

CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 11th July

In the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall at Cheddon Fitzpaine TA2 8JY

www.cfpc.co.uk

Present: Parish Cllrs Woollacott, Isaacs, Batsch, & Wilson, SCC Cllrs Cavill & Deakin, DC Cllr Tully, WM Clerk Mrs A Shepherd and Clerk Mrs S Millard-Jones.

With approximately 4 members of the public.

Cllr Woollacott chaired the meeting.

07/01 To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs Baker & West, SCC Cllr Fothergill, DC Cllr Pritchard, WM Assistant Clerk Mrs T Cavill & NP Delivery Group Chairman K Tutill.

07/02 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests: None.

07/03 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th June 2022. It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Questions received:

Q: Has there been any news on the Glebe farm development. Has a revised application been submitted and have WM made any further comments?

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

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

A: 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.

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

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

Q: 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?

A: 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.

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

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

07/04 Reports: SCC

SCC Cllr Deakin:

SCC are in the process of appointing a new Chief Executive, with a view that he/she will be appointed by full council at the end of the month.

LCN's – there is a fair amount of work left to do on this.

Finances – price rises and inflation has had an impact on the council and means that alignment with budget is not where it should be.

Highways and transport – 25th July to 31st August - Creech Castle junction will be closed overnight between 8pm to 6am.

Maidenbrook Crossing - A meeting with the Transport Portfolio holder Mike Rigby has taken place and railings at Maidenbrook lane were discussed with the initial impression being positive.

Changes to bus routes – would be happy to receive any feedback on this.

Anti-social behaviour, currently there are challenges on Northwalls and Nerrols Grange as well as Summerleaze. Police advise residents to log it via 101 or if there is a crime to call 999.

SCC Cllr Norman Cavill:

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset, vesting day for the new Unitary Council remains as 1st April 2023.

Somerset's Integrated Care Board: Changes to legislation passed earlier this year (The Health and Care Act 2022) created 42 Integrated Care Systems across the Country including a 'single footprint' organisation for Somerset. The new system came into operation on 1st July with the creation of the Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Somerset ICB replaces the Clinical Commissioning Group and brings together providers from Yeovil District Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital, the County Council, Primary Care and the Voluntary sector. This new Board will be fundamental in commissioning services from the main health providers across the County.

Financial position: Just two months into the new Administration at County Hall the latest figures published by the County Council shows a potential £14.4 million overspend for the current financial year if action is not taken to limit spending. In addition, papers show that whilst officers had previously identified the need to make some savings for the new council, inflation and demand for services have now substantially increased the budget gap to £44 million. An urgent review of spend and tightening of budgets will be necessary.

Arts and Culture strategy: Arts and culture across Somerset are set to benefit from the creation of a Somerset Cultural Strategy which will cost up to £30,000 to create. The project will consider how to raise awareness and promote the role that culture and creativity can play in enriching communities and improving the quality of life, health, wellbeing and the local economy for Somerset residents, local businesses and visitors.

Food and energy bills support: Somerset residents who are struggling to pay the bills could be eligible for support with the cost of food, energy, water, and other essentials over the coming months. Somerset County Council will distribute £3.8m before September 30th as part of the Household Support Fund. Just over £1.2m will be used during the school holidays to provide food vouchers worth £10 a week to children eligible for Free School Meals and a further £1.3m will be used for one-off payments of £100 to residents on Pension Credit. Another £1m will be made available for a range of urgent essentials including fuel, food, and white goods. A total of £200,000 is put aside to help support people who can't access the internet or online vouchers. For more information, visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-household-support-fund

SEND Services Consultation: Somerset County Council, NHS Somerset ICB and Somerset Parent Carer Forum are keen to hear from children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), their families, professionals and health colleagues to help shape Somerset's SEND services going forward. Anyone who has been in contact with Somerset SEND services (for whatever reason) over the past year is invited to share their views and experiences in the annual SEND survey. The anonymous survey runs until Monday 19 September and can be found here: www.somerset.gov.uk/annualsendsurvey .

Financial Wellbeing: A new Somerset Financial Wellbeing project is being launched to support people concerned about money and help them to plan for a better financial future. Working with several national and local charities and organisations that offer expert and confidential help, the scheme aims to provide free information, events, and training to both residents and employees of Somerset businesses who may be facing financial anxiety caused by the cost-of-living increases, the aftermath of Covid-19, or because they are facing a change in circumstances.

Road safety and horse riders: Somerset County Council's Road Safety Team has teamed up with The British Horse Society (BHS) to highlight potential safety issues faced by equestrians on Somerset roads. With an increasing number of reported incidents involving horses and vehicles, the campaign is designed to better educate road users on how to pass horses safely and encouraging them to adhere to the BHS's Dead Slow behavioural change messages:

1. Slow down to a maximum of 10mph **2.** Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine **3.** Pass the horse wide and slow, at least two metres if possible **4.** Drive slowly away.

Grass Cutting and Surface Dressing: SCC's Highways Team have started work on two summer highways maintenance programmes covering verges and road surfaces. Each year more than 9,400km of roadside

verge is cut. As a balance must be found between promoting habitat creation and protecting wildlife, and the overall road safety of all road users most highway verges are only cut to a width of one metre though some stretches can be cut back beyond this width if there is a need to improve visibility for motorists at specific junctions. Cutting is due to be completed in September. SCC have also begun surface dressing more than 100 roads. The 2022 programme, including maps are at www.travelsomerset.co.uk/grass-cutting and progress on works dates via Travel Somerset.

SWT

SWT Cllr Tully explained that he had also requested railings at the Country Park eight months ago, but unfortunately it was turned down as it was thought to not comply with LN120 plans.

There will be a full council meeting week commencing 3rd August, with an expected focus on the Coal Orchard development, where an additional £100,000 has been requested in order to complete the project. Currently, the District Council has a portfolio of 12 properties which gave a net income of £3.79 million in the last financial year which has helped to maintain council tax.

There is a cost of living emergency and £50,000 will be used from the previous tax year to fund it. Cllr Tully believes that at least £250,000 is needed.

Cllr Cavill went on to explain that the Chief Executive has passed an emergency order for £650,000 to get the site finished off in time, due to the independent quarter and brewhouse struggling.

Connecting the garden town – comments have been submitted about paths and cycleways through the town and the parishes and there is hope that these can be achieved, although a challenge will be that some are sketched across private land.

Country Park – suffered from vandals, in the forest school, beer bottles had been knocked down with gravel creating a huge mess.

Cllrs asked about when the verges, hedges, and roadsides might see some improvement as the look of the town doesn't seem to be in keeping with its Garden Town status.

Cllr Cavill explained that the District Council have now adopted The Grasslands Management Strategy and the general policy is to keep the grass longer where possible.

07/05 Joint Projects with West Monkton:

a. **Maidenbrook Country Park & Somerset Wood: (R) 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.

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.

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 a bit more established for formation of the paths.

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

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-Op - Cheddon Road, Priorswood, Monkton Heathfield and Monkton Elm. However, a fair few other business has expressed an interest in also 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. There are plans for the path to be laid and Jacks and Stripes have been painting their sign on to the shed today. 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, cloths, infrared thermometer, blue roll etc and this is looking to total around £100.00. It was **resolved** to approve the purchase of the cleaning items to support the Community Fridge.

07/06 Community Governance Review

Cllr Woollacott informed all members that all households should now have received the postcard directing residents to complete the online survey and reminded all that it can also be done online.

Cllr Woollacott had met with Cllrs Deakin and Rigby and walked around the affected areas. The key message received was that the PC must demonstrate community involvement. CFPC would like to maintain the whole parish, although will concede with the industrial estates. Should the parish be reduced in size to under 150 then it would no longer be viable.

Cllr Batsch has put together a flyer to be distributed to parishioners to explain the viewpoint taken by the PC and what the various implications could be.

It was **resolved** that all Parish Councillors should respond individually to the stage 2 consultation.

07/07 Cheddon Ward:

The Clerk had contacted BT to register an interest in adopting the telephone box in Cheddon village and has been informed that BT would need to carry out a full 90-day consultation for the permission to remove the telephony. The application was registered on the 15th of June. A further update will be provided in September.

Sinking pavement – on escalation to Cllrs Baker & Deakin, a response has been received from Gwyn Hughes Assistant Highways Service Manager to confirm that although the responsible party cannot be identified, Highways have agreed to undertake the work. An initial request had been put in at the end of the financial year however was rejected due to budgets. A new order has been re-submitted in this financial year which can take up to 3 months for the contractor to obtain the permit for the work. The signing and guarding will remain in place until the work is completed.

WMPC have implemented the SID in Goosenford and the average incoming speed was 26.62 with a high of 62mph between 9-26th June. Outgoing average speed of 27mph maximum of 58mph.

07/08 Maidenbrook:

Pinnacle have confirmed that the tree by 19 Bruford Drive is marked on the tree as needing to be felled and that the developers will be chased to ensure it is done as soon as they can arrange it.

Regarding the tree that was damaged in the wind, as this is on a footpath, it has been passed back to the developers.

A Northwalls resident met with Robyn at Pinnacle to feed back the general dissatisfaction felt by residents on the estate in terms of maintenance, and she has committed to meeting with the landscaping company and to feedback the requirements. A positive result is yet to be seen.

Highways have been reminded about the line refreshment that was required in Summerleaze back in February.

A further chase on the adoption of Waterleaze to Andrew at Vistry 30th May, 13th June & 4th July, but no response has been received.

07/09 Highways:

It was noted that less cars appear to be parking at the Country Park entrance, but it was suggested that the Clerk could contact highways to request a sign about parking appropriately and safely.

07/10 Planning Applications:

08/21/0035 Change of use of land and reinstatement of an avenue of trees and ha-ha on the west side of the formal garden at Hestercombe Gardens, Cheddon Fitzpaine– To support

08/22/0007/LB Replacement of windows within bay and formation of patio door opening at Maidenbrook Farmhouse, Tudor Park, Priorswood, Taunton – To object on the basis that there isn't sufficient information to indicate the heritage status of the building.

07/11 Planning Decisions:

08/21/0016 Conversion of garage and derelict barn to 1 no. holiday let with associated parking at Rowford Cottage - Refusal

07/12 Reports:

Church: A lovely Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's Jubilee on 5th June was enjoyed by many and there is a picnic planned in the churchyard on Sunday 17th July 3-5pm aimed at getting the local community together to enjoy the out-doors.

Nerrols: The school are looking for some planters to be made for their early years children. The Clerk has requested a specification and there is a resident willing to make them for the school. The Clerk was instructed to get a price and decide which cost centre to allocate the cost to.

Cheddon School: The year 6 residential course held at Charter House was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and they are now counting down to the end of term.

Memorial Hall: Currently there are trustees that are not attending meetings or are leaving the area. Have asked the PC if there will be continuity on the MH as a trustee. Cllr Woollacott suggested Cllr Batsch speaking with other councillors to ascertain interest.

Footpaths: Volunteer Ian has been busy with his day job but has recently strimmed the footpath behind Nerrols Grange.

07/13 Audit:

All paperwork has been submitted to the external auditor.

07/14 Administration:

To adopt the updated Grants policy. To note the amendments to the policy as unable to offer grants under General Power of Competence. Under S137, the total grant permissible would be £8.82 per person on the electoral roll (1,812) which equates to £15,981.84.

It was **resolved** to adopt the updated Grants policy.

07/15 Finance:

a) Approval of Payments & Receipts (R)

Payments

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
S Millard-Jones	June Salary, Homeworking & Mileage, PAYE & NI (-NEST)	£1,111.30	£7.95	£1,119.25	29/07/22	
SALC	Councillor Essentials Part 1	£25.00	£	£25.00	15/07/22	
SWT	Dog bins 1 st April – 30 th June	£1,125.54	£225.11	£1,350.65	15/07/22	
Pioneer Window Cleaning	Cleaning of bus stops	£15.00	£	£15.00	15/07/22	
WM	50/50 share of jubilee overspend	£230.10	£	£230.10	15/07/22	
Character Graphics	June Newsletter	£140.00	£	£140.00	15/07/22	
Character Graphics	CGR flyer	£75.00	£	£75.00	15/07/22	
Dor2Dor	Flyer distribution	£250.00	£	£250.00	15/07/22	
SALC	Code of Conduct Training	£25.00	£	£25.00	15/07/22	
CP account	50/50 Share of overspend with WMPC	£347.86	£	£347.86	15/07/22	
CP account	To cover the VAT element	£140.37	£	£140.37	15/07/22	
Whitehill Direct	Northwalls noticeboard	£529.00	£105.80	£634.80	15/07/22	
Michael Fletcher	Fitting of Northwalls noticeboard and disposal of old noticeboard	£160.00	£	£160.00	30/07/22	

Debit Card/Direct Debit: To note:

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
SWS	Email addresses	£36.80	£7.36	£44.16	02/07/22	
NEST	Pension	£35.72	£	£35.72	29/07/22	
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription	£9.40	£1.88	£11.28	19/07/22	
SWS	Hosting Inv	£24.00	£4.80	£28.80	20/07/22	
Amazon	Equipment for the community fridge	£83.96	£16.85	£100.81	11/07/22	

Receipts: To note:

Country Park

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
Benjamin Henry/Roofing superstore	Cedar roof shingles	£833.33	£166.67	£1,000.00	25/07/22	

It was **resolved to pay** the above by cheque/internet banking

b) Approval of the bank reconciliation (R)

Main Account	£50,411.72
CIL Account	£21.44
NSI Account	£3,123.62
CP Account	£138.53
Total	£53,695.31

It was **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation

c) To approve the cost and installation for a new noticeboard on Batts Drive Northwalls Grange (R)

It was **resolved** to approve the installation and removal cost of £160 and the purchase of a noticeboard with a header at a cost of £529.00 net.

d) To note the Country Park VAT claim

The Clerk had submitted a claim for £998.91

e) Expenditure versus Budget To note expenditure versus budget year to date

This was noted.

07/16 Correspondence: All circulated

07/17 Matters raised by Councillors:

07/18 Items for next agenda:

- NP update
- Lifebuoy and water feed in CP

2022 Dates: 8th August. 12th September. 10th October. 14th November. 5th December.

Meeting closed at 9.53pm

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Chair