

## CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on on MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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

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

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

There were about 12 members of the public.

**08/01 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Baker, SWT D Cllr Pritchard, NP Delivery Group Chairman K Tutill,

**08/02 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests:** None.

**08/03 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021: It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes.

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Several members of the public asked questions regarding the Country Park (CP); in summary:

*Would it be possible to get access to the pre-app advice that had been given to the Parish Council (PC).* CP Project manager Alan Hall explained that this document is still being worked on.

*Are the PC in collusion with Rural Solutions (RS) as suggested at the Consultation?* Cheddon Fitzpaine (CF) PC will not support the suggested development that has been put forward. The consultation should be about RS obtaining feedback from the residents and adjusting the plans accordingly. The PC are unable to make an official response until the official planning stage. All correspondence regarding the development has been shared via the Clerk and the PC are in the process of evaluating the RS feedback. The PC have been in discussions with RS but are not in collusion with them. The Statement released by both West Monkton (WM) and CF PC's should have been included at the RS presentation, but it wasn't. The PC would like the fields to support the CP, but not at a cost to the Parish. When/if the development progresses to planning stage, if there are more than 10 objections then it will be considered in front of a Planning Committee. The letter sent to residents ahead of the RS consultation was a shock to the PC and was the reason for putting a statement together.

*Is there a constitution for the steering group and are they demonstrating impartiality?* There is a group called the Management Working Group with a purpose to discuss specific CP matters. This consists of two Parish Councillors from WM and two Parish Councillors from CF. This Working Group has no involvement with the developer.

*Is it likely that a planning application could be submitted and approved and then even more properties are built than at first agreed?* This is possible and can depend on the different application methods; outline planning, full planning or reserved matters. This is not something that the PC can be involved with until the planning application is at an official stage.

*Has CFPC ever considered development within the Parish?* CFPC does not own any land in the Parish and therefore it would not be a possibility.

*Does CFPC know who owns the land?* Somerset Global Finances/Glebe Farm Holdings, of which Ben Ashton is the sole director.

*Can the Parish be confident that the PC will support residents' viewpoints?* It was explained that the PC will need to take into account the viewpoints of everyone within the Parish. Primarily, the PC wants to protect the green wedge and ensure the potential of the CP. CF PC are aware and understand the feeling within the village.

### 08/04 Reports: SCC/SWT

Cllr Frascini provided the following report;

**Coronavirus infection rates:** As at 30th July the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 26,526 (up from 20,982 on 25th June) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 802. The rate per 100,000 stands at 206.9 (47.1) for Somerset with Mendip at 234.5 (40.7), Sedgemoor at 195.7 (74.7), South Somerset 214.4 (20.8) and SW&T at 187.0 (58.7). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 40% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.3 and 1.5.

Despite significant progress and even for those who have had both jabs it is vitally important to remember, to observe Hands-Face-Space and to Ventilate indoor areas at all times.

**Road map out of lockdown:** It is expected that the final lifting of restrictions including the need to self-isolate will be removed from 16th August 2021.

**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 programme roll-out:** Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 93.7% of the adult population having had one dose of vaccine and 77.4% having had both doses. Work continues to encourage further take up particularly amongst younger adults and a real focus on ensuring the second vaccine to this group.

**Local Government Reorganisation:** The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has delivered his decision on which unitary council business cases met his three tests and will therefore be progressed through Parliament. A single unitary met all of his clear tests including the ability to improve local government and services. It is expected that the orders will be laid before Parliament in the late Autumn and a vesting date of the new authority as April 2023. Work with partners will now commence to progress through the transition period.

**Tick warning:** With the warmer weather come ticks, which thrive in woodland, long grass and even urban parks. SCC has put together a 'tick list' to follow to reduce the risk of being bitten including: Walking on clearly defined paths, wearing light coloured clothing, using an insect repellent, wearing long trousers and long-sleeved tops to reduce the skin exposure and carrying out a regular tick check after outdoor activities. Being bitten by a tick doesn't usually require hospital treatment but people are advised to dial NHS 111 if they start to feel unwell.

**County-wide Bus Services:** Following the Government's announcement in March of the new National Bus Strategy – 'Bus Back Better' a £3 billion pot of funding is being made available to improve bus services across the country and Somerset County Council can bid for a share of this in partnership with operators. But first, the Council needs to know about residents' experience and where the gaps in services are. You can take the survey at <https://somerset.inconsult.uk/somerset.bus.survey/consultationHome>

**Reflections of the pandemic:** The Somerset Library Service is inviting people to share their experiences of the last sixteen months, to be recorded for future generations. As part of 'Reflections', a county-wide creative response to the pandemic, libraries will host a series of free drop-in sessions throughout August and online via social media. The collaborative artwork and film will be given to the South West Heritage Trust as a 'record' of the experiences of Somerset people during the pandemic. The film and artwork will then be showcased at the evening 'Reflections' event to be held on the 10 September. This initiative forms part of Somerset Libraries' response to initiative, funded by The BBC and Arts Council England.

**Summer holidays school meals support:** The Department of Work and Pensions has extended its Covid Local Support Grant, providing £1.4m to Somerset County Council who will use the grant to fund food vouchers worth £15 per week for children eligible for Free School Meals over the six-week Summer Holidays. SCC has been working to tackle holiday hunger during the pandemic, providing funding for food and vouchers over the October, February, and May half-term periods, as well as the Christmas and Easter holidays.

**Forecast heat wave:** Many forecasters are expecting temperatures to rise again in August and so Somerset's Public Health have issued the following important advice: Look out for others, especially older people, young children and babies and those with underlying health conditions. Stay cool indoors: open windows when the air feels cooler outside than inside; shade or cover windows exposed to direct sunlight; move to a cooler part of the house, especially for sleeping. Keep drinks within easy reach – water is better than sugary or caffeinated drinks for staying hydrated. Avoid excess alcohol. Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, especially infants, young children or animals. Try to keep out of the sun between 11am to 3pm.

**National Recognition:** Somerset County Council has been shortlisted for three prestigious national awards in recognition of its work during the coronavirus pandemic. The categories include; 'Best Workforce Transformation' for its redeployment work during the pandemic, 'Community Heroes' for the work of Community Council for Somerset's Village and Community Agents, and 'Delivering Better Outcomes' for Somerset's Micro-providers, independent care providers who proved a lifeline for Somerset's isolated rural population throughout the pandemic.

Cllr Woollacott asked what the plan was regarding the expected increase in traffic due to the Creech Castle work commencing. Cllr Fothergill explained that SCC are aware that more measures will need to be put in place and that it will be monitored ongoing and reminded all about the Park and Ride being free for the foreseeable.

Cllr Cavill provided the following report;

Rebecca Staddon and Gill Sloman are switching departments which are being renamed. A new Landscape Officer was appointed at the end of July. Phosphates has stopped building for some time, but now the best part of 11,000 homes have been held up – work is continuing on mitigation through the autumn. The Design Guide Consultation finishes on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. Areas under review; South West Heritage Trust (relevant to proposals around the village), local housing needs are being considered through an Economic Need Assessment, and the availability of gypsy and traveller site availability as required by the government. Several local PC's attended the Local Government Reorganisation meeting which showcased some good examples of how the PC's can work together in the coming years. The Somerset Homefinder system has been revamped; 57 homes were available, and 126 bids were received.

A Task and Finish group has been started looking at retrospectively fitting properties owned by the District Council in order to make them carbon zero and sustainable. Out of the 5,400 homes, 315 of them currently comply with the required specification.

#### **08/05 Joint Projects with West Monkton:**

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

**\*\* Meeting Closed\*\***

The meeting was closed to discuss legal matters concerning the CP.

**\*\*Meeting re-opened\*\***

Orders have been placed for the chestnut fencing and the small building for the forest school, it is hoped to have these are completed by the end of September. The plans for the safer route to school are underway and permission will hopefully be granted from SWT in time for work to be done ahead of the children returning to school. This involves the creation of a path along the edge of the CP. It is expected that this will cost between £10,000-£12,000 (excluding the tarmac needed at the end of the path) this will be funded by WM PC, however any contributions from CF PC would be appreciated.

Volunteers are working on getting rid of the Ragwort. There are now 3,500 trees planted in the CP.

##### **b) Neighbourhood Plan Review:**

Ann Rhodes of SW&T has reported that SCC were unable to complete the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) as reported last month and therefore she has had to go out to tender and has recently appointed Lepus Consulting ( who did the previous SEA work ) to make the revised assessment. Lepus are aiming to have a draft available to Ann by the end of this month and will also comment on any amendments to the revised NP they consider necessary to deal with the phosphate issue on the Levels.

This of course has further delayed this stage of the process. However, once the draft HRA is received it will be scrutinised by SW&T before being sent to Natural England (NE) for their approval. This could take a further 3 weeks. Assuming NE give their approval, Regulation 14 can formally be submitted to SW&T who will then take a couple of months to review, including appointing an independent examiner who will make the decision as to whether a referendum is needed. It is expected that at best, a decision will be received back from the examiner by the end of the year - assuming all goes smoothly.

#### **08/06 Cheddon Ward:**

A resident had contacted Alyn Jones (SCC) regarding the increase in traffic through Goosenford, who responded noting that a (Speed Indicator Device) SID was in place by the school. The data was requested by the Clerk. He also referred to a SID being put in place in Goosenford and stated that SCC will consult with the PC. When asked for clarity on this communications, it was confirmed that there may have been some

confusion regarding this as there is no information relating to a Speed Indicator Device being set up in Goosenford or located near the school.

The Clerk is awaiting an update from Kate Brown regarding; rejuvenation of the road signage around Cheddon Primary School & Installation of the 20mph sign as well as the cutting back of the hedges etc to make all existing signage more visible.

**08/07 Maidenbrook Ward:** To note the suspension of Garden Waste Collection across Taunton from 2<sup>nd</sup> August for 6 weeks.

**Maidenbrook:** The adoption has come to a grinding halt due to a particular issue (Clerk has requested further detail). The developers need to deal with the 'particular issue' before SWT will reconsider the adoption of the estate. The Clerk has made an enquiry with Chris Hall regarding the aforementioned land (July meeting) and is awaiting a response.

**Northwalls & Nerrols Grange:** The Clerk had contacted Paul Curtin and James Kidner & Customer support at BDW via email and phone and had no response.

**08/08 Highways:** No report

**WRR: A3259:** It was expected that there would be a 20mph on Yallands Hill from 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021 until July 2022, this is not yet in place due to supply. There is no expected date for these to be in place. The Clerk has chased Kate Brown on; the commitment to additional signage on Priorswood Road. The Clerk has made contact with Chris Wadham to reinstate the bin that was at the bottom of Yallands Hill prior to the WRR development.

**Nerrols School/Summerleaze Crescent:**

A Speed Data Capture Device appeared on Nerrols Drive, this was as a result of a training exercise, and has since been removed, however, it will be put back in place in September to measure the effectiveness of the lights being in place outside of Nerrols School.

**CMC Roundabout ownership/sponsorship:** The Clerk is awaiting an update regarding the landing page for residents to register an interest.

**Road Closures:** No report

**08/09 Planning Applications:** None

**08/10 Planning Decisions:**

**08/21/0015 -** Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 08/19/0027 at Unit L2, Crown Industrial Estate, Venture Way, Taunton – Conditional Approval

**08/11 Reports: Church, Cheddon School, Memorial Hall, Footpaths:**

**Cheddon Church** have their Harvest service on Sunday 19 September 11am which includes a Ploughman's roll being served after for brunch. Please let the Church know if you are planning to attend to ensure there is enough food for everyone. There will be a Cheddon Outdoor Service for Climate Awareness Sunday on 29 August at 10am. This will be a relaxed service with activity stations set up outside the church with time for reflection, a chat and even an outdoor communion.

Little seedlings drop in baby and toddler group at memorial hall which is thriving. It is open on Mondays from 1:30-3.15 with no need to book, everyone welcome with a £2 donation per family. Things are going well with many new families from across the Parish joining.

Reverend Tracey Hallet has been on a placement with Cheddon School and as a result of this, a monthly muddy church on a Thursdays after school once a month will be beginning late September.

It is hoped that a Christmas carol singalong will be arranged in December. The Church Pastoral Care is limited due to lack of financial and Human Resources at the moment and any new people joining that would be willing to get involved would be most welcome.

**Cheddon School:** No report due to school being closed for summer holidays.

**Memorial Hall:** There will be a fundraising event taking place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Tickets are being sold for £10 each and include a FREE first drink and a cash bar. There will be 200 tickets printed.

**08/12 Administration:**

PAT testing of equipment used at Memorial Hall had been conducted. Various communications onto the local social media sites; Free park and ride due to the Creech Castle development. Somerset Rivers Authority

Annual Report. August newsletter. Taunton Heritage Trust Almshouse Charity FLATS AVAILABLE. Local Government Reorganisation. Airband Newsletter.

Flexible Plastic recycling can be taken to Sainsburys Billet St and Hankridge and Co-Op Cheddon Rd – Covers bags, pouches, sachets, wrapping and films. The plastic can be multi-layered, be a combination of different plastics, paper and foil. It can be plain, printed or coated. It needs to be clean to make the whole recycling process easier See <https://flexibleplasticfund.org.uk/list-of-flexible-packaging> .

It was **resolved** that Cllr Batsch would handle all Public Relations on the CP and would work in alignment with WM PC.

**Website:** Between 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July traffic up 83% with 538 sessions versus 211 in June, notably 158 were to the Country Park page duration down by 11% to 2m 01s from 2m 18s in the previous month.

**Review of Audit Actions:** To note the updated crib sheet. It was **resolved** to adopt the Annual Leave Policy, Anti-fraud & Corruption and Model publication scheme. The Data Protection Policy will be available for adoption at the September meeting.

**Parish Clerk:** Local Government Act S101 provides the ability for a Council to discharge a function to an officer, a committee or another authority – not to a councillor, therefore it is good practice to set up an HR Committee to deal with HR related processes. It was **resolved** to adopt the Terms of Reference for an HR Committee.

Annual Leave 13/8/21 – 20/8/21.

**Meetings:** WM PC meeting 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**08/13 Finance:** The submission for the opening Up Safely Grant was discussed. Cllr Batsch to obtain further detail from the Memorial Hall, to see if the PC may be able to make a grant application to help with additional cleaning costs required for the opening up of the Memorial hall.

**NatWest:** The Clerk has signed up for paperless statements.

**NS&I:** Awaiting a response from NSI

**Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021:** Main Account £42,126.64 . CIL Account £2,862.93. NSI Account £3,123.31. CP Account £62,716.00.

**Payments for Authorisation:**

## Payments

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
S Millard-Jones	August Salary	£753.37	£	£753.37	31/08/21	
S Millard-Jones	Homeworking & Mileage	£36.00	£1.80	£37.80	31/08/21	
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£199.69	£	£199.69	31/08/21	
SALC	Affiliation Fee	£611.58	£	£611.58	15.08	
Character Graphics	August Newsletter	£74.00	£	£74.00	15/08/21	
ICO	Annual Fee	£40.00	£	£40.00	15/08/21	
		<b>£1,714.64</b>	<b>£1.80</b>	<b>£1,716.44</b>		

## Debit Card/Direct Debit: To note:

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
Amazon	Paper	£16.66	£3.33	£19.99	04/08/21	
Somerset Web Services	Email addresses Inv 108534	£32.20	£6.44	£38.64	02/08/21	
NEST	Pension	£31.57	£	£31.57	10/08/21	

Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Inv 19/07/21	£9.40	£1.88	£11.28	1/21	
Somerset Web Services	Hosting Inv 108496	£22.00	£4.40	£26.40	25/08/21	

**Receipts: To note:**

Bank Interest – July		£0.04
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£0.04</b>

**Country Park**

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
Western Fabrications	Steel Frames	£4,967.97	£993.59	£5,961.56	15/08/21	
Benjamin Henry	Timber Construction	£4,961.40	£992.28	£5,953.68	15/08/21	
J Down	Fence installation	£1,742.00	£348.40	£2,090.40	£15/08/21	
West Country Fencing	Fencing	£2,720.25	£544.05	£3,264.30	£15/08/21	
		<b>£14,391.62</b>	<b>£2,878.32</b>	<b>£17,269.94</b>		

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

**08/14 Matters raised by Councillors:** None

**08/15 Correspondence:** The Clerk had circulated all correspondence ahead of the meeting.

**Next Parish Council meeting:**

MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.00pm at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed: 21.05pm

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Chair