

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 7.30 PM.**

**Present:** - Cllrs. Graham Bentley, Mary Clothier, Marion Dethier (Chair), Russell Harmes, Karen Medland and Rodney Young.

**Also present:** - Cllr. Andy Dingwall (SC).

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

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr. Simon Howes.
2. **Minutes of the last regular meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

**a. Footpath Officer's activity.**

There is no formal report this month, although Karen Medland said that Ian has been very busy of late. Details of costings for a possible additional pre-owned strimmer for use by the second trained volunteer are still awaited.

**b. CCCP project update.**

Karen Medland reported on a successful Good Friday mulching/maintenance exercise, with a very good response for voluntary help. Mary Clothier and Karen are planning future dates which will be posted on the village Facebook page.

It was reported that damage caused to trees along the Red Track appears to have been malicious.

**c. Chedzoy Village Design Statement – update.**

Marion Dethier reported that she has assembled three other councillors, Graham Bentley, Russell Harmes and Simon Howes as the sub-committee to lead on this substantial project. Andy Dingwall has supplied Marion with contact details of another parish going through a similar process.

**d. King Charles III Coronation.**

The litter pick (Bank holiday Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 11 am – 1 pm – meet at the village hall) pickers, high viz jackets and bags will be delivered to Old Rectory (Marion Dethier's house) in due course. She asked the Clerk to make sure Clean Surroundings is given her mobile number for contact purposes. The Clerk has completed a risk assessment form and he has a "Safe Working Procedures for Volunteers – Litter Picking" advice sheet on safety precautions and safety issues on the day itself.

Marion has posted details of all activities during the weekend, on the village Facebook page. Details can also be found on the parish council website.

**e. Planning concerns.**

The Clerk reported that the enforcement and compliance planning officer has written to the relevant householder to determine the extent of the works carried out to enable a decision as

to whether planning permission is required or not and in the meantime no enforcement case will be set up. She will keep the Clerk updated.

An amended planning application is expected concerning business activity at the address.

NB: - The Clerk has since been advised that whilst the garden has been split into two and works carried out to renovate the property, the property has not been split into two internally, and therefore there is currently no breach of planning control.

**4. County Councillors' report – Andy Dingwall reported as follows: -**

**a. Budget projected overspend 2022/2023.**

As at month nine the deficit remained at £24.6 million. At year end any overspend will have to be covered from reserves. An additional £11 million of reserves has been earmarked for 2023/2024.

**b. Housing support scheme.**

A joint Somerset Council/Health Authority scheme has been set up with the aim of reducing the numbers of patients currently taking up hospital beds when they no longer require medical support but are unable to return home as they are not able to look after themselves. This includes the possibility of a stair lift being loaned to people on a temporary basis.

**c. Landlords' tenancy agreement deposits.**

Somerset Council are concerns about the security of deposits being held by agents.

**d. Chedzoy coffee morning in May.**

Both Andy and Diogo Rodrigues are planning to attend the May coffee morning, to enable the public to voice any concerns they may have with them.

**e. The Launch of the Unitary Council.**

There appeared to be no major problems with the recent launch of the Unitary Council. Residents contact has been satisfactory and there were no major IT problems experienced.

**f. Younger speeding drivers.**

This is of particular concern and the council is working to address the problem.

**5. Planning - No new applications –**

**6. Correspondence.**

**a. SWP Summer recycling site opening hours.**

All waste services became the responsibility of the new Somerset council as from 1<sup>st</sup> April. All 16 sites will open at 9 am and close at 6 pm when open weekdays, and Saturday and Sunday hours remain 9 am – 4 pm.

**b. SALC AGM - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – 10 am – 4 pm.**

The Clerk confirmed that he would attend and represent both of his parish councils.

**7. Matters arising from the correspondence: - none.**

**8. Finance.**

Balances after due allowance for any outstanding items: -

Lloyds bank current account: - £9238.71 (PC £7743.27 CCCP £1495.44)

“ “ deposit “ : -£2.48.

Cambridge BS EA account: -£10322.17 (earmarked funds).

The Chair said that she feels a greater investment return could be obtained for the earmarked funds, even if this meant taking out a one-year fixed rate.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the options and report back to the May meeting.

Three cheques to issue: -

No 830 £285.00 payee CN Fry (April net salary).

No 831 £120.00 “ DM Payroll Services (payroll 2023/2024) .

No 832 £174.60 “ CN Fry (spruce ornamental bark – via BACS) – **CCCP**.

**a. Presentation and adoption of the 2022/2023 accounts.**

The Clerk handed out copies of the annual accounts and conducted a line by line examination of them, taking questions along the way.

Both total income for the year (£13395.64) and total expenditure (£15930.42) were significantly lower than the previous year (£26752.67) and (£22643.91) respectively, because of CCCP activity tailing off after the completion of its set-up.

Balances stood at £19546.56 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 against £22081.34 as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

The Clerk pointed out that these accounts are as yet unaudited, but the internal and external audits would follow in due course.

Russell Harmes proposed and Rodney Young seconded the adoption of the accounts as presented. All in favour.

**b. Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 – adoption.**

The Clerk pointed out that the parish council maintains tight control of finances throughout the year, with all cheques being recorded in the minutes and balances being included as well.

The adoption of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 was proposed by Rodney Young and seconded by Marion Dethier. All in favour.

**9. Any other business.**

**a. Somerset Council waste services collection in the King's Coronation week.**

We are advised that collections will take place on May Day Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, and throughout that week as normal. No collections will take place on the Coronation Bank Holiday Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and all other collections that week will be one day late.

**b. Somerset Age UK (not to be confused with the national charity Age UK).**

This local charity provides various services for the over 60s in Somerset and North Somerset, including wellbeing services such as “Chat and Map”, “Walk and Talk”, “Wellbeing Friends” and “Friendly Phone Calls”.

As requested, the Clerk will put the posters that they have sent on the PC notice board and supply the charity with the contact details of the “Chedzoy Clarion” editor (Rodney Young).

**c. Postal Service.**

The significant problems of late and missed deliveries and collections that are becoming a regular feature of the postal service being experienced throughout the village, were discussed at length.

Important notifications of hospital and clinic appointments and prescription deliveries are of vital importance and the delays could easily lead to appointments being missed and other serious consequences. Older parishioners are perhaps affected the most.

Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to send a strong letter of complaint pointing out these problems and reminding the mail service that they have a duty to deliver to all households on a daily basis. Andy Dingwall said the problem was just as bad in Westonzoyland and he requested the Clerk includes this fact in his letter. The Clerk also said it is the same in Bawdrip.

**d. Road Closure Notifications.**

Simon Howes recently sent the Clerk a notification he had received from Wessex Water about the closure of Ward Lane on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (the letter was dated 31<sup>st</sup> March). Simon wonders how much notice the parish council will receive. Andy Dingwall has not heard anything back from his enquiries, but he will keep the Clerk advised.

**e. Speed watch road markings.**

As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk sent an email of support to Highways in respect of the request that had been made by the local Police, for the road markings on roads in the village (repeater signs, rumble strips and roundels) to be reinstated to allow the speed watch project to advance.

He was asked to follow up and place the matter on the agenda of the May meeting.

**f. Allotment rules and regulations.**

Following a discussion, it was generally agreed that the management of the allotments had become somewhat haphazard. Parishioners should be made aware of the facility and allotment holders made aware of the allotment rules and regulations and vacancies advertised.

The subject needs attention (although not an urgent matter), and the Clerk was asked to place it on the agenda of a meeting over the next say three months.

**g. Glebe House entrance.**

The Clerk was asked to follow up on the matter of the piles of slate pieces at the entrance of Glebe House, and the need for the piles to be stabilised, and report back to the May meeting.

**h. “The Linhay” self-build in front Street.**

The owner of this self-build house was present at the meeting and advised that the project was nearing completion and the house had been inspected and signed off by the building inspectorate. It will be habitable in the next few months.

**Date of next meeting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.**

**There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.42 pm.**