

## CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

In the Main Hall of the Memorial Hall at Cheddon Fitzpaine TA2 8JY

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

**Present:** Parish Cllrs Woollacott, Baker, Batsch, & West, NP Delivery Group Chairman K Tutill. **SCC** Cllr Fraschini, **SWT** D Cllr Cavill and Clerk Mrs S Millard-Jones.

With approximately 7 members of the public.

**01/01 To receive apologies for absence:** Parish Cllrs Webber & Isaacs. SCC Cllr Fothergill, D Cllr Pritchard,

**01/02 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests:** None.

**01/03 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** No questions received.

### **01/04 Reports: SCC/SWT**

Cllr Fraschini provided the following report;

**Coronavirus infection rates:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> December the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 83,300 (22% up from 68,307 on 30<sup>th</sup> September) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 977. The rate per 100,000 stands at 766.6 (435.2) for Somerset with Mendip at 892.0 (564.1), Sedgemoor at 756.6 (418.1), South Somerset 684.3 (505.5) and SW&T at 770.4 (276.6). The number of total deaths across the County is currently level with the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.9 and 1.1

***Infection rates in Somerset continue to be extremely high. With the new Omicron variant it is important, even for those who have had both jabs, to remember to follow Government guidance on wearing masks, 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 95.8% of the 18+ population having had one dose of vaccine and 93.2% having had both doses. IN total 50.9% 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 it is expected that statutory orders will shortly be laid before Parliament with an agreed vesting date of April 2023. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections will be held on 5th May 2022.

**Pay boost for Somerset Carers:** Somerset County Council and the NHS have announced a £4.8m investment to increase pay and recognise the vital contribution of carers in Somerset. The Council are proposing a 9% uplift to domiciliary care providers who agree to pay all their staff a minimum of £10.50 per hour; a retention bonus of £250 for those who have been working in registered care for the last 6 months; and a £250 payment for new starters in domiciliary care. The funding for these changes has been jointly agreed and funded by Somerset County Council and the NHS, as social care is crucial in supporting people leaving hospital and in the community. There are currently a number of vacant social care roles and to find out more visit [www.proudtocaresomerset.org.uk/jobs](http://www.proudtocaresomerset.org.uk/jobs)

**Appeal for return of healthcare equipment:** Healthcare equipment is loaned on behalf of the NHS and social care teams when people leave hospital or after a period of illness, to help them stay safe at home and retain their independence. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has increased demand for this equipment and created shortages in supply. To book a free collection so that equipment can be reused to help others call Millbrook Healthcare on 0333 003 2407.

**Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans:** SCC has unveiled plans for major new safe cycling and walking routes in the county to help create greener, healthier and more active streets. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for Yeovil and Taunton are the first to be published – they'll be followed by plans for Bridgwater and Frome and funding has been netted to draw up plans for three other towns. Having a plan in place is key to unlocking Government funding to build the infrastructure and enable people in Somerset to choose to walk or cycle to work, school, the shops or for other short trips for the benefit of people's health and the environment.

**Reporting faults on the Highway:** Utilising a new upgraded online system with an improved interactive map, members of the public can report a highways problem 24/7. From potholes, blocked drains and broken manhole covers, to mud on the road, overgrown vegetation, damaged pavements or cycle paths, faulty traffic lights or missing markings – they can all be reported in just minutes from a smartphone, tablet or computer.

The full range is available via [www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/)

**Reaching Carbon Zero:** As part of Somerset County Council's commitment to decarbonise its buildings Yeovil Library has undergone a transformation to make the building greener and more energy efficient. The project has seen a new air source heat pump installed to heat the building in a more sustainable way, lamps changed to LEDs, new thermally efficient windows, improved ventilation with carbon dioxide monitors, and significant additional insulation. The measures will save approximately 27 tonnes of carbon each year. The investment is part of a wider SCC scheme to decarbonise and make the Council's buildings more environmentally friendly and will cover 12 projects including Taunton Library, Frome Library, Glastonbury Hub, and County Hall. Early estimates indicate that the delivery of the various schemes could reduce SCC's carbon output by around 27% – around 400 tonnes of carbon per annum. All the remaining projects aside from County Hall are due to be complete by March 2022.

**Applications for school places 2022:** All children starting school for the first time in September 2022, as well as those moving between infant and junior or first and middle school applications must be submitted by Saturday 15 January 2022. [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

Cllr Cavill provided the following report:

RE Covid business support. There is a new local hospitality support grant which will be using some of the last funds being held by the authority to help with small grants. We have been notified of an Omnicom Hospitality and Leisure grant that will be based on rateable value. Further details will be coming from government on the 10th of the month, looks as though it will be something like: Below £5,000 a grant of £2667. From £15,000 to 51,000 a grant of £4000. Above £51,000 a grant of £6000

Litter is a 'Major' problem for the whole of SW&T, a proposed enforcement procedure is going through Committee stages tonight. SWT is a 'Principal Littering Authority' and that littering is a criminal offence with a level 4 fine of £2,500. The proposal is to enter into a contract with East Hampshire Council who will undertake enforcement. There will be a £141,000 provision in the 22/23 budget to underwrite this contract. With a fine of £100 per infringement, it is expected that 3 to 5 fixed penalty notices a day will be issued, if that is the case then it is anticipated to cost SWT an estimated £60,000.

At six or more fixed penalties a day then the project breaks even for East Hampshire and subsequently no cost to SWT. Further fines will then mean that some of the money gained will be returned to SWT. The Officers issuing fines will all be wearing body cameras.

Last Night at Corporate Scrutiny the annual CIL reports were presented. I took the opportunity to ask how Funds will be dealt with if Parishes were completely taken over by a Town Council. Would funds for projects being undertaken be honoured? Bearing in mind that WMPC was advised that there could be potential to ring fence CIL to the Parish presently holding it, could officers please confirm this to be the case?

Alison Bloom -Cooper as the Director present could not give an immediate answer ,so I have asked that an email response be given as CGR Consultations responses could be affected by the answers.

HRA

Council Rents for 2022/23 fixed with a 4.1% increase to £89.22 for existing tenants and £93.75 for new tenants, up £3.52 and £3.69

RSL range is £88.54 (1), up to £110.55 (10)

## 01/05 Joint Projects with West Monkton:

### **Maidenbrook Country Park & Somerset Wood:**

Cllr Batsch circulated the following report ahead of the meeting with reference to the Country Park Working Group (CPWG);

#### **1. Forest School**

An email was received briefly before Christmas requesting that all work on the forest school structure should stop due to SWT being in breach of the Crown Covenant. This was received from Sally Stark (Assets Manager – SWT). For work to continue, written permission needs to be obtained from the Crown.

It is recommended that both PC's should instruct the solicitor to deal directly with the Crown to obtain this permission.

#### **2. Wildlife Pond**

The installation of the pond liner and water has gone to plan, with a saving made on gravel, however due to the need for additional stone, diesel and overflow covers, the price has increased by £2,295. Further to the original agreements made by WM and CF PC's to each make an additional contribution of £4,042.86, a further £1,147.75 is required. This needs to be obtained as early as possible so that the invoice of £24,984.60 can be paid to DDS.

It is recommended that both PC's approve this additional cost.

The pond was partially filled with water by the fire brigade to consolidate the liner, some water was taken from the canal. The water will need to be left to stand so that any chemicals can naturally evaporate. Alan Hall has been speaking with the head of Quantock Hills development following a meeting at CP who have offered to look into funding the building of dry-stone walling to the north of Pond facing South. They have the instructors for this plus we can provide volunteers to do the construction. The fencing that is currently surrounding the wildlife pond will remain in place until Spring, at which time it is hoped that the CP may be able to purchase it so that it can be used on further projects around the CP. A quote has been obtained by Wee Trees by WM for trees to be planted around the fence of the forest school. WM have asked whether CF PC may consider contributing 50% (£391.60).

It is recommended to approve this expenditure by the CP WG, however it was agreed to take this element back to the CP WG for more detail on the trees.

#### **3. Safer route to school**

There is some gravel remaining from the wildlife pond project and it is expected that this will be used to infill the areas of the gravel path that have incurred additional wear over the last month or so. There are plans to have paths around the periphery of the field in order to contribute a suitable surface for events such as the Parkrun.

#### **4. Lease and matters arising**

Concerns were raised regarding the naming of the park on the SWT press release to Monkton Country Park. It was confirmed by Amy that all legal documents refer to the CP as 'Maidenbrook' CP. Both PC's are awaiting an update from the solicitor who is currently out of the office. The last email received from the solicitor was on the 15<sup>th</sup> December:

**Deed of Covenant** *I confirm that we are in receipt of funds and have now provided the required undertaking for costs to the solicitors acting for the Crown Estate. We hope to be in receipt of a draft Deed of Covenant to review shortly.*

**Review of Draft Lease prepared by STW** *We have also now reviewed the legal title to the land and a first draft of the lease provided by STW. We have requested further information from them on the legal title and also provided our detailed comment on the first draft of the lease. This has now been sent back to them for further consideration. In particular, we have re-drafted the provisions which relate to how the Parish Councils can deal with the land (i.e. underletting/ assigning the lease). Our key concern at this stage is that STW's proposed terms are unnecessarily onerous. The Parish Councils are committing to a lease of the land for 125 years and there is no break clause so there will need to be some flexibility built in so that the Parish Councils can realistically manage their obligations in the future. I will report back to you on this once I hear back from them with an updated draft. Time spent on this aspect of the instruction currently amounts to three chargeable hours. Assuming STW respond promptly and deal satisfactorily with the concerns that we*

have raised I would hope that we can still agree the lease terms within the agreed time estimate of 6 chargeable hours.

## 5. Charitable Trust

Jan Ross is waiting on the lease being signed before she is able to proceed to register the CP into a Charitable Trust.

Discussions from the 17<sup>th</sup> August CP WG meeting were referred to where it had been discussed that having a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 14 trustees would be the preferable option.

It was recommended that it would be useful to start thinking and talking to potential interested parties so that trustees are available as soon as the lease has been agreed.

## 6. Meeting with SWT on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Omri Ben Chetrit – (Green Infrastructure Officer for SWT) had been in touch with WM and requested a meeting. The 11<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm has been arranged.

## 7. AOB

The next CP WG meeting was scheduled for Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.

The contents of the report were noted and it was **resolved** to accept the revised contribution for the wildlife pond and to transfer this money to the CP account. It was also **resolved** to instruct the solicitors to deal directly with the Crown to obtain his permission. Further detail would be obtained through the CP WG regarding the trees for the forest school.

### Neighbourhood Plan Review:

Kelvin Tutill provided the following report;

The Regulation16 consultation on the West Monkton & Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Councils Revised Neighbourhood Development Plan (WM&CG RNDP) closed on Friday 17 December 2021 and approximately 28 representations have been received.

Ann Skippers' formal appointment will commence on the third week of January, which will last for 6 weeks. She will initially be going through all documentation (submission docs, representations, etc.) to inform any initial questions to the Parish Council's and SWT that she may have.

If any changes are considered to be significant as opposed to substantial, it is unlikely that a referendum will be considered necessary.

**Connecting our Garden Communities - active travel linkages** – no report

## 01/06 Community Governance Review

**116 responses have been received from CFPC residents and provide the PC with the following data:**

- 99% of residents want to keep the PC with it's local knowledge and representation
- 89% think the new Taunton Town Council should represent only the currently unparished centre of Taunton
- 92% do not want CF to be incorporated into any future Taunton Town Council
- 35% of residents identified themselves as Nerrols
- 35% from Maidenbrook
- 23% Cheddon Village
- Remaining as a mix from Rowford, Upper Cheddon and Taunton Town
- Along with 55 supporting comments

It was **resolved** to submit this data in report form to SWT Governance team before the 12<sup>th</sup> of January deadline.

**01/07 Cheddon Ward:** No report

**01/08 Maidenbrook Ward:** No report

**Northwalls & Northwalls Grange:** The Clerk has requested information regarding the bin emptying on the estate as many are overflowing. Road surfacing seems to have been completed, although there remains to be a lot of snagging to be addressed.

**01/09 Highways:** No update

**Nerrols School/Summerleaze Crescent:** No update

**Road Closures:**

Hestercombe Road, West Monkton - 6th January 2022 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on 12th January 2022 and last for 3 days

Upper Cheddton Road, Cheddton Fitzpaine 13 January 2022 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on 17th January 2022 and last for 7 days to enable Airband Community Internet Ltd to carry out cabling works.

Lyngford Lane - from the junction with Cheddton Road, southwards for a distance of 472 metres. 4th February 2022 and last until 8th February 2022

Gotton Lane, West Monkton 4th February 2022 and last for 7 days (08:00 - 17:00) to enable Airband Community Internet to carry out cabling works.

Maidenbrook Lane, Cheddton Fitzpaine 4th February 2022 and last for 7 days (08:00 - 17:00) to enable Airband Community Internet to carry out cabling works.

**01/10 Planning Applications:** None

**01/11 Planning Decisions:**

**08/21/0031** Application for a non-material amendment to application 08/19/0001 for a shift in plots 164-168 and plots 161-163 due to compromised access on land at Nerrols Farm, Cheddton Fitzpaine - **Conditional Approval**

**08/21/0030** Erection of single-storey rear extension to Waterloo, 29 Barbers Mead, Cheddton Fitzpaine - **Conditional Approval**

**01/12 Reports:**

**Cheddton Church:** Reverend Tracey Hallett has now left and a leaving presentation is to take place this week. All further queries to be raised with Reverend Mary Styles.

**Cheddton School:** Children are back to school and Covid continuing to be a challenge.

**Memorial Hall:** There will be a fundraiser taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, posters will be going up soon around the village. Residents are asked to form teams of around 4 to join in on the Quiz night.

**Footpaths:** No update.

**01 /13 Administration:** Increase in number of leaflets required to include the new houses that are becoming occupied in Nerrols Grange.

**Website:** 145 sessions. 69 of which were looking at the meetings page. 57 Country Park. 29 local news. 20 contact us.

**Meetings:** LGR update attended 16<sup>th</sup> December. SALC Governance Review 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Parish Clerk:** Submitted 26/30 units for CILCA. Essential for General Power of Competence following the elections

**01/14 Finance:** VAT Claim for £3,494.84 submitted. To invoice WM for £5,190.61 funds. To note that it is against the Data Protection Act 2020 to publish full salary details and for this reason all Clerk related payments will be placed on one line for approval.

**Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021:** Main Account £49,709.17. CIL Account £2,863.03. NSI Account £3,123.31. CP Account £12,887.88. Total £68,583.39

**Payments for Authorisation:**

**Payments**

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
S Millard-Jones	January Salary, Homeworking	£1,025.34	£	£1,025.34	31/01/22	

	& Mileage, PAYE & NI					
WM PC	Trees for the forest school	£391.30		£391.30	10/01/22	
CP account	Contribution for CP wildlife pond	£5,190.61		£5,190.61	10/01/22	
Phoenix Windows	Bus shelter clean	£15.00	£	£15.00	10/01/22	
A Shepherd	Clerk expenses	£189.33	£	£189.33	10/01/22	

**Debit Card/Direct Debit: To note:**

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
Somerset Web Services	Email addresses Inv 109355	£32.20	£6.44	£38.64	02/01/22	
NEST	Pension	£33.11	£	£33.11	10/01/22	
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Inv 19/12/21	£9.40	£1.88	£11.28	18/01/22	
Somerset Web Services	Hosting Inv 109316	£22.00	£4.40	£26.40	25/01/22	
Somerset Web Services	Renewal of domain name	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00	11/01/22	

**Receipts: To note:**

Bank Interest – Dec		£0.02
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£0.02</b>

**Country Park**

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
DDS Aquatics	Pond	£20,820.50	£4,164.10	£24,984.60	10/01/22	

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

**01/15 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.

**01/16 Items for next agenda:**

**2022 Dates:**

14<sup>th</sup> February. 14<sup>th</sup> March. 11<sup>th</sup> April. 9<sup>th</sup> May. 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.

Meeting closed at 20.45pm

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Chair

DRAFT