

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM.

Present: - Cllrs. Simon Howes (Chairman), Patricia Lennard, John Paige and Rodney Young.

Also Present: - none.

In attendance: - The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1. **Apologies:** - Cllrs. Marion Dethier, Brian Gale and Nick Griffiths. Cllrs. David Hall (SCC), Anthony Betty (SDC) and Liz Perry (SDC).
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 20th December 2021** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

a. Footpath Officer's report.

Ian Medland (Footpath Officer) submitted the following update which was outlined by the Clerk: -

Footpath BW 8/6 which had been blocked for in excess of 10 years at its entrance near the KSD, with a "Private Property – Keep Out" sign attached to the chained gate, has been cleared and opened up by the Environment Agency. Both the Footpath Officer and the Parish Council has maintained pressure on the EA over a prolonged period to resolve ongoing problems, including the path being blocked by mounds of soil and the boundary hedge being removed. A new wooden fence has been erected to mark the boundary with the adjoining field. Gateways further along the footpath are currently impassable because of deep wet mud. A local farmer has kindly offered to install hard-core to improve matters, following which the path will link up with Red Track and form a circular walk, as well as a far longer walk along the river bank to Greylake.

Needless to say the Parish Council is delighted with these developments and passes on its thanks to the Footpath Officer for his perseverance.

When weather conditions permit, Ian intends to commence clearing vegetation on other paths of the footpath network, starting with the path behind the Church.

b. Climate Change Project update.

The Clerk presented an update saying the project was progressing well and on schedule. The Opening is planned for 3d April 2022 with David Hall (Somerset County Councillor) having agreed to officiate at the opening ceremony.

Steph Bryan is preparing a further supplementary grant application to cover the installation of a hedge to replace the fence from the pond in the North Field to the orchard next to the Whittling Wood and thence on to the Whittling Wood via the orchard hedge. Steph has obtained the agreement of the landowner for this, and is currently preparing the application for submission to the SCC Climate Change committee, who have indicated their agreement in principle. If approved this will utilise funding originally allocated for the low level fence around the road edge of Greening Corner, but lost when this part of the original grant application was not approved.

The Parish Council feels that the Fairshare Project is something to be proud of and Clerk has sent invites and posters to around 41 town and parish councils to invite to the opening.

Cllr John Paige is liaising with Steph following her request that the Parish Council web site could accommodate access to information and guides that can be accessed by the public. This is another reason for the need to improve the website.

The Chairman wished to record the appreciation of the Parish Council to Steph and all the villagers who have worked on a voluntary basis on the project.

c. HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons.

John Paige has looked into this and he presented several options. There are two gas fired beacons that are suitable, both costing £490 plus vat (exclusive of fuelling costs), which John considers appropriate, with slightly varying designs. John has attended a village hall committee meeting and obtained its agreement to the beacon being sited in the hall field and lit at 9.15 on Thursday 2nd June at the start of the four day Jubilee weekend. A motion to proceed to purchase the gas powered beacon that John feels is appropriate was proposed by Rodney Young and seconded by Pat Lennard, and carried unanimously.

d. Somerset Waste Partnership "Recycle More".

The Clerk reported that Rodney Young had volunteered to "trial" one of the blue bags that have since been issued to all households and will come into use when the new recycling scheme takes full effect at the beginning of March 2022.

4. County Councillor's report (sent to the Clerk in his absence).

David Hall wished the Clerk to report on his behalf about: -

a. Gravity Site at Puriton.

Negotiations with the preferred tenants are at an advanced stage.

5. District Councillor's report – none.

6. Planning.

No new applications.

a. Development site notices.

The Clerk referred to a reply from SDC planners, following a request from Chedzoy Parish Council that the need for site notices to be erected could be indicated by SDC on application notifications when they are initially sent to parishes. SDC advise that this would not be possible, but they supply the following list of applications that would need site notices (the implication being that other types of Planning Application do not need site notices): -

Major Applications.

Applications affecting a Listed Building.

Applications within a Conservation Area.

Applications affecting a Public Right of Way.

A departure (an application that is in conflict to a local plan ie Development in the

Countryside with no exceptional policy justifying it).
Applications within 10 m of a railway.
Public Interest (this could be if we had a dwelling in a rural location and no clear neighbours, a site notice may be erected).

Beyond this, the SDC planners also carry out neighbour notifications to the immediate neighbours of any proposed developments and they maintain an open weekly list. Parish councils are not responsible for placing of planning notices but local residents can subscribe through the SDC planning portal for notifications on activities in particular parishes and they should then receive weekly notifications of applications in the area.

b. Update of Parish planning applications for 2021.

The Parish Council agreed that in future a note showing the status of all applications lodged within a 12 month period should remain in the minutes (as below), including showing when a planning decision is reached and any changes to the application.

Applications in 2021: -

No 18/21/00001 (registered 15/02/2021) Mr Chandler – Land to the rear of Quantock View Higher Road – Erection of two dwellings with off road parking – **Withdrawn after registration.**

No 18/21/00002 (registered 22/03/2021) Mr House – Fowlers Plot Farm – to determine if prior approval is required for a silage clamp and concrete yard – **Prior Approval – Deemed Consent.**

No 18/21/00003 (registered 30/03.2021) Mr House – Fowlers Plot Farm No – Erection of cover over existing agricultural yard – **Granted Permission.**

No 18/21/00004 (registered 17/06/2021) Mr Rhodes – West Moor House Ward Lane – Retention of a change of use of land from agriculture to commercial for the storage and processing of logs – **Granted Permission.**

No 18/21/00005 (registered 25/06/2021) Mr Chandler – Land behind Quantock View Higher Road – erection of single dormer bungalow and associated parking – **Under consideration.**

No 18/21/00006 (registered 26/08/2021) Mr Barnes and Ms Martin – Greylee Front Street – Erection of single storey rear extension and loft conversion with installation of dormer window and velux roof lights – **Granted Permission.**

No 18/21/00007 (registered 14/09/2021) Mrs Crocker 5 West End Court Chedzoy Lane – Application for Non-Material Amendment to Planning Permission 18/20/00005 – **Granted Permission.**

No 18/21/00008 (registered 29/09/2021) Mrs Foot – Frys Farm front Street – Retrospective application for the erection of a conservatory and formation of balcony and roof lights – **Granted Permission.**

7. Correspondence.

a. Boundary Commission Review for Parliamentary Boundaries 2023.

This periodic review currently under consideration held a public consultation between

June and August 2021, and a further consultation is now under way for people to have their say.

Anyone wishing to make a spoken representation at a public hearing is encouraged to book a timed slot in advance.

To book, visit the dedicated public hearings page of the Boundary Commission website and click on your chosen hearing.

b. Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance “Blossoming and Blooming” Open Gardens Initiative.

The Charity’s latest fund raising initiative is asking people to open their gardens to the public between June and September 2022.

To register your interest in taking part please visit: -

www.dsairambulance.org.uk/open-gardens

The Clerk was asked to liaise with Steph Bryan and ask if she would be interested in investigating the possibility of registering the Chedzoy fair Share Scheme.

c. Call for Voters in Sedgemoor to register in time for elections in May 2022.

Voters have until 14th April to register to vote in the May 2022 elections.

To register to vote, visit: -

<https://www.gov.uk/registertovote> or contact: -

electoralservices@sedgemoor.gov.uk

The Clerk reminded the councillors that 2022 is the Parish Council election year, brought forward by a year to coincide with the elections to the new Somerset Council authority, and he handed out nomination packs to those interested in standing.

In order to encourage villagers to come forward and complete nomination forms, the Clerk will draw up a suitable form of words for the Chairman to approve to be placed on the village Facebook page. John Paige said he thought it a good idea to include an outline the responsibilities of parish councillors.

Villagers interested in putting themselves forward as a Parish Councillor can speak with the Clerk or any current Parish Councillor for information on the role and how to apply. They will need to obtain a nomination pack from the Clerk or SDC direct.

d. Chedzoy Parish Council Website.

John Paige (webmaster) delivered a briefing on the possible advantages of looking to upgrade the CPC website to encourage greater use of the facility by villagers, and to allow improved posting facilities. The current setup is very limiting and John feels very constricted. It may be that any expansion will involve a change of Hosts, and possible increased costs.

Following a discussion the Chairman suggested councillors that they look at other Parish Council websites for inspiration and to see what may be possible and suitable for Chedzoy, with a follow up discussion to be planned. The Clerk was asked to liaise with

HCI Data Ltd (Phil Hobson) to establish current usage data. John Paige said he would establish precise limitations of the existing site, together with the cost implications of upgrading the system.

The Clerk was asked to place this on the agenda for the March meeting, and in the meantime the cheque due shortly for a licence renewal for the next two years to April 2024 (£85 plus vat) will be held in abeyance.

8. Matters arising from the correspondence – none.

9. Finance – balances after allowing for all items: -

Current account £13050.49 + (PC £7382.51. Fair Share £5667.98).
Deposit account £ 2.48.
Cambridge BS £12401.82 (earmarked funds – after application of £12.39
interest for year to 31/12/2021).

Three cheques to issue (one FS cheque signed between meetings).

No 768 £824.00 payee SW Bryan (Gate signs and seeds).
No 769 £216.40 payee CN Fry (February net salary).
No 770 £88.14 “ “ (expenses).

Rodney Young confirmed the Yew tree pruning at the bus shelter garden has been completed – invoice to follow.

10. Any Other Business – and date of next meeting.

a. Parish Council noticeboard.

Rodney Young reported storm damage to the noticeboard near the bus shelter and John Paige kindly said he would see to it.

b. Speed Indicator Device (SID) installation.

The Chairman said the SID installation was postponed due to strong winds and it would shortly be installed. He said a villager interested in helping has kindly come forward.

c. April meeting.

The April 2022 meeting falls on Easter Monday and so will take place the following week.

The Clerk said he would supply a list of this year's meeting dates for publication on the website.

Date of next meeting Monday 21st March 2022.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.01pm.