

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL ON MONDAY 20th DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM.

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

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

In attendance: The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Liz Perry (SDC).
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 15th November 2021** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

a. Footpath Officer's report.

Ian Medland (Footpath Officer) submitted a report which gave details of recent activity concerning the blocked footpath BW 8/6 at Parchey. The SCC Footpath Officer for Sedgemoor has left his post, which is currently being advertised. In the interim, responsibility for Chedzoy's footpath network has been passed to Chris East (who formerly held responsibility for Chedzoy and has had previous dealings with the landowner at Parchey concerning this footpath). It is understood that, following complaints lodged by the public on the SCC interactive map, an Environmental Agency official has visited the site of the blockage, met with the landowner and advised him to remove the soil mound and replace the hedgerow, as well as removing the chain locking the gate, A revisit to check on progress is planned.

It is suggested that the PC contacts the EA official who made the visit and request an update.

One complaint registered on the interactive map concerned an adult accompanied by three small children who had two guard dogs set upon them, close to the soil blockages.

Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to write to both the EA and Chris East to request an update to be reported to the next meeting.

b. Climate Change Project update.

Useful advertising reports have recently been published in both "My Somerset" and "Polden Post". Marion Dethier reported that Greening Corner has been planted and SDC have donated two additional sacks of daffodil bulbs to the project. Further grant aid from the HM Queen's Green Canopy Fund will mean a further 420 trees will be planted in due course.

David Hall commended the progress to date and offered a framed plaque for presentation at a walk that is planned for Sunday 3d April 2022, to which the press will be invited.

c. Drainage matters.

The Clerk outlined details of an email received from Lawrence Hackling of SCC Highways advising that he has identified funding to cover the cost of the clearance of

the Pig Lane outfall ditch from an additional Routine and Environmental budget offered up for this financial year. Lawrence needs to obtain the landowners agreement to providing access to the ditch and the Clerk has obtained permission from the landowner to give his contact details to Lawrence for this purpose.

The Clerk to monitor progress here.

d. Speed Indicator Device.

The Chairman demonstrated the recently delivered SID equipment which will be installed in the New Year. This is an intelligent road sign which illuminates when it detects vehicles approaching at speeds in excess of 30mph, with warning to drivers to slow down. It does not incorporate a speed camera and does not record individual vehicle details, but we will be able to download information regarding the speed and time of day when the speed limit is exceeded. The device will be rotated between posts sited at the various approach roads to the village (Chedzoy Lane, Rugg's Drove, Front street and Ward Lane).

It is hoped that this device will be welcomed by the community and that it will improve road safety by reminding drivers of the speed limit.

We need to find a custodian for the equipment (someone to look after it, recharge batteries and co-ordinate its movement between locations). Anyone interested please contact the Chairman of the Parish Council, Simon Howes.

e. HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022.

John Paige has kindly agreed to lead on this and he said that acquiring and installing a suitable gas fired burner would cost in the region of £700 plus vat. John will investigate various costings and report back to the February meeting.

The Clerk was asked to place this item on the agenda of the February meeting.

f. Covid – 19.

The Clerk confirmed that he had been in contact with Justin Robinson, CEO of Somerset Association of Local Councils, who confirmed that there are no current restrictions on Parish Council meetings being held face to face. Clearly it is only sensible to take certain common sense precautions.

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

a. Covid – 19: - he confirmed that the current position regarding the holding of meetings is as shown above.

b. Unitary Authority.

David said that confirmation has been received that the new authority will be a continuing authority, and initial elections will be held in May 2022.

c. Gravity site at Puriton.

David reported that tenancy negotiations are progressing very positively.

5. District Councillors' report – Anthony Betty reported as follows: -

a. Northgate Yard in Bridgwater.

A “Topping off” ceremony has been held following the completion of the steel structural work.

b. Sedgemoor District Council Tree Programme.

This has been extended and Anthony said he would send details to the Clerk.

6. Planning - No new applications.

Development site public notices.

An email has been received in response to the Clerk’s enquiry about development site notices. This advises that, where notices are required, they are sent to the applicant who is requested to provide evidence of their erection, which is checked when the case officer undertakes site visits. However, there are many applications that do not require such public notices.

The Chairman pointed out that the site notice requirements, as they stand, leave Parish Councils unclear as to whether regulations have been correctly followed, simply because they have no way of knowing when notices are or are not required, and he said clarification on this matter is clearly needed.

The Clerk was asked to reply to the email suggesting that, where site notices are required, this might be indicated on the application notification when it is initially sent out.

The Chairman went on to suggest that planning applications involving the village should be noted in the minutes until such time as a conclusion is reached.

The Clerk was asked to establish such a system in future.

7. Correspondence:

a. Somerset Waste Partnership – including “Recycle More”.

Details of the Christmas and New Year collection arrangements have been received and John Paige has posted them on the web. Marion Dethier said that she would post them on the village Facebook page.

“Recycle More” – this is to be launched in Sedgemoor and West Somerset at the end of February / beginning of March 2022, and will involve: -

More materials being collected from the kerbside – importantly plastic pots, tubs and trays.

General rubbish to be collected every three weeks instead of fortnightly.
Collection days to change for some.

Information only.

b. SDC Customer Excellence Accreditation.

Sedgemoor’s customer Services Teams were recently assessed against national Customer Service Excellence accreditation standards and they passed with flying colours.

Information only.

8. Matter arising from the correspondence:

None.

9. Finance:

Balances after allowing for items to be cleared:

Lloyds Bank current account £10,403.61 (Fair Share £2,353.60 PC £8,050.01).
“ “ deposit “ £ 2.48.
Cambridge BS “ £ 12389.43 (earmarked funds).

There were six cheques to issue – (one SID cheque and two Fair Share cheques signed between meetings)

No 762 £3213.00 payee Stockside Ltd (SID equipment).
No 763 £150.00 “ RJ Countryside & Garden Services (Part Front Street work – the rest will be carried out in the spring – Cheque no 755 destroyed).
No 764 £569.42 “ SW Bryan (trees. Wire, tree screening, banding).
No 765 £421.40 payee CN Fry (Dec/Jan new salary).
No 766 £162.20 “ HMRC (paye Oct/Nov/Dec).
No 767 £48.20 “ CN Fry (expenses).

SID funding details: -	Cost £3213.00.
Less £535.50 (vat – already reclaimed)	
£2240.25 (CIL proportion re Glebe House development).	

£2775.75	less £2775.75

Net cost (met from reserves)	£ 437.25
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10. Any other business and date of next meeting.

Any other business:

a. Obstruction in Ward Lane.

Brian Gale handed a letter to the Clerk from his neighbour, reporting damage to a car tyre caused by a scrapped gate protruding from the hedge onto the carriageway in Ward Lane.

The Clerk was asked to reply to the letter and advise the author to refer the matter to the appropriate landowner.

Date of next meeting Monday 21st February 2022 in the village hall at 7.30 pm.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.28 pm.