

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 PM.

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

Also present: None.

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

1. Apologies: Cllrs. Nick Griffiths and Simon Howes, David Hall (SCC), Anthony Betty and Liz Perry (SDC).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 21st March 2022 were taken as read, agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes:

a. Footpath Officer's report: -

The Clerk read a report from Ian Medland. In preparation for the village nature walk opening event, Ian strimmed the path behind the Church leading to Ward Lane, and he walked the rest of the route, strimming where needed.

Ian cut a pathway across Northfield behind the Church, and widened a narrow track worn by walkers.

He concluded his report by confirming that he is happy to continue in the Footpath Officer's role (for the annual meeting), but he pointed out that other voluntary help would be appreciated in his role as the job involves much too much work for one to manage.

Marion Dethier kindly said that she would make an appeal on the village Facebook page for someone to come forward.

b. Climate Change Project update.

Marion Dethier reported that the opening event, on 3rd April was a success, with some 200 people attending, many of whom took part in the Pollinator Alley Walk.

Various plants are now becoming established, although some in Front Street require replacing. Further activity is planned. Maintenance work will be on-going. The sum of £263.58 was raised at the opening event.

c. HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee mugs.

The Clerk reported that £800.00 has been received from the Village Hall Committee, and that, when the vat is reclaimed, there will be no cost implications for the PC. A cheque for £958.32 was handed to the village hall Treasurer who was present at the meeting.

SDC is offering a grant of £200 per Parish towards the Jubilee celebrations, and it was agreed that this sum should be passed to the Village Hall Committee when received as they are shouldering the bulk of the cost of celebrations in the village.

The Parish Council is, of course, covering the Beacon cost of £490 plus vat.

d. Chedzoy PC website.

John Paige reported some frustration at the unusual lack of response to his recent emails to HCI Data Ltd. (Phil Hobson), concerning his endeavours to explore all options for re-vitalising the rather lacklustre design of the current website. John explained that he is limited to posting only on the site at present. The Climate Change group have requested some modifications to give more public access to their project via the website.

The Clerk reminded councillors of the decision at the last meeting for a sub-committee of three councillors to take the issue forward – Marion Dethier and Rodney Young to join John, who requested the other two to give some thought to what they felt would be an improvement, and to hold a meeting in due course to take matters forward.

4. County Councillor's report: - None.

5. District Councillors' reports: - None.

6. Planning: - No new applications: - No new applications.

Progress on outstanding applications: -

Reference number: - 18/21/00005.

Applicant: - Mr Chandler.

Location: - Land to the rear of Quantock View.

Proposal: - Erection of a single dormer bungalow and associated parking.

Current situation: Approval granted – subject to conditions.

7. Correspondence: -

a. Local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The Clerk reported on an email and newsletter from Sedgemoor Police – PCSO 6761 Georgia Coles, stating local crime figures to be falling and Georgia, together with her work partner PCSO 8127 Benjamin Simpkin being available to attend coffee morning etc when requested (subject to shift patterns), to discuss concerns surrounding crime, anti-social behaviour and other Police related matters.

They create a neighbourhood newsletter each month and the Clerk will arrange to receive this in future.

Rodney Young requested a copy of the email for Clarion purposes, as did John Paige for the website.

Police contact details: -

Email: - georgia.coles@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Mobile: - 07889659466.

It might be best if contact is made ahead of the coffee morning date that a visit would be appreciated.

The Clerk was requested to display the newsletter on the PC notice board.

b. Somerset Mobile Library Service.

An email received the day after the meeting has clarified the position as follows: -

“The Mobile Library service does not visit Chedzoy village and hasn't done so for many years now. This is due to the village being within three miles (as the crow flies) of a library (Bridgwater) and therefore was removed from the schedule.

There was a service to the Children's' nursery at the rugby club ground until the end of 2021, when the nursery stopped operating.

c. Nominees for Chedzoy POC.

The Clerk the following has been nominated; -

Marion Dethier, Brian Gale, Russell Harmes, Simon Howes and Rodney young.

We are encouraged to attract two new members to bring the Parish Council up to its full strength (seven), and to this end Marion Dethier reported that she had found two appropriate parishioners, and she asked them to attend the May (annual) meeting when co-option can take place. There is no requirement to advertise so long as co-option takes place within a month of the election date (5th May 2022).

The current nominees will come into office on 9th May 2022, and the annual meeting must be held within 14 days of that date (9th May 2022).

The Co-option will be an agenda item and time will be allocated for the new councillors to complete their Declarations and Acceptance of Office formalities.

If the remaining vacancies are not filled by co-option by 24th June 2022, the District Council may order a fresh election to be held for the vacant positions.

8. Matter arising from the correspondence: - None.

9. Finance:

Balances after due allowance of all outstanding items: -

Lloyds Bank current account £12607.51 (PC £9817.46 FS £2790.05)
" " deposit " £ 2.48.
Cambridge BS " £ 12401.82 (earmarked funds).

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

No 783 £1000.00 payee SW Bryan) (Metal gates, fixtures) FS.
No 784 £ 655.22 " SW Bryan) (nature map). FS.
No 785 £ 564.69 " " (Swift boxes and housing). FS.
No 786 £ 216.40 " CN Fry (April net salary).
No 787 £ 958.32 " C Edmunds (Jubilee mugs).
No 788 £ 86.16 " CN Fry (expenses).
No 789 £ 811.47 " Arthur J Gallagher (insurance 2022/2023).
No 790 £ 120.00 " DM Payroll Services (Payroll 2022/2023).

Credits received since last meeting: - 22/03/2022 £300 EDF (FS grant), 14/04/2022 £263.58 SW Bryan (Climate Change opening event), 14/04/2022 £800.00 Chedzoy Village Hall (Jubilee mugs) and 21/04/2020 £4100 (Precept – first tranche).

The Clerk has received notification that a further Community Infrastructure Levy – Meaningful Proportion for Chedzoy Parish Council, of £2240.25 – relating to planning application reference 18/19/00001 – Glebe House development. This should be received shortly.

a. Annual Governance Statement (AGAR Section 1).

The Clerk explained this annual audit requirement. He reminded the councillors that, with all cheques (save for those for the FS project), being issued at meetings and requiring two signatures, together with the bank balances being reported to each meeting, and all cheques being listed on the minutes, Chedzoy Parish Council exercises complete control over its finances.

It was proposed by Rodney Young and seconded by Brian Gale that the Annual Governance Statement be accepted, all in favour.

b. Acceptance of PC accounts for the year ended 31/03/2022.

The Clerk conducted a line by line examination of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31/03/2022, together with the Bank Reconciliation as at 31/03/2022 and the accompanying miscellaneous documentation. He invited questions and following a discussion, it was proposed by Mario Dethier and seconded by Pat Lennard to adopt the accounts, all in favour.

c. Accounting Statement 2021/2022 (AGAR Section 2).

The Clerk had completed this annual audit requirement and signed it on 23rd April 2022. The figures on the form are extrapolated from the Receipts and Payments account, so acceptance is covered by acceptance of Item (b) above ie acceptance was proposed by Marion Dethier, seconded by Pat Lennard with all in favour.

The Chair duly signed all three documents and the internal audit can now proceed.

10. Any other business and date of next meeting (16th May 2022).

Any other business:

a. Earthworks at King Sedgemoor Drain.

The Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium (Axe, Brue, Parrett and North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Boards), in association with the Environment Agency, are planning major earthworks to raise the banks of the KSD significantly.

Although Simon Howes was unable to attend tonight's meeting, he sent an email setting out the position. He attended a meeting at Aller some two years ago concerning the proposal.

Marion Dethier led a discussion on the implications for Chedzoy's narrow country lanes which lead to the proposed KSD sites, including disruption by heavy vehicles and equipment travelling along lanes like Ward Lane, possible damage to houses and cottages as well as the carriageway.

Following the discussion the Clerk was asked to liaise with Simon Howes to draw up a suitable letter to the Environment Agency requesting a meeting with a senior official so that the concerns can be properly put to them.

A copy of the letter will be attached to these minutes.

b. Retiring members of the Parish Council.

With three councillors deciding not to stand for the council at this time, Rodney Young expressed the appreciation and good wishes of the whole Parish Council for all the hard work that has been put in by Cllrs. Nick Griffiths, Patricia Lennard and John Paige.

The date of the next meeting – Monday 16th May 2022.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

