughly enjoyed by what many felt was a record crowd. Pictured below keeping the kids occupied is our favourite magician, Malcolm, fashioning the balloon swords, dogs and swans that have kept children amused for decades.



***Contributions for the October 2022
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by
16th September please!***

Church Window  Church Window

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church is part of the South Quantock Benefice with West Monkton, Kingston St. Mary & Broomfield. The Benefice Office is open every week-day (except Thursdays) from 9am to 2pm. For enquiries about marriages and baptisms, please contact Administrator, Michele Hardiman, on 01823 451257 or at office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

For up-to-date news on services, visit our website at <https://southquantockbenefice.org.uk/>

Sun 14th August from 7pm



MEN'S GROUP

Drinks at the New Mill
pub and restaurant*

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

For more information about this event or the Group's programme, contact Rev Jim Cox (details below) or just come along to the pub on the night!

*102 Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, TA2 8BE

Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Church '100 Club'

The '100 Club' raises funds to help maintain the Parish Church. We are pleased to announce that the winners of the latest draws are:

June: £50 – Joan Osmond £10 – Mary Gunning

July: £50 – Caroline Spencer £10 – Annie Durham

If you wish to join the 100 Club, please contact one of the organisers:

Pauline Stone Tel. 01823 277637

Joan Osmond Tel. 01823 321829

CUPPA & CHAT

Tuesday 9th Aug & 6th Sept. 2-4pm



Join me, Rosie Brown, in Cheddon churchyard for a cuppa and chat. You will be welcome to bring your own drink or to share mine. I very much look forward to seeing you!

'SUNG EVENSONG'

In Kingston St. Mary church
on Sunday 28th August at 6pm
followed by wine & nibbles.

**ALL ARE WARMLY INVITED
TO JOIN US!**

CHURCH CONTACTS

RECTOR: Rev. Mary Styles

Tel. 01823 451189; e-mail revmarye@gmail.com

Rev Jim Cox

Tel. 07967 817337; e-mail: jimcox11@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Diana Taylor, Tel. 07808 158616

Just a minute!

Some of you have attended our monthly parish-council meetings and have an idea of what goes on. To give the rest of you a taste of parish-council business, here's an agenda item from the minutes of our last meeting on the 11th of July :

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions received:

Q1: Has there been any news on the Glebe farm development? Has a revised application been submitted and have West Monkton PC made any comments?

A1: There has been no update and no resubmission to the Parish Council's (PC) knowledge.

Q2: There is a hosepipe keeping the pond full. Is that via a natural water supply or via the mains?

A2: Via the mains as a short-term measure. The plan is to seek a licence to extract water from the irrigation pond. Cllr Batsch to confirm how this is being paid for at the August meeting. Cllr Cavill assumed the cost would be shared pro-rata by the PCs as normal.

Q3: Is Taunton Town Council wanting to take control of areas of the Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish?

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A3: Most new developments are currently up for discussion and are looking to be included in the Taunton Town Council.

Q4: Are the people's best interests of Cheddon, Rowford & Goosenford likely to be best served by the Town Council or by Cheddon parish as it is remaining?

A4: The PC has already responded at stage 1 stating that they don't believe that it should all fall into the Town Council and urges all residents to submit their comments during the Stage 2 consultation.

Q5: A resident had entered the CP when the field was being sprayed and was concerned that there was no signage.

A5: Thank you for raising this point, the PC will endeavour to provide better signage when this is done in the future.

Item 5 (Joint Projects with West Monkton PC)

A – Maidenbrook Country Park & Somerset Wood: (Resolution) To seek approval for the Clerk signing the Statutory Declaration of the Lease and the Schedule of Condition on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Clerk explained that the PC has been requested to approve the Clerk initialling all pages on the Schedule of Condition document and that the Statutory Declaration of the Lease needed to be signed in front of a solicitor. With approval, the Clerk would arrange this along with West Monkton Clerk and then send the paperwork for signed delivery. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to sign the Statutory Declaration of the Lease along with the Schedule of Condition document on behalf of the PC. *(See breaking news on p4 – Ed.)*

The Clerk was asked to check with insurance company if the lifebuoy should be in position. The Clerk had requested a quote for material damage for the pond on three occasions and is awaiting a response.

Cllr Batsch informed all, that recent events that have been held have been roaring successes and the amenity seems to be held in high regard. Both PCs are still awaiting the lease for occupancy of the two fields. The Falkland memorial sign and tree are now in place. Taunton College have shown some interest in the forest school and have suggested that they would like to get involved, potentially offering financial support and transport to enable children/young adults to experience the forest school. Discussions are ongoing. Some of the cedar tiles have been removed over the weekend by vandals and multiple reports have been submitted to the police on this and other vandalism.

Laying the final fine surface layer of the 'safer route to school' will not be done until the lease has been signed.

The Labyrinth is currently on pause as the grass needs to be better established before the pathway can be cut out.

B – Neighbourhood Plan Review:

The Examiner is currently deciding on how to word a final response relating to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and how they relate to one another and is hopeful about getting something together by the end of July.

C – Community Fridge (*Outside the BACH hall – Ed.*)

There are now 8 volunteers to help with the running of the Community Fridge (CF), two of whom are employees of the Co-Op. On opening, the initial donations will come from Co-Ops in Cheddon Road, Priorswood, Monkton Heathfield and Monkton Elm. However, a fair few other businesses have also expressed an interest in donating such as M&S, Tesco and Sainsburys. The plan is to get things established before too many donations are accepted. The shed has been finished and now has shelving, flooring and electrics and signage. There are plans for the path to be laid in the near future. There is a lot of food hygiene documentation required and that is now all in place. It is hoped that the CF will be ready in time to launch at the Community Cafe on Wednesday 13th July and if not, then at the community picnic on Sunday 17th July. There has been some funding obtained for the shed and a lot of things have been donated, there are a few more items that need to be purchased, such as cloths, a mop, infrared thermometer, blue roll etc and this is looking to total around £100.

It was **resolved** to approve the purchase of the cleaning items to support the Community Fridge.



Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

This year we have again been able to enjoy the Cheddon Vegetable & Flower Show and Fete. For the last couple of years, we have been deprived of the fun and the welcome annual boost that the show gives to hall funds. While hall revenue has now recovered, our bank balance hasn't, so the return of one of our main fund-raising events is timely. The bumper attendance was an added bonus and my thanks go out to all, who

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organised and supported the show in any way. We can't list the 100-plus entries recognised by the judges but I must mention Lin Keitch for taking the ultimate accolade of Best In Show with her 'Celebrate Platinum Jubilee' exhibit. As for the rest, you know who you are – as do your friends, relatives, neighbours and peers.



Malcolm Lown, Chairman, Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall Trustees Tel. 01823 412750
Email: info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk

Bill Rigby, Hall Manager

Tel. 01823 413925 (messages answered within 2 working days) Mobile: 07586 413290;
e-mail: memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk

Best wishes and thanks to Tricia



After many years of sterling service, Tricia Cavill has retired from parish-clerk duties with West Monkton Parish Council. The working relationship that Tricia struck-up with our then-Parish Clerk, Jo Pearson, was pivotal in establishing the spirit of co-operation that is still enjoyed by both parish councils. We thank Tricia for all the help she has given us and for her invaluable contributions to the Maidenbrook Country Park, joint Neighbourhood Plan, and so much more. Tricia is pictured bottom left with West Monkton PC Clerk, Amy Shepherd, and PC Chair, Stuart Haskins, at her recent retirement 'do' and presentation held in the BACH hall.

Parish Council Meetings...

Held at 7pm in the Committee Room at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall on the second Monday of the month, these meetings are open to everyone.

8th August, 12th September, 10th October,
14th November, 5th December.

CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cheddon, Rowford & Upper Cheddon

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PARISH CLERK

Sammie Millard-Jones 07465 405533

clerk@cfpc.co.uk

STOP PRESS: JUST BEFORE GOING TO PRINT, WE LEARNED FROM OUR SOLICITOR THAT OUR LEASE ON THE COUNTRY PARK LAND HAS BEEN MADE WITH SWT. NOW WE CAN FINALLY SAY WE AND WEST MONKTON PARISH COUNCIL HAVE JOINT CONTROL OVER THE MAIDENBROOK COUNTRY PARK AND SOMERSET WOOD THAT WE AND OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE CREATED FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA!