

## CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 12 October 2020  
Held by Virtual Conference call using <https://mrs-ofb.my.webex.com/meet/cheddon>  
[www.cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](http://www.cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk)

**Present:** Parish Cllrs Webber, Woollacott, Isaacs, Batsch, Baker, West; SCC Cllrs Fothergill (7-8pm) & Frascini; SWT D Cllrs Pritchard, Tully, & Cavill; WM Cllr Hall, & WM Assistant Clerk Mrs T Cavill; one member of the public. Clerk: Mrs J Pearson.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests:** Cllr Baker re Country Park.
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 2020**, including the In-Camera Minutes on item 13. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the Minutes.

**Public Question Time:** No questions.

#### 4. **Reports:**

##### **SCC Cllr Fothergill: Corona Virus:**

**Corona Virus Update:** In the last three weeks there has been a marked increase in the number of positive tests across the County but particularly in Sedgemoor and Mendip. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 1,585 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 206. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 10.4 for Somerset (Burnley by comparison is 314). The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 6% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.1 and 1.4. ***It is vitally important to remember the Hands-Face-Space message.***

*Note (12.10.20):* The current rate per 100,000 is now 38 and around 2,050 confirmed infections in Somerset (rate of 45).

**Return to School:** The number of children attending Somerset schools reached 56,410 on 10<sup>th</sup> September (92.4% attendance), before dropping slightly and then fluctuating between 88% – 94.3% - explained in part, by the required self-isolation of around 1,409 children from six schools after eleven positive COVID-19 tests in mid-September. Separately, Electively Home Educated pupil numbers have doubled – the estimate for September is 200 in comparison to highest total in previous years of 92.

**2021 School Places:** Whether a child is starting school for the first time, or transferring to their next school, applications need to be made through Somerset County Council's website: [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) The deadline for applications for secondary school places is Saturday, 31 October 2020 and the deadline for primary school place submissions is Friday, 15 January 2021.

**County Council Finances:** Somerset County Council's significantly improved finances have been recognised by independent auditors in their end of year report. The turnaround in just two years has seen the Council move from an "adverse" conclusion to "unqualified" – going from a very challenging position to the top ranking. The findings from auditors Grant Thornton say the Council has made "significant progress" over the past two years in improving its position. This means the Council is now in a strong position to face unexpected financial challenges. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic Somerset has been more resilient than many other councils regionally and nationally.

**£1m Climate Emergency Fund:** From 1st October, City, Town and Parish councils across Somerset are invited to bid for between £5,000 and £75,000 for innovative projects that can make a real difference in reducing carbon emissions and can contribute to making Somerset resilient to the effects of Climate Change. For information about the scheme, eligibility criteria and application process, visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency).

**One Somerset:** Four virtual briefing meetings for Parish and Town Councillors are being held on:

- Thursday 8th October 7pm • Wednesday 14th October 7pm • Thursday 15th October 1pm
- Thursday 15th October 7pm. Interested Members should email [onesomerset@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:onesomerset@somerset.gov.uk) to confirm their attendance, clearly stating which meeting they would like to attend. They will then be sent the link and joining instructions in advance.

**Library Services:** From Monday 5 October iPads will be available to job seekers looking for an extra bit of help in their quest for employment. The free iPad Loan Scheme from Somerset County Council is designed to help people looking for a new job or career but who may not have the IT skills or equipment they need. The tablets which are pre-loaded with links, information and support for anyone in Somerset currently looking for employment are available for up to six weeks free of charge from Bridgwater, Chard, Minehead, Shepton Mallet and Taunton libraries.

**The Somerset Fund:** Grassroots community groups based in Somerset can now apply for grants up to £2,500 from The Somerset Fund. Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) manages the Fund and is encouraging applications from community groups that run on less than £100,000 per year. The grants are 'unrestricted', which means they can be used to pay for ongoing running costs. Applications to the Fund through SCF's website can be made until Friday 16 October 2020.

**School Transport:** Wearing face coverings on public transport services –used by pupils – is mandatory as part of the Government's COVID-19 guidelines but whilst it's not currently mandatory for pupils to wear coverings on dedicated transport all secondary age pupils who can, are now being urged to voluntarily wear coverings.

**D Cllr Pritchard:**

Climate Change is being discussed at Scrutiny Committee on 14.10.2020, and Full Council following week.

A joint County and District project supported World Mental Health Day on 10.10.2020.

SWT Climate Emergency Action Plan being discussed over next few weeks before going to Full Council.

There is a great deal of discussion regarding Carbon Neutrality, more consultations, and 'what can we do' approach?

An Ecological Emergency was declared at the previous SWT Council meeting.

Natural England has written a report about phosphates with a ruling around land on the Somerset Levels and RAMSAAR sites. All planning permissions must be made phosphate neutral to offset damage. Any river which flows into the River Tone to be monitored with ecological surveys; this will lead to some delays in the planning system.

The Local Electricity Bill allows smaller providers to set up and for economic local production to take place.

This is supported by SWT District (and WM/CF PCs have supported Bill through Parliament).

A Green Homes Grant is available for energy saving measures.

Community Chest Fund is also available for local businesses to apply.

Stronger Somerset is the proposed way forward by District Councils (as opposed to One Somerset by SCC).

Winter opening times for the Recycling Centre come into effect on 1.10.2020.

It was noted that Pyrland Farm's application for a new barn would have to offset and mitigate for phosphates. These are found in sewage waste, at Water Treatment Plants, ie Ham, and can be mitigated by screening or treatment. The current system does not remove them and algae form resulting in blooms affecting watercourses.

GF asked about plans for the bus station being a temporary car park. Cllr AP advised that D Cllr Mike Rigby would have more information.

**5. Cheddon Ward:**

**Hestercombe Community Advisory Group:** no meeting at present time, but notes compiled, circulated and on parish website.

**CCTV cameras:** A complaint has been raised regarding the usage of CCTV cameras overlooking public areas 'which maybe the subject of data-protection legislation.' It is thought that the PCSO's advice on the use of the cameras may not have fully taken into account the GDPR/Data Protection aspect when installed. It is the case that if the cameras are recording, they must comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 18), which deals with amongst other things the proportionality of their use and recording and access to what is being recorded. The guidance regarding private use of CCTV can be found on the helpful attached link. <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/domestic-cctv-systems-guidance-for-people-using-cctv/>. The Parish Council will advise the complainant of his/her rights under DP legislation.

**6. Maidenbrook Ward:**

**Maidenbrook Bovis-Taylor Wimpey Adoption of Waterleaze POS Adoption:** no information.

**Northwalls Grange/Barratt David Wilson Homes:** no information.

**Tarker land by Marina:** Rachel Turner, Highway Development confirms that the cycleway is maintained by SCC, but the landowner normally retains title of the land. She is seeking confirmation and will reply.

**Canal & River Trust CRT:** Quad bikes on towpath; information provided to police.

**Local Centre briefing:** took place with Parish Councillors on 5.10.2020.

**Barbers Mead lights:** ongoing.

**Green triangle of land between A3259 and Waterleaze entrance:** request approved to purchase Title Deeds from Land Registry.

**7. Highways:**

**Western Relief Road:** Lewis Construction Site Manager Shane Mervin deserves praise for proactive engagement with the Parish Council, over the start of work to move the Wessex Water main under pressure, prior to end of year.

**Waste bin** near Country Park on A3259: bin ordered, and installation awaited.

**Nerrols School/Summerleaze Crescent:** the advertisement has appeared in the Gazette prior to being actioned.

**Bollard** knocked down opposite 22 Waterleaze: Reported for repair.

**Lengthsman:** currently unavailable, so assistance sought from DLO. Quote being obtained, and circulated.

**Silt trap Happy Valley:** requires emptying: reported to SCC Highways.

**Nerrols Drive:** reports of speeding cars in vicinity of proposed Local Centre.

**Mud on Road** in Maidenbrook Lane: Farmer clearing crops from fields returned to clear.

**Blackbrook pedestrian Crossing:** it is noted that a new crossing has been installed, and it is understood to be under the Small Improvement Scheme (SCC SIS). Could this be considered at A3259 crossing point?

Potentially footpaths to be created within the Maidenbrook Country Park parallel to road exiting at Yallands Hill. Once WRR completed this section will have less traffic, be safer, and a more direct route for pedestrians or schoolchildren.

**8. Planning Applications:**

**08/20/0022** - Replacement of industrial building for Class B1, B2, B8 and D2 usage at Marshalsea House, Venture Way, Taunton – no objection

**08/20/0028 T-** Notification to carry out management works to one Ash tree and to pollard one Sorbus tree within Cheddon Fitzpaine Conservation Area at the Coach House, Cheddon Fitzpaine - no objection

**08/20/0029/T** Notification to fell two Willow trees within Cheddon Fitzpaine Conservation Area on land to the north west of the Old Rectory, Cheddon Fitzpaine – no objection.

**08/20/0031-** Change of use to builder's merchants (sui generis) for display, sale, storage of building, timber and plumbing supplies, plant and tool hire including outside display and external storage racking with refurbishment of building, reconfiguration of site and associated works at Keyline, Priorswood Industrial Estate, Venture Way, Taunton – no objection.

**To note: 08/19/0041** –Erection of two-storey side extension with habitable accommodation Lizanne House, Cheddon Fitzpaine, TA2 8JU - **APPEAL UNDER S78 AGAINST REFUSAL OF HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION**

**Withdrawn: 18.9.2020 as Listed Building Consent not applicable to these two HH applications.**

**08/20/0014/LB** Change of use of a strip of land from agricultural to amenity use alongside Park Gate Drive, Hestercombe House, Cheddon Fitzpaine

**08/20/0024LB** -Erection of a tent on the south lawn with a mobile toilet and service tent for a period of six years at Hestercombe House, Hestercombe Road, Cheddon Fitzpaine

**9. Planning Decisions:**

**08/20/0021** – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Use Approval Approved 18.9.2020)

**10. Reports:**

**Church/Pastoral Care Group:** No report. Rev Tracey Hallett ordained.

**Cheddon School:** JW as School Governor attended school for first time since lockdown to meet new CEO of BWMAT Nicky Edwards. School is coping well, and attendance is good. A video will be made to promote the school and show people around.

**Memorial Hall:** MB reports few bookings and Trustees are considering whether to close for winter months as cleaning costs are high at present time. Information regarding the appearance of the shrine was incorrect regarding the location; the shrine has been moved further up to a new location in Sandilands.

**Nerrols Primary School:** no report.

**Footpaths:** Strimmerman has completed training, collected SCC loaned strimmer, and undertaken work around the parish grit bins.

**PCSOs:** Sam Bushen appeared on BBC1 tv regarding his work, and the attack he sustained in 2019. Highly commended for his actions and dedication to the community.

**11. Administration:**

**NALC: changes to current planning consultation:** Clerk submitted responses by 17.9.2020.

**NALC:** Planning for the future white paper (15.10.2020). & **NALC:** Transparency and competition (16.10.2020). Cllr Woollacott proposed draft responses compiled by Clerk be submitted. All in agreement. Grateful thanks to WM Assistant Clerk for support.

**Neighbourhood Plan Review:** WM Assistant Clerk reported:

Clerks attended meeting with Kelvin Tutill to review the information received from Ann Rhodes as to how this review can proceed in covid times caused by the inability to hold a referendum. It was agreed that **Regulations 14 & 16** could proceed with consultations with the local community. It was therefore agreed to send a letter to every household within the two parishes to explain why the review is being conducted, and why responses are invaluable. The NP Map is nearing completion, and so the insertion of a letter would be the best cost saving way forward. Clerks to arrange.

**NP Map:** A meeting was held with Mark Marlborough, the designer, and everyone impressed with the interpretation and design. Further alterations to be made before final document can be approved. A suggestion for the local businesses to place an advert on the blank side of the map was agreed by the working party but Cllr Woollacott questioned the 'sponsoring' idea as CF PC has a 'no sponsorship' policy. Discussion continued; in effect the 'no sponsorship' refers to the Parish Newsletter (as agreed August 2020 Minutes). Cllr Batsch offered to write a sponsorship policy to be circulated by email, and brought to the next meeting. Once agreed, the circumstances would allow the advertising/sponsorship of the NP map to continue. Clerks had previously received some support from those contacted who advertise in Link Up and WM News. The NP Map and Reg 14 letter would cost £1,165 for printing and postage for CF PC.

**Reversing Decline of Insects:** this had been discussed under Country Park in closed meeting on 14.9.2020. It was agreed to approve the policy, in line with WM PC and to support ongoing matters within the Country Park.

**SCC bids for Climate Change Project:** discussed under Country Park on 14.9.2020. CF PC working in conjunction with WM PC to put forward a bid to provide the Forest School and a pond in the hollow area of MCP. Cllrs Batsch, Hall, and Clerks to work on completing lengthy grant form, and WM Assistant Clerk to take the lead. Support received from Somerset Wildlife Trust and SWT Action Group. Information to be sought on whether one joint application to be sent, or two individually from each parish. Cllr Baker informed that the suggestion of an eco-football pavilion on Waterleaze would not be completed within two years or was the most appropriate source of funding at this time. Steve Mewes is heading up the Somerset Wildlife Trust Climate Action Network countywide. The closing date is 12 November 2020 and will be brought back for approval on 9/10 November to both PC meetings respectively. The initiative to benefit both parishes, and the Country Park.

**Parish Clerk:** A draft advert has been discussed and will be placed for a successor, prior to a suggested one-month handover from 1-31 March 2020. Discussions continue and Cllr Batsch to circulate.

**Assets:** two waste bins and litter picking equipment added to Register.

**Website:** Somerset Web Services have issued the G-suites. The switchover to be undertaken by end October 2020, new website to go live in November, and advising residents via December newsletter.

**Resident suggestion** for information re the workings of Parish Council to be placed on facebook. The idea not taken up as it is thought that information is available on websites and parish newsletter.

**SWTC** – offer of free trees: The Parish do not own land, nor was any area considered to fit the brief. Offer not taken up.

**GDPR** – Data Protection information re the NHS QR Codes actioned; by law from 24.9.2020. (Re MCP).

**SALC GDPR** training session 9.11.2020 for Clerk @£25.00. It was **resolved** for Clerk to attend.

## 12. Finance:

**Second half of Precept 2020-21** received: £15,531.00.

**Parish grant received:** £520.00. £320 is Burial Grant, and £200 Footpath Grant.

**NS&I** interest rate reduced to 0.01% in November 2020.

**Approve grant to Parochial Church Council** of £320. It was **resolved** to approve. All in agreement.

**Portable Defibrillator:** Cllr Batsch researched and ordered for the Country Park.

**8 Sets of Litter Picking** purchased: Clerk to distribute.

**Remote Control/key** for overhead projector in Cheddon Memorial Hall. It was **resolved** to purchase for approx. £30, to be held in the Hall for ease of accessibility.

**Hall Hire charges:** It was agreed not to grant funding for the unspent budgeted hall hire charges for 2020.

**Precept Setting meeting:** Monday 16 November 2020 – tbc via webex.

### Payments for Authorisation: October 2020

	Amount	VAT	Pay Date
Somerset West & Taunton Council (dog bin)	£625.92	£104.32	13.10.2020
Parochial Church Council	£320.00		13.10.2020
Character Graphics -October newsletter	£75.00		
Mrs P J Pearson Sept mileage expenses	£41.40		
Tree Bark protector paste: 3.9.2020	£6.99		
Homeworking September	<u>£27.00</u>		
	£75.39		13.20.2020
Mrs P J Pearson – October Salary @£12.45p/h	£755.30		
Salary increase backdated to 1.4.2020	£118.50		
Overtime 1.9.2020 – 9.10.2020 40 hours	<u>£485.55</u>		
	£1,359.35		
LESS: Sept Employee NI	<u>£ 0.29</u>		
	£1,359.06		31.10.2020
HMRC: Employer/ee NI £8.61+ £0.29	£ 8.90		13.10.2020
Inform HMRC RTI (Oct) £1,371.51			31.10.2020

**Total: £2,462.27**

### Debit Card/Direct Debit: To note:

- purchase of Defibrillator (approved Sept 2020)	£872.00		1.10.2020
- purchase of Litter Picking equipment			16/9 & 29/9
(£153.23+ VAT £30.65, & £47.83+£9.57)	£241.28	£40.22	
-first monthly subscription to Somerset Web Services			
For parish Councillor/Clerk email addresses	<u>£ 38.64</u>	£ 6.44	16.10.2020
	<b>£1,151.92</b>		

**Proposed:** Cllr Woollacott, **Seconded:** Cllr Batsch.

**13. Country Park & Somerset Wood.** Project Manager Alan Hall:

Tree planting stakes for zones 7 & 8 are in position as permission granted for the signoff of the planting mix of trees. Woodland Trust approached to allow the tree order to be placed with a local supplier in Wellington, and not York, thereby reducing the fuel/carbon costs to the environment. The Licence to Occupy is being arranged, and Risk Assessments to allow for volunteers to work six to a zone, and 6m apart for covid reasons ie in alternate rows. It was **resolved** to action the return of the portaloos when volunteers begin tree planting. All in agreement.

40 Commando wish to dedicate their stone by the nine Silver Birches but only six people allowed to attend. The Lord Lieutenant wishes to attend at a date to be arranged.

WM Cllr Besley has removed hedge trimming, ragwort and docks from MCP for bonfire burning offsite. Covid Risk Assessments undertaken regarding volunteers to the fields, insurance informed, QR code obtained and displayed, Covid Sign in sheets, Accident Report printed, and Instructions to volunteers updated; all held on site in folder.

Cllr Baker and one member of the public left the meeting; and moved to confidential Closed sessions for Country Park.

**14. Matters raised by Councillors:**

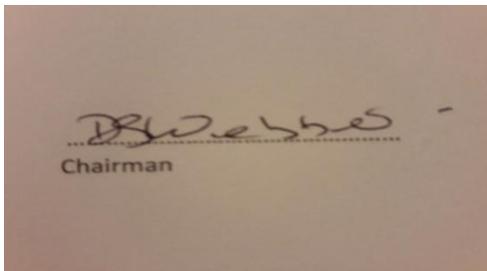
**15. Correspondence:** circulated.

**Next Parish Council meeting:**

**MONDAY, 9 November 2020 at 7.00pm by Webex conference call.**

**<https://mrs-ofb.my.webex.com/meet/cheddon>**

Meeting closed: 9.57 pm



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Chairman