



**Cheddon  
Fitzpaine  
Parish  
Council**

June 2022

# NEWSLETTER

Websites: [www.cfpc.co.uk](http://www.cfpc.co.uk) & [www.cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk)

## **SPECIAL 'PLATINUM JUBILEE' ISSUE**



Even if you're suffering from PJF ('Platinum Jubilee Fatigue') we're sure you'll forgive us for reporting on the much more relevant local celebrations that took place within our community over the Jubilee period – which is why we've delayed publication of this newsletter. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who contributed to the overwhelming success of the main events held in Maidenbrook Country Park: the Beacon Lighting Ceremony on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 'Picnic in the Park' on Saturday. A huge amount of work went into these events, and we congratulate everyone responsible from our parish and West Monkton. The public attendance was all that we hoped for – and more (500+ on Thursday, up to 400 on Saturday). It was especially nice to hear the glowing comments of those discovering the country park for the first time. All those who attended will surely agree that both events were worthy of the special occasion they were marking. But much more important than that, everyone who took part looked like they were having *SO MUCH FUN!* The more we see our country park delivering its unique contribution to the well-being of our community, the more obvious it becomes that we've got something very special here.

### **From the Chair**

Firstly, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and, secondly, say a personal thank-you to the previous Chair. Having been the Vice Chair for a couple years, I was honoured to be asked by my fellow councillors to take on the 'top job'. My predecessor, Denise Webber, led the council for the last decade. During that time, she showed strong leadership and her knowledge and experience will be greatly missed.

We recently reported that our parish is under threat from the Somerset West & Taunton (SWT) Local Governance Review. The implications are so huge that we're covering it again.

The 're-parishing' will be one of SWT's last major projects before they and the other district councils in Somerset are replaced by the new, county-wide 'unitary authority'. SWT propose to create a new Taunton Town Council that will include the whole, or parts of, existing parishes – including Cheddon Fitzpaine. We would see our parish reduced to Cheddon village and the rural area around it (including Maidenbrook Country Park) – effectively cutting Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish to a sixth of its current size. The newer residential areas (including Maidenbrook and 'Old Nerrols') would become part of Taunton Town Council. While SWT claim they just want to 'tidy things up a bit', their proposal constitutes a huge 'land and CIL £s grab'. Currently, our parish council is entitled to 25% of the Community Infra-structure Levy arising from new development in our parish, and we have to spend it within the parish. Under the new model, that revenue goes into the new Town Council's coffers and will not necessarily benefit those most affected by the development.

An appeal to the SWT Councillors, we are prepared to work with you, to look at options on how we can make a new Town Council work, whilst protecting what we have built in our Parish.

Let's look at this from the two different perspectives of our current parishioners. On the one hand, those living in and around Cheddon village would become a marginalised rural community served by an under-resourced parish council too weak to look after its own interests. On the other hand, those in more modern housing estates will be lumped-in with a Town Council that's more interested in spending its money on up-grading the town centre to a standard befitting its 'county town' status. It's also fair to assume that everyone living in the Town Council area will see their council-tax bill go up.

Please think carefully about this issue, decide what **you** want, and make your views known in SWT's next round of consultation.

**Jason Woollacott, CFPC Chairman**

***Contributions for the August 2022  
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by  
16<sup>th</sup> July please!***

## Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Newsletter – June 2022

### **Big Bat Count**

*The following e-mail came from Jolyon at Somerset Wildlife Trust. If you want to take part, contact [Jolyon.Chesworth@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:Jolyon.Chesworth@somersetwildlife.org)*

"I wanted to let you know about a Taunton- based initiative: a big bat count. This is being organised by the bat group with support from SERC (Sustainable Environment Research Centre) and is a kind of follow on from the 'routes to the river Tone' work. The full details are still to be worked out but it basically involves giving volunteers a tablet with an echo meter plugged in, which records the bats, and some auto ID to help work out the species. The details then get entered into Inaturalist. It will take place throughout August and early September; people can borrow the kit, do the survey in their area (they only need to do it once, although I guess repeating over a few nights would provide additional data), then give the kit back and we can potentially then lend it on to someone else. We hope to have about 10 kits. We were wondering if this is something that can be promoted around the green forum as the friends can use it in their park, or in the streets where they live. If this model works it could be repeated and rolled out to other urban areas.

Could you promote this via your newsletter and ask residents to contact us if they are interested in completing the survey and happy to have their emails sent on to the bat group? As it all develops we can send out more details but a general expression of interest and a general location where they would plan to do the survey would be helpful at this stage."

### **Contact round-up**

*As most of our limited space has been devoted to the Jubilee celebrations, here are contact details for our 'regulars', who normally have more lengthy reports:*

#### **CHURCH MATTERS**

*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](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk) For up-to-date news on services, please visit our website at <https://southquantockbenefice.org.uk/>*

#### **Other contacts:**

**RECTOR:** Rev. Mary Styles

Tel. 01823 451189; e-mail [revmarye@gmail.com](mailto:revmarye@gmail.com)

**Rev Jim Cox**

Tel. 07967 817337; e-mail: [jimcox11@gmail.com](mailto:jimcox11@gmail.com)

**Churchwarden:** Diana Taylor, Tel. 07808 158616

#### **MEMORIAL HALL**

**Malcolm Lown, Chairman, Cheddon Fitzpaine**

**Memorial Hall Trustees** Tel. 01823 412750

Email: [info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **MAIDENBROOK COUNTRY PARK**

**Jo Pearson, Volunteer Co-ordinator**

Tel. 07891 529809

### **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. At time of going to print, covid regulations are once again allowing Parish Council members to meet face-to-face with members of the public in attendance.*

13<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **... and Parish Council changes**

As reported in 'From the Chair' on the front page, Denise Webber has now retired as Chair and is succeeded by Cllr Jason Woollacott. The resultant Vice Chair vacancy has been filled by Cllr Rob Isaacs. We also welcome Kate Wilson onto the Parish Council – a new appointment that returns us to our full complement of six members.

### **CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCILLORS**

#### **Cheddon, Rowford & Upper Cheddon**

**Alan West** 07584 055566

[alan.west@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:alan.west@cfpc.co.uk)

**Kate Wilson** 07798 603070

[kate.wilson@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:kate.wilson@cfpc.co.uk)

#### **Nerrols Farm/Summerleaze**

**Mike Batsch** 01823 272376

[mike.batsch@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:mike.batsch@cfpc.co.uk)

#### **Maidenbrook/Waterleaze**

**Lee Baker** 07764 626171

[lee.baker@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:lee.baker@cfpc.co.uk)

**Rob Isaacs (Vice Chair)** 01823 333324

[rob.isaacs@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:rob.isaacs@cfpc.co.uk)

**Jason Woollacott (Chair)** 07940 277413

[jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk)

### **PARISH CLERK**

**Sammie Millard-Jones** 07465 405533

[clerk@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@cfpc.co.uk)