

CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 9 January 2014

in the Memorial Hall Committee Room.

Present: Cllr D Webber, Cllr R Isaacs, Cllr P Thomas, SCC Cllr C Gordon, SCC Cllr D Fothergill, D Cllr B Nottrodt . Dr L Thompson (Co-opt). One member of the public

Clerk: Mrs J Pearson

1. Apologies for absence: D Cllr E Waymouth , Cllr N Cavill, Cllr U Palmer

2. Declarations of personal/prejudicial interests:

D Cllr Webber	Planning Committee TDBC
Cllr Isaacs	Trustee CAB
SC Cllr Fothergill	Trustee of Hestercombe
D Cllr Nottrodt	Planning Committee TDBC

Dispensations:

The Clerk **granted** Dispensations to the Parish Councillors under the power of delegation in the Code of Conduct. Forms were signed by Cllr Webber, Cllr Isaacs & Cllr Thomas to facilitate approval of the Precept under Item 14 as they reside within the Parish. The Clerk signed all the forms.

3. Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting on 14 November 2013. It was unanimously **resolved** these were accurate and signed by the Chairman.

Public Question Time

-Mrs K Musgrave asked the Parish Council to thank Sally Vickery, SCC Rights of Way Officer for her guidance and prompt assistance in providing the **Bristol Gate on T5/5** near South Lodge. The Musgraves provided the labour to install the gate. The Parish Council record thanks to all involved.

- KM explained that the reason for lowering the **water level of the pond** beside School Cottages is to allow the land drains to drain water from the field. She has removed stones several times only to find replaced. It is hoped that the person/s involved understand the explanation and stop filling the pond.

- KM records that vegetation clearance by **Silt Trap**, and the temporary grid have assisted in the water only successfully passing through the trap, and Upper Cheddon has been saved from flooding.

-KM reported problems of flooding at **ParkGate junction**, Hestercombe. Clerk to contact SCC Highways requesting the Gulley sucker/Smithsgore.

- David Node has replaced Alex Johnson at Smithsgore.

4. Parish Councillor Vacancies: Co-opt Dr L Thompson. Dr Thompson, who has lived in the village for many years, had attended the previous meeting and agreed to become a Parish Councillor. The vacancy had previously been advertised. The Parish Councillors **unanimously approved the Co-option**. The Clerk to inform the Electoral Office at TDBC.

NatWest Signatory: The Parish Councillors **approved** to add Dr Thompson as a signatory to the NatWest account unanimously. The form was duly signed. Clerk and Dr Thompson to visit NatWest to complete formalities.

Councillor Training by SALC. No sessions are currently available, but **approval** was granted for Dr Thompson to attend when available.

5. Clerks Contract:

The clerk had amended the contract of employment to reflect the approved increase in hours from 1 January 2014

- from eight to ten hours per week at item 12 (Hours of Work).
- An oversight of the same alteration at 13 (Additional Hours) was amended.
- Item 19 Pensions. This was deleted as not applicable.
- A question was raised under Item 22 (Health & Safety Regulations, Other Legislation & Council Policies) to clarify the situation regarding Data Protection. Clerk to seek clarification from SALC/SLCC and/or Data Protection office.

The Parish Councillors **resolved to approve** the above amendments and the Contract was signed by the Chairman.

NatWest Mandate: It was **resolved to approve** the increased pay from 1 January 2014 to £400.83 per month. The form to amend the Clerks pay was signed by three signatories. Clerk to forward to NatWest.

6. Village Issues:

School Cottages/riverbank

Maps were obtained from TDBC Estate Terrier showing TD Housing have a responsibility with a tenanted property in School Cottages. There is a recent understanding that Steve Esaw, TDBC is overseeing this issue.

Footpaths

- T5/5 Thanks recorded (Public Question Time) for the early completion of the Bristol Gate

Footpath Officer reported:

- (unnumbered path - ?extension of T5/14) debris by the Crown Recycling tip
- T5/17 – a metal hurdle has been placed across a path, and poorly wired in.
Clerk to report the above.

Flytipping:

- A wheel by Upper Cheddon/Pyrland Road junction
- 2 wheels by Volis Hill/Hestercombe Road (LHS)

It is thought more car parts are being dumped because of the cost at the Recycling tip.

Notification had just been received suggesting the Recycling tip could re-open 7 days a week in response to public pressure. This would be welcomed by the Parish which receives an undue amount of flytipping because of its proximity to the Tip.

Sewage Disposal idea put to Wessex Water

CLlr Thomas, Clerk, & Walkers had a successful meeting in November with Jonathan Barker, Area Manager Wessex Water, to discuss flooding/sewage/surface water near the Pump Station. A good dialogue was established and a promise to meet in March to assess the ongoing situation.

Subsequent to the meeting, *'routine maintenance has been extended to remove some fat, grease and gravel deposits which have been identified in recent inspections of the sewers'*. This is scheduled to take place in January 2014.

Clerk had found circa **1960 original pen and ink drawings of the sewers** for Cheddon & West Monkton. Copies have been taken to preserve the originals. Councillors approve a copy to be forwarded to Clerk at West Monkton, and for the originals to be taken to the Public Record Office archives to see how they should best be stored (possibly digitally).

Clerk was requested to contact Smithsgore regarding the farming methods in the field neighbouring the Pump Station, and regarding the ditch beside No: 84

Phone Box

The Clerk had successfully reported the damaged glass to BT and it is hoped this will be repaired in the near future. A request for redecoration was made and this could be completed before the end of 2014. A couple of neighbouring parishes have also made similar requests.

School Parking

The Chairman, Mrs Musgrave, Alastair Deighton (Smithsgore) & Dick Macey (Chairman of Memorial Hall) met to discuss the problems associated with school pick up/drop offs. Mr Macey will arrange a meeting with the Trustees of Cheddon School, and has requested the Clerk make an introduction to Ian Titcombe SCC Highways to understand the needs and expectations. County Councillor David Fothergill to be kept informed. Current questions include: Who can draw up plans, and who can provide funding?

7. Maidenbrook Ward

Section 106 Money. Outdoor Recreation money - £6,013.00

A quotation had been received from TDBC DLO:

- £6,400 for the Basketball net and 5x5m tarmac area.
- £1,350 for 2 x benches.
- The Clerk had established that the full amount of approx. £1,770 extra could be obtained from the Parish Play Area Grant Scheme and the application form had been obtained.
- Councillors requested Clerk to obtain quotes from two sources to establish a comparison of figures.
- Cllr Claire Gordon and Clerk to visit Josep Galicia/Debbie Arscott to clarify matters.

Parish Councillors **approval** was given for the SCC Cllr Gordon/Clerk to proceed in order to get the equipment ordered/erected if the conditions were satisfied without the need to wait until the March meeting.

DLO Visit/

A meeting took place on 18 December 2013 in rainy conditions with the Parish Councillors, Clerk and two DLO Officers (Nick Whitemore & Josep Galicia). Items for discussion included:

- Ownership of various areas.
- Clearance of vegetation had been undertaken prior to the meeting which was acknowledged
- Further clearance is required of ditches between Waterleaze Road/Hale Way in particular
- Silt in Maiden Brook was noted
- Damaged gabions (stone filled wire cages) adjoining No 26 Barbers Mead.
- A request for trees near Sheepdip to be topped as light is reduced at neighbouring properties
- Cycle Way cleared of all overhanging vegetation – Parish acknowledged with thanks.
- Children's Play area has swings removed. Repair required. When reinstated?

Clerk to follow up with DLO.

Adoption of Waterleaze Estate

Following the visit to Waterleaze in December, the Parish Council wish this long running and outstanding issue to be resolved. The Clerk is requested to seek a Definitive List of Issues and ascertain what the barriers are from Somerset County Council and Bovis Homes.

Notice Board at Waterleaze

TDBC DLO Officer inspected the water ingress to the new board in December. No information available prior to meeting. Payment withheld.

Cycle Way

DLO had agreed/cleared the cycle way which had not been done for the previous two years. Clerk is liaising with Ten Counties, Management Agents for the fields bordering the path to establish ownership. It could be that the responsibility/cost for vegetation clearance falls to them.

Himalayan Balsam

It is understood that clearance will be undertaken. No further information available.

8. Crown Update

Gadds Valley

Following the meeting with Ian Clarke, TDBC Landscape Officer regarding work being done in the Nature Reserve, it was suggested that one person 'take the lead' on projects to co-ordinate ideas. There are five small silt traps higher up the valley and these need re-instating. The Clerk is requested to contact the original owner, ie SmithsGore on behalf of the Crown to seeking funding for this work. If this was remedied, less silt will arrive at the Silt Trap bordering the highway.

Track/watercourse – no information has been received from Alastair Deighton as to the shared work being undertaken with Wessex Water.

Grill for Silt Trap

The temporary grill that was placed beside the trap has proved beneficial with the recent heavy rain. The volunteers have cleared the brambles/vegetation from the road entrance beside the silt trap which greatly assists the flow of water.

9. Hestercombe Garden Trust

Community Advisory Group

The Headmaster of Cheddon School, Mr Duncan Gordon, was welcomed to the meeting. A Informative exchange of ideas took place between HGT/House, School, Memorial Hall, and Parish Council. The House was taken over by HGT early in November 2013 and Mr White outlined possible uses. The Notes of the meeting are on the Parish Council website. School parking on the road is a major issue and Dick Macey (Memorial Hall, Chairman) will take the lead with the Headmaster. One meeting per year is proposed in future; the second exchange of information will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting (3 April 2014).

10. Highways

Vegetation Clearance.

Significant bramble clearance took place at the Maidenbrook Lane junction by DLO to improve visibility. The results have been welcomed by all road users which, most importantly, has

improved safety. The 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs are now clearly visible which should reduce lorry traffic in the village. Clerk to follow up when the roads signs will be cleared around Rowford.

Gulleys in Maidenbrook Lane

12 gulleys and two with 'stone lintels over them' were cleared in November, it is believed, for the first time in over ten years. Recent heavy rainwater has successfully drained away in most of them. The Clerk had contacted SCC Highways to send the Gully lorry to flush the three blocked drains which should remedy the situation.

Speed Indicator Device (SIDs)

Nerrols/Bossington Drive has qualified for a permanent SID to be installed as figures show 85% of the traffic is exceeding 36mph.

Pyrland Drive/Rowford. The Clerk requested to seek installation for the third time of a SID opposite Rowford Lodge to assess the speed of traffic near the School.

Grit Bins

It was **resolved for Approval** to be given for three bins to be purchased and placed outside the Church, School and Cheddon Lawns. (Approved in Precept at item 14). Clerk to seek two further quotes and to contact SCC Highways to arrange.

Rock Salt for Highways. The Chairman has bags of salt for use within the Parish on Highways/pavements. Parishioners to contact her to arrange collection.

11. Planning Applications for Discussion

08/13/0028 Erection of workplace dwelling and detached garage on land at Crosslands Yard, Nerrols Farm Lane, Cheddon Fitzpaine

The Clerk sought an extension of time for this to be brought to the meeting. The following words were approved.

'The Parish Council of Cheddon Fitzpaine have **no objection** to the Planning Application. However, the Parish Council is concerned about the overall appearance of the site and would welcome any positive measures to enhance or improve it visually'.

08/13/0029 Erection of extension and construction to side of first floor at Lyndon, Hestercombe Park Gate – **No objection**

12. Planning Application Decisions received

08/13/0013 - Residential development of 26 affordable dwellings with associated parking and site works forming Phase 1 at land to the north of Ladymead Community School, Cheddon Road, Taunton (amended scheme to 08/10/0008) - **granted**

13. Reports SCC –

SCC Flood Fund has £250,000 to assist with recent flooding. Clerk suggested that this Parish will not qualify as the fund will direct money to those with greater need. Regular maintenance within the Parish could reduce local flooding problems.

Foster Parents: A drive to seek 60 extra Foster Parents is required to foster the numbers of children seeking assistance. Clerk to add to Link Up entry.

Children's Centres: The debate continues as to the numbers of centres to retain and how they are funded

Nursery Places: SCC are addressing a predicted shortfall for two year olds.

Cllr Fothergill:

- **Health & Wellbeing:** The Parish Council support a request by the Memorial Hall for funding towards a Hearing Loop in the Hall.

Cllr Gordon:

- **Health & Wellbeing:** The Parish Council support a request for a Community Box of play equipment on Stoney Furlong. Clerk to follow up with Knightstone on prices.

TDBC

D Cllr Nottrodt:

TDBC is heavily involved in the Budget setting processes. This has a bearing on the merger with West Somerset.

Site Allocation Plan - the consultation process continues

SW1 are handing back services to TDBC in February 2014, partly for the merger with West Somerset and partly because other areas had not produced the expected savings. IT Support and the Call Centre will continue to be provided by SW1.

Memorial Hall

Cllr Thomas (representative on Hall Committee)

- **CCTV** has been approved with five cameras and a recorder.
- **Social Club** idea for people living alone. This was raised briefly at the previous meeting. Clerk to follow up with Dick Macey.

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Police – No-one was present. A report was read of minor traffic related instances. Thefts from cars had occurred at Waterleaze where items were left on display.

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Clerk has contacted PC Beake/PCSO Escott to arrange a meeting shortly to encourage new NW Schemes at Waterleaze. It was thought that three were in place, but it is now known that only one continues.
- **'See and Be Seen'** – It was noted that many people are out on roads without adequate lights or reflective clothing. Clerk to put note in Link Up, and to inform Police as a community issue.

14. Approve the Precept

A working party took place in late November to discuss the possible items of expenditure from April 2014 until March 2015. Mrs T Cavill (Clerk to West Monkton) kindly attended to give support and guidance on areas where expenditure may need to be increased in the light of the cut backs from central Government to both Somerset County Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council. Dr L Thompson was invited to attend in the capacity of Observer, owing to her being Co-opted at the beginning of the January 2014 meeting, and therefore being eligible to vote on the proposed figures. Cllr Thompson signed the Dispensation form. The proposed increase allows for work to be undertaken, although it was not possible to obtain exact quotes (eg for possible vegetation clearance) at this stage of the year.

The Precept of £13,900 was approved unanimously. Proposed: Cllr Isaacs, Seconded: Cllr Thomas. The Parish Grant of £578 will also be received from TDBC. The charge per household will rise from £16.22 to £22.68 which will still be amongst the Parishes with the lowest council tax rates.

15. The Burial/Footpath Grant

TDBC gave the Parish £320 as a Burial Grant, and £200 towards the footpaths. Authorisation for £320 to be forwarded to the Cheddon Fitzpaine Parochial Church Council was **approved unanimously**.

16. The Bank Reconciliation at 3 December 2013 was noted.

The Chairman signed as a true and accurate record.

20-Nov-13	P J Pearson	Clerks Expenses	532	£129.61
25-Nov-13	TDBC DLO	Install Litter Bin	529	£372.00
26-Nov-13	P J Pearson	Clerks Salary	SO	£320.67
27-Nov-13	CF Memorial Hall	Hall Hire	531	£90.00
02-Dec-13	PWLB	Loan Repayment	SO	£406.79
Expenditure for year to date:				£5,407.84

Opening Cash Book Balance - Natwest Business Reserve	
B/f 1/04/2013	Balance
NatWest Business Reserve	7555.74
Plus income @ 2/12/13	11145.42
Less Expenditure @ 2/12/13	5407.84
Balance as per Bank Statement	
2/12/13	13293.32

17. **Section 137 expenditure for 2014-15 is set at £7.20.** This was noted.

18. Payments for Authorisation: Approved unanimously

Clerks Expenses: Mileage £59.80 Office £6.00 (Total: £65.80)

Burial Grant: £320

SLCC Sub: £101

Website Renewal: £100

(TDBC DLO purchase/installation Notice Board £1,298.28 Payment withheld until repair complete)

19. Annual Parish Meeting.

It was agreed to hold this at 7.00pm on Thursday, 3 April, 2014 in the Main room of the Memorial Hall. The same format of previous years will be adopted with six Speakers and including light refreshments

20. Matters raised by Councillors

An email request had been received from **Rebecca Pow (Prospective Conservative Candidate)** to attend Parish Council meetings throughout the Taunton area. The Chairman and Parish Councillors wish to be seen to be impartial and responded that all meetings are open to members of the public. No formal invitation would be extended, but ALL candidates from Political Parties are equally free to attend if they so wish.

21. Correspondence. Circulated

Road Closure: Corkscrew Lane, 24 January 2014 for three days for resurfacing.

TDBC – Simon Lewis, Strategy & Performance Manager. Follow up on Potential to devolve Borough Council Services to Parish & Town Councils.

Victim Support: Request of contributions to funding.

The meeting closed at 9.58 pm

Denise Webber (signed 13 March 2014)

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Chairman