

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Cllrs. Marion Dethier, Brian Gale, Simon Howes (Chairman), John Paige, Pat Lennard, and Rodney Young.

Also present: Cllrs. David Hall (SCC) Anthony Betty (SDC) and Liz Perry (SDC).

In attendance: The Clerk (Chris Fry) and one member of the public.

1. Apologies: - Cllr Nick Griffiths.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting o 12th July 2021 and the planning meeting of 2nd August 2021** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

a. Footpath Officer's activity.

There was no formal report this month.

The Chairman and Vice-Chair met with the Footpath Officer recently and discussed the decision made at the July meeting regarding the footpath which crosses Northfield. There is a desire to revisit this topic with the Parish Council and it was suggested that this could be done at the October meeting.

The Clerk was asked to include the Footpath Officer on the email list for the October meeting agenda and place the matter on the agenda.

b. Climate Change (Fair Share) project:

The Clerk brought along a copy of the Polden Post (September 2021 issue) contained a centre page comprehensive report of the Chedzoy fair Share project, which is a pleasing piece of publicity.

He also reported that he had received a copy of the licence agreement signed on behalf of SCC, relating to the planting on village verges by the Fair hare team. This was read to the meeting and contained seven conditions which needed to be agreed by the Parish Council and sets out its responsibilities in the matter.

These comprehensive conditions set out the SCC requirements conditional on them granting the licence.

The Chairman suggested that the document should be approved by the Parish Council insurers to ensure that all points raised are covered and all legally necessary insurance cover is in place.

The Fair Share team would like to stake and rope off the boundary line of the strip of land behind the Church, ahead of the fencing off of it in due course.

The Clerk was asked to inform Gillards of this and request their involvement so that there is agreement of the size and position of the plot by both parties.

The Clerk was asked to send the licence agreement to the PC insurers, and liaise with Messrs. Gillards appropriately.

c. Drainage matters.

The Clerk reported on an email from SCC Highways at Dunball in which they confirm that the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) have confirmed that they will ensure the outfall ditch at Pig Lane is cleared. This is due to be done around now as the Northfield crop has been harvested.

Additionally SCC have an order out with their contractor to jet the gullies and drains in Manor Road, and hopefully both activities should be undertaken at about the same time.

The jetting exercise will also be able to establish the condition of the private drain between the highway and the outfall ditch.

The Clerk was asked to check on progress ahead of a review at the October PC meeting.

d. Speed Indicator Device.

The Chairman reported that the second hand SID which was for sale by Pitminster PC has already been sold when he made enquiries. As an alternative he has found out that a new device might be purchased for approximately £2000. With funding of £1000 already agreed by the Parish Council, he requested the councillors to consider the details that he has given them, in order that a constructive discussion can be held at the October meeting to finally decide on the way forward and potential way of raising the balance monies.

The Clerk to place this on the agenda of the October meeting.

e. Ruggs Drove junction visibility.

This is now in a satisfactory state and the Chairman therefore asked that it be removed from the agenda.

4. County Councillor's report: - David Hall reported as follows:

a. Speed Indicator Devices.

He said that feedback on the medium term effects of installing SIDs revealed anecdotally that they have a big effect with law-abiding drivers, but less improvement was seen in the habits of those knowingly breaking the law.

b. Covid-19.

The latest monthly figures David had seen revealed that as at the end of August 85% of all adults in Somerset had received a double jab.

c. Unitary government progress.

David said both District and County teams were working jointly on transitional arrangements following the Secretary of State's decision to adopt the "One Somerset" version of unitary local government in the county. The preferred next election date and arrangements for local councils will be dictated by the transitional process. At present an election in 2022 for a shadow authority will be followed by one in 2023 vesting the new unitary authority. Parish Councils are being asked to consider aligning with the 2023 election date, which would significantly reduce election costs.

d. EDF – Hinkley Point.

A refined visitor centre has been opened at Cannington Court. The EDF site director at Hinkley Point, Rob Jordan, is moving on for personal reasons.

Covid has necessarily resulted in a delay to the overall project, including the timetable for ramping up the workforce.

e. Leonardo in Yeovil.

A new innovation centre has been opened here and the company is seeking government contracts. This activity together with the Gravity development at Puriton and the Admiralty project would indicate a very healthy outlook for the future of Somerset's industrial infrastructure.

5. District Councillors' report: -

a. SDC Sports funding.

Liz Perry said funds were still available for individuals and groups engaged in sporting and leisure activities, and she said she would send details through to the Clerk.

b. Garden Waste collections.

Anthony Betty reported that these have now re-started.

c. Enso Energy project.

Anthony said that although he had not received any official news of progress here, he had heard that Enso were carrying out a consultation exercise on North Petherton, concerning a further possible solar development.

No planning application has yet been lodged for the local scheme, in spite of Enso previously stating that it was hoping to lodge plans by the end of June 2021.

6. Planning.

Application number: - 18/21/00006.

Applicants: - Mr S Barnes and Ms H Martin.

Location: - Greylee, Front Street, Chedzoy Bridgwater TA7 8RE.

Proposal: - Erection of single storey rear (SE) extension and proposed loft conversion with the installation of rear (SE) dormer window and 4no. Velux roof lights.

The Chairman began by inviting an immediate neighbour of the proposed development to speak. He said he had concerns about both the possible loss of privacy, and the possibility of the plans being amended, and whether he might have just one chance to submit comments. He was advised that any comments would need to be submitted by the due date by the due date for them to be considered by the planning authority.

A discussion by the PC took place, with Rodney Young saying he thought that there appeared to be no grounds to object and therefore the Parish Council should support the application. All the councillors agreed with the proviso that the planning officer should take due account of the possible loss of privacy issue.

The Clerk was asked to submit the following comments: -

"The Parish Council of Chedzoy supports the application number 18/21/00006, but would like to request that the planning officer takes due account of any loss of privacy issues raised by neighbours in his/her deliberations."

7. Correspondence.

a. Campaign to reduce knife crime in Somerset.

The Clerk outlined an email received from the "Safer Somerset Partnership" which urged communities to report any knife crime, and young people are encouraged to avoid becoming involved in or victims of knife crime. Although Somerset is claimed to be a relatively safe place to live, police data suggested that reporting of knife crime had doubled in the county between 2016 and 2018.

b. Free emergency preparedness training for Somerset residents.

Somerset's town and parish councils are invited to sign up to free, interactive on-line training with emergency responders and volunteer organisations throughout October.

To attend this free event, people can register their interest and book training sessions on the Somerset Prepared website at: -

<https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/>

c. Resilience assistance for Somerset military veterans.

A new free, on-line masterclass in resilience, exclusively for Somerset military veterans, reserves and their families, including people living with PTSD, launches on Wednesday 29th September.

Funded by the NHS, the masterclass will help you: -

- Take control of excessive worrying.
- Become more decisive and confident.
- Respond more effectively to challenges.
- Adjust to life outside the military.
- Prepare for the next unpredictable event that comes along.

To book a place, log in or register on the Somerset Recovery College web site visit: -

<https://somersetrecoverycollege.co.uk/login/>

or call the Somerset Recovery College admin team on: -

07342 063 735.

8. Matters arising from the correspondence: - none.

9. Finance.

Balances after allowing for all items clearing: -

Lloyds Bank current account: £13195.83 (PC £6853.21, Fair Share £6342.62).

" " deposit account: £2.48.

Cambridge BS account: £12389.43.

The second tranche of the 2021/2022 precept (£4000) is expected later on in the autumn.

Eight cheques to issue (three FS cheques signed between meetings).

No 740 £433.90 payee SW Bryan (herbery) **FS.**
No 741 £1688.00 “ “ (supply/install willow classroom) **FS.**
No 742 £482.64 “ “ (shrubs/trees/hedge/herbs) **FS.**
No 743 £216.40 “ CN Fry (September net salary).
No 744 £118.07 “ “ (expenses).
No 745 £40.00 “ Oxford rural (allotment rent).
No 746 £240.00 “ PKF Littlejohn (external audit fee).
No 747 £202.92 “ SW Bryan (ornamental bark/herbs) **FS.**

The external audit has been completed without query and the statutory notices have been published.

2021/2022 Amenity grants.

The Clerk outlined the two written applications from the Chedzoy Playing Field Association and Chedzoy Village Hall Committee, requesting amenity grant funding for the coming year at the same level as last year (£270 and £168 respectively). With regard to the Chedzoy Churchyard, the Clerk had previously advised the treasurer that, bearing in mind the very simple and straightforward funding structure, there would be no need to complete a formal application, (last year's award was £552). The Clerk is the churchyard caretaker and he knows fairly accurately the funding position. The Parish Council accepted this approach for the current year but requested that a simple application for funding be made in future years to demonstrate due process of the use of public funds.

Following a discussion it was agreed to continue support at the same level as in 2020/2021, ie: -

Playing Field £270
Village Hall £168 and
Chedzoy churchyard £552 – subject to the following: -

All three recipients, including the Chedzoy churchyard, be requested to apply in writing next year. The Playing Field committee to be requested to keep the Parish Council abreast with any significant expenditure/improvements/outside grant funding applications, as and when they may occur or be planned.

10. Any other business and date of next meeting.

Any other business.

a. SDC Climate emergency tree planting scheme.

Notice has been received that the revised deadline to request trees from its one-off £5000 tree fund is now Monday 29th September 2021.

b. HM Queen Elizabeth's Green Canopy initiative.

Somerset residents, communities and organisations are being asked to join a national initiative to plant trees in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Woodland Trust is offering free packs to schools and communities as well as individuals, who can find out more about the project by visiting: -

www.queensgreencanopy.org

c. Carbon Fund Carbon Training Literacy events.

John Paige addressed the meeting about his attendance and active participation in the recent on line Climate Fund Carbon Training events delivered by Climate Guide.

The offer is being rolled out to give further free training to all local councillors in Somerset. The aim is to give advice as to how the individual and communities can reduce their carbon footprint.

Further training dates are as follows: -

- Monday 17th January 2022 10am-5pm (Parish Council Event).
- Tuesday 25th January 2022 10am-5pm (“ “ “).
- Thursday 3rd February 2022 10am-5pm (City and Town Council Event).
- Wednesday 9th February 2022 10am-5pm (Parish Council Event).

For more information go to: -

<https://survey.zohopublic.eu/zs/fB8gQ>

Date of next meeting Monday 18th October 2021.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.32 pm.