

CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 14th February 2022.

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

www.cfpc.co.uk

Present: Parish Cllrs Cllr Webber, Woollacott, Baker, Batsch, & Isaacs, **SCC** Cllrs Frascini & Fothergill, **SWT D Cllrs** Cavill & Tully, WM Assistant Clerk Mrs T Cavill, and Clerk Mrs S Millard-Jones.

With approximately 10 members of the public.

02/01 To receive apologies for absence: Parish Cllr West, NP Delivery Group Chairman K Tutill & D Cllr Pritchard,

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

02/03 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th December 2021. It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Questions received:

Q: Has the Country Park (CP) lease been finalised and is there a decision on the lead council?

A: A lease has been agreed, but not the terms.

Q: Ben Ashton told residents that a public meeting would be held. There is an understanding that the planning application has been submitted and is yet to be published, but has he decided on when a public meeting will take place.

A: SWT will need to process the planning application first, then it will be registered in order to allocate it a planning number. At this point it will become a public document. Sometimes this can be done fairly quickly, although if further information is required, then these questions will delay the process.

Q: What is the Parish Council's (PC) view on development and the development at the CP?

A: Until a planning application has been published, there is a lack of detail for discussion. The PC commits to requesting an extension to the timeframe so that public meetings can be held to discuss with all affected residents. The planning application needs to show community support in order for it to be supported, and that is why a public meeting is so important.

Q: SWT stated in 2018 that the green wedge was a park, how has the farmland come to be included in that?

A: CP is a term that has to fulfil specific criteria. The green wedge is designed to protect villages from urban development. It is expected that the previous term of CP is unlikely to have included the farmland.

Q: The NP steering group is an advisory group, when the paragraph was first decided to be included, was Chairman Cllr Webber consulted and did she agree with it.

A: Cllr Webber stated that she had not been consulted.

Q: Following on from the NP meeting, there was misunderstanding that the resolution had been to remove the whole paragraph as opposed to part of it. He now understood after asking Mr Tutill at the West Monkton PC meeting, that the removal of the full paragraph would have been detrimental to RS. Whereas, surely ignoring the residents would be detrimental to the residents.

A: Rural Solutions, as a consultee requested the insertion of that wording and the PC felt that by removing a) and replacing with b) would be the most beneficial way to address the concerns. It was explained that the PC's felt it fundamental to retain the phrase 'community support'. If a development does not show community support then the PC will need to consider that when reviewing a planning application. If this Neighbourhood Plan does go to referendum and is rejected then the out of date NP will be the MADE plan to reference, which will not include the many amendments made in line with the changes in planning laws and requirements.

Q: When looking at the planning application, will Cheddon Fitzpaine PC consider the whole community to include West Monkton?

A: Cheddon Fitzpaine PC would only consider the needs of the CF residents.

Q: In the land grab happens and both neighbouring parishes are dissolved, would the local plan be dissolved at the same time.

A: It was explained that the town council would adopt the Neighbourhood Plans that are already MADE.

02/04 Reports: SCC/SWT

Cllr Fothergill provided the following report:

Coronavirus infection rates: As of 28th January the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 106,569 (27% up from 83,300 on 30th December) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 977. The rate per 100,000 stands at 964.2 (766.6) for Somerset with Mendip at 766.5 (892.0), Sedgemoor at 1143.1 (756.6), South Somerset 921.3 (684.3) and SW&T at 1016.0 (770.4). The number of total deaths across the County is currently below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.8 and 1.1.

Infection rates in Somerset continue to be extremely high. With the new Omicron variant it is still advisable, even for those who have had both jabs and the relaxation in Government guidelines to continue to observe Social Distancing and to always ventilate indoor areas.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. **0300 790 6275**, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programmes roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 96.2% of the 18+ population having had one dose of vaccine and 93.8% having had both doses. In total 63.7% of the adult population have also received their booster.

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 the Structural Changes Order was laid before Parliament on 24th January. The agreed vesting date remains 1st April 2023. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections will be held on 5th May 2022.

County Council Revenue Budget: Somerset County Council has published its last draft proposed budget ahead of the creation of a new unitary Somerset Council in April 2023. The council is proposing major increases in investment in care services, with an increase for Adult Social Care of £18m (13%), and over £12m (also 13%) for Children's Services. The increase in funding for Adult Social Care in part reflects the council's recent decision to support an increase in carers pay and to provide a retention bonus for care staff in Somerset. This is intended to support the recruitment and retention of staff in a challenging job market for care services.

County Council Capital Budget: SCC is proposing to allocate £48 million for capital spending in the coming year. This includes substantial investment in measures to tackle climate change, building on the council's successful Climate Emergency Community Fund. The council has allocated £1 million in new match funding to support the "decarbonisation" of schools – on top of the existing £7.8 million investment in decarbonising the council's buildings, including libraries. A further £1 million has been allocated for electric fleet vehicles and charging infrastructure. A new investment of £1 million has been allocated to local transport schemes.

Proposed Council Tax: Council Tax for SCC is proposed to rise by two per cent with a further one per cent rise for the social care precept. This compares to UK inflation in December running at over four percent and will mean that Somerset County Council continues to set one of the lowest County Tax rates in the UK.

Somerset libraries: Since libraries reopened their doors last April, Somerset Libraries have had over half a million visits and have welcomed over 16,000 new members. To encourage even more people to reconnect with library services and support communities as they start to recover from the impact of the pandemic Somerset Libraries is running two initiatives from 21st January until the 31st March. Children and young people aged 17 and under will not be charged for using any library services. This includes requesting books from other libraries, borrowing DVDs and no charges for the late return of items! The service will also be happy to clear outstanding charges, for all customers, incurred before 21st January 2022, no questions asked. To take advantage of this 'welcome back' offer, visit your local library before the 31st March and speak to a member of staff.

Climate change action 1: Somerset County Council has been ranked as the top county council in the UK when it comes to taking a lead on climate change. Climate Emergency UK has ranked all 409 local authorities, scoring them against nine categories, including how well councils' plans would mitigate the impact of climate change locally, whether the climate and ecological emergency was integrated into existing

policies, community engagement, climate education, scale of emissions targets, and commitments to tackle the ecological emergency. Somerset County Council was named as the top county council, meanwhile Somerset West & Taunton Council was ranked as the top district council

Climate change action 2: A grant available to help Somerset people benefit from energy efficient installations worth up to £10,000 has been extended until June 2022. The Green Homes Grant Scheme allows eligible homeowners to apply for vouchers to install climate-friendly energy saving measures such as insulation, air source heat pumps, or double glazing. The work can be worth up to £10,000, with nothing for homeowners to pay towards the cost of the works. To be eligible for the grants, the residents of the property must have a low income and the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for the property must be rated D, E, F or G. visit www.heatsomerset.co.uk for more information.

Cllr Tully apologised for his nonattendance recently and explained that the Cheddon Fitzpaine PC meeting always clashes with District Council meetings. He went on to inform attendees that there had been full council meeting the week before and that the Housing Revenue Accounts Annual General budget had been set meaning that rents will be increasing by 4.1% for council tenants.

Cllr Cavill provided the following report:

The increase that Cllr Tully had mentioned is in line with the Almshouse increase and this is mainly due to the additional borrowing required in order to modify building to make them carbon zero, which is a costly process.

The land supply is to fall below the 5-year supply. West Somerset has a 10-year supply. Taunton Deane currently has 3378 houses delayed due to issues with phosphates and is sitting at 76% below the 5-year supply, if there is a further drop of 1%, then any development submitted that meets sustainable requirements will be given permission regardless of the local plan in place. Natural England cannot move fast enough to improve the phosphate issue.

Community Governance Review - meetings are happening although confidentially, a report will be issued next week in time for the full council 3rd March. If the report comes back and the working party have expedited a preferred option, this could be challenged by the date for purdah. Six weeks could mean that there would be an unreliable consultation period and that the next consultation won't be until after the elections. It is thought that there were around 201 responses to the review – 67 of those came from the unparished area. Overall, residents are in favour of making a town council for the unparished area.

02/05 Joint Projects with West Monkton:

Maidenbrook Country Park & Somerset Wood:

The CP Working group had been cancelled due to lack of new issues and therefore there was no report this month. Further to questions from members surrounding the need for the forest school trees, Cllr Batsch provided some additional detail.

These trees have been recommended by the Forest School specialists, who are drawing-up the curriculum and generally advising us on the installation. It is recommended that we “enclose the children by nature” (i.e. use field maple, hornbeam and hazel to create an escape-proof hedge!) An additional reason for the shrub planting is that it will establish some wildlife habitat much more quickly than the trees will.

Wildlife pond: The planted coir mesh to go into the wildlife pond has been ordered and should be in place in 6 weeks' time.

Neighbourhood Plan Review:

Mr Tutill apologised for not being able to attend and provided the following report in his absence; Because the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was triggered. Lepus, the consulting company, and A. Rhodes have decided on a course of action to cover this.

Because previous iterations of the NP, HRA and SEA have concluded that the NP would be unlikely to have sufficient effects on the Environment and on the Conservation objectives of European sites, A. Rhodes and

Lepus have agreed the most expedient way to proceed would be to combine the SEA Scoping and Environment report into one document and consult on both at the same time.

This consultation was published on 3rd February and will close on 10th March, which will be after the next round of PC meetings.

It is unlikely that the PC's will hear anything definitive before the middle of March.

02/06 Platinum Jubilee

Somerset Wood Volunteer Mrs J Pearson proposed some ideas that had already been shared at the West Monkton PC meeting with regards to plans for Jubilee celebrations in the CP. In essence, it is hoped that the Military Wives may be able to perform on the 4th June, and Ed Cullen has offered to attend with his BBQ (which can cater for 600). Potential purchases are a fire beacon and a Jubilee flag for the flagpole, although the PC's may look to donate prizes, if there are some competitions.

There is a meeting with Jo Comer regarding Jubilee celebrations on the 15th February.

It was proposed to create a working group meeting of both PC's to review all of the ideas and to look at expected expenses ahead of the next meeting.

Members that stood forward to help with the Working Group were Cllrs Webber, Isaacs & Batsch.

Cllr Batsch expressed that the permission given by Hazel Prior-Sankey needs to be given in writing.

02/07 Cheddon Ward:

The Clerk noticed that there was a speed data collection box on Lyngford Lane on the approach to Cheddon Primary School and made contact with Kate Brown at Highways to ascertain its purpose. There had been some concerns raised by residents with regards to speeding traffic. The Clerk asked if the data could be shared once it had been collected. The average speeds over 24 hours per day and taken over 7 days were between 30.1 and 31.6mph. Obviously a small number of vehicles are driving faster than this, but this is the average and Highways look at the mean speed when considering any action that is necessary. The mean speed must be below 24mph in order to consider a reduction to 20mph, consequently Highways would not be looking to support any further action.

02/08 Maidenbrook Ward:

The Clerk had been in contact with Lucille Simms regarding sponsorship of the roundabout and there is now a link available for registering interest; <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/advertising-on-roundabouts/>. This link was shared with residents that had contacted the Clerk in 2021 with an interest to sponsor.

The Clerk had emailed Kate Hicks for an update on the adoption of Waterleaze and received a response on the 4th February stating that she had received no response from the developers. The Clerk explained that there had been various resident enquiries and asked if there was any further information that could be shared. The Clerk awaits a response.

Maidenbrook:

The Clerk had been in contact with SCC to establish whether there was any update on the plan to address the Maidenbrook Lane flooding. There is currently no update on this plan.

The Clerk was notified that there had been a land rover parked on the edge of Waterleaze for a couple of weeks and that is causing an obstruction. The Clerk agreed to report the matter.

Members were informed that there would be double yellow lines going onto Venture Way.

Northwalls & Northwalls Grange: The Clerk requested an update regarding the bin emptying on the estate as many were overflowing. After little response, the matter was reported as a Health & Safety breach to SWT. Shortly after, a response was received from the developers who reassured residents that the bins would be emptied that week. Photographic evidence was finally supplied, which resultantly indicated that the bins from the play area had been photographed as opposed to the bins at the end of Barns Close.

The bins were finally emptied on the 11th of February and the Clerk was assured that there was now a contract in place with Biffa for fortnightly emptying. With regards to the finishing of the road surfacing, Barratts David Wilson are awaiting a technical response from Somerset Council and cannot finish these works until received. They are continuing to chase and once received will move swiftly to implement.

02/09 Highways:

Various road closures due to Airband installation:

- Cheddon Fitzpaine Rd -West Monkton 10th February 2022 - **4** days
- Sidbrook, West Monkton **13**th February 2022 - **6** days (08:00 - 17:00)
- The Street, West Monkton 21st February 2022 - 3 days (08:00 - 17:00)
- Greenway 26th February 2022 - 7 days (08:00 - 17:00)
- Red Hill and Noahs Hill 23rd February 2022 - 3 days (08:00 - 17:00)
- Dosters Lane, West Monkton 23rd February 2022 - **3** days (08:00 - 17:00)
- Church Hill, West Monkton 25th February 2022 - **4** days (08:00 - 17:00)

Nerrols School/Summerleaze Crescent:

The Clerk requested the refreshment of the white lines in Summerleaze and has been told that there is no budget until next financial year. The hedges have been trimmed along the footpath through the Summerleaze estate following pressure from Cllr Batsch. Thanks was given to Dan Mancini.

02/10 Planning Applications:

08/22/0002/T Notification to carry out management works to one Walnut tree, one Maple and one further tree (species unspecified) within Cheddon Fitzpaine Conservation Area at Medecia Cottage, Maidenbrook Lane, Cheddon Fitzpaine – To support the tree officers recommendations.

02/11 Planning Decisions:

08/21/0019/LB Replacement of windows and doors on a like for like basis at Brook Barn, Tudor Park, Priorswood, Taunton – *Conditional Approval*

02/12 Reports:

Cheddon Church: The church are trying to encourage some more community events and held a "Teddy Bear's picnic" aimed at young families on 13th February at the memorial hall - and are looking to host some Easter-themed activities on Saturday 16th April in the church / churchyard. The church continues to sponsor and over-see "little seedlings" held on Monday afternoons in the Memorial Hall for carers and their babies - and this is well attended - serving a real need.

The Queen's Jubilee - will likely be holding a "civic" service in the church (sometime 2-4th June) - time and day to be confirmed.

Cheddon School: Covid is continuing to be a challenge with some classes closed due to teachers and children having to isolate. The school is now waiting on numbers for September. Looking for residents to join the board of governors, ideally someone who has a foundational basis (some link to religious establishment) would be beneficial.

Memorial Hall: The hall revenue for the last 3 months has exceeded its cost for the first time since coming out of Covid.

Footpaths: No update.

02 /13 Audit: To approve the Statement of Internal Control.

It was **resolved** to approve the statement of Internal Control.

Administration: To adopt the amended financial regulations to clarify number of signatories required as per auditor guidance.

It was **resolved** to approve the amended financial regulations.

The Clerk asked members to support the creation of a Facebook profile page for Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council to improve the delivery and sharing of council information.

It was **resolved** to approve the creation of a Facebook profile page. It was agreed that more than one person should have admin access to the account and that guidance should be included within the existing Public Relations Policy. Protocol will be to not respond to comments and that essentially the profile will act as an electronic noticeboard.

Website: To note the Website Accessibility Statement. This was as per instruction from the Clerk after realising the existing document on the website was not in line with requirements.

Meetings: CP WG. WM PC. NP PC meeting. Fortnightly Local Government Reorganisation.

Local Government Reorganisation Board: Highlights: Three existing pilots were shared and varied from provision for children and families to highways. The proposition is concerned with PC's working in partnership with other community services. The business case states that Unitary will deliver the services, LCNS will exist to influence and improve. LCN's will have influence on all unitary spend (£250+ million revenue budget), and they will have their own revenue and capital budgets to spend on their local priorities and grants, etc. To find out more about what the new One Somerset will look like go to:

www.newsomersetcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk: It was **resolved** to approve the recommended SALC Business Continuity Motion in event of not being able to be quorate to delegated powers to the Clerk: *This council resolves that: (a) Should the council be unable to meet for whatever reason, the Clerk be given delegated authority to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget. (b) Any decisions taken under resolution (a) above will be taken, whenever possible, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of council and the relevant Committee Chairman (if appropriate). A record of all decisions and expenditure incurred under delegated authority will be kept and reported to members when the council next meets. (c) The authority to decide the council's response to planning applications be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Delegated Planning Committee and Chairman and Vice Chairman of council. Whenever possible, members of the Delegated Planning Committee will be informed of applications out for consultation and will be invited to submit comments to the Clerk. (d) The provisions outlined in resolutions (a-c) above will override any requirements to the contrary in the council's standing orders, financial regulations or terms of reference.*

02/14 Finance:

To note the Review of expenditure versus budget document.

The CP bank account will need to go £166.68 overdrawn before the final VAT claim.

It was **resolved** to make this transfer with a view to return the funds at the end of the CP project.

To note the transfer of £3,494.84 whilst awaiting the CP Vat claim in order to make DDS payment. VAT claim of £4,164.10 submitted for CP account 26/01/22.

Bank Reconciliation to 31st January 2022: Main Account £43,180.38. CIL Account £2,863.07. NSI Account £3,123.62. CP Account £1,779.33. Total £50,946.40

Payments for Authorisation:

Payments

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
S Millard-Jones	February	£1,025.34	£	£1,056.63	28/02/22	

	Salary, Homeworking & Mileage, PAYE & NI					
WM PC	Trees for the forest school	£330.20		£330.20	16/02/22	
WM PC	50% share of the PEA	£579.65		£579.65	16/02/22	
SWT	Dog bins inv 63750340	£1,020.00	£204.00	£1,224	16/02/22	
Memorial hall	2021 Meetings	£258.00	£	£258.00	16/02/22	
Royal mail	Postage	£20.76	£4.15	£24.91	16/02/22	
Character Graphics	Newsletter	£82.00	£	£82.00	16/02/22	

Debit Card/Direct Debit: To note:

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
Somerset Web Services	Email addresses Inv 109527	£32.20	£6.44	£38.64	02/02/22	
NEST	Pension	£33.11	£	£33.11	10/02/22	
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Inv 19/01/22	£9.40	£1.88	£11.28	18/02/22	
Somerset Web Services	Hosting Inv 109490	£22.00	£4.40	£26.40	25/02/22	

Receipts: To note:

Bank Interest – Jan		£0.02
	TOTAL	£0.02

Country Park

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement

It was **resolved to pay** the above by cheque/internet banking. This was proposed by Cllr Webber and seconded by Cllr Baker.

02/15 Matters raised by Councillors:

Cllrs were in agreement that all CP related matters must be passed through the CP WG before coming to the Parish Councils for consideration.

02/16 Items for next agenda:

To consider further costs for the CP project such as a lifebuoy station.

2022 Dates: 10th March (Annual Parish Meeting), 14th March. 11th April. 9th May. 13th June. 11th July. 8th August. 12th September. 10th October. 14th November. 5th December.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm

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Chair