

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 20th MARCH 2023 AT 7.30 PM.

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

Also present: - Cllrs. Andy Dingwall (SCC) and Cllr. Anthony Betty (SDC).

In attendance: - The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr. Simon Howes.
2. **Minutes of the last regular meeting of 20th February 2022** 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.

The Clerk reported that the re-routing of footpath BW 8/6 is now being handled by Glyn Edwards, the new SCC Footpath Officer for the Sedgemoor area, who is enthusiastic about the matter.

Karen Medland said Ian is awaiting costing details of the additional used strimmer that SCC is offering for use by the second trained parishioner.

b. CCCP project update – future maintenance.

Karen Medland said that there was a great deal of general maintenance needed over the coming few weeks and she will be appealing for volunteer helpers via the village Facebook page in due course.

The Clerk highlighted the recent edition of "Polden Post", which included a full report on the Chedzoy CCCP including a photograph of Karen Medland with Steph Bryan on the cover.

c. Speeding cars – Speed watch team formation.

Karen Medland reported that the site outside West End Farm in Chedzoy Lane has been rejected by the Police due to the signage not giving adequate guidance to traffic. Even though the hedges have been trimmed, some repeater signs are still being obscured within the hedge, and there are no painted roundels on the road to support guidance.

The Police have emailed SCC Highways to request the road signage is corrected, and the Clerk was asked to send a supporting follow up reminder email to Highways as well.

An alternative location was considered but rejected, also because of visibility issues, but once the signage is sorted, the site outside Manor Barn would be approved, with the owner's permission.

d. Chedzoy Village Design Statement.

The need to form a sub-committee was discussed with the Chair, Graham Bentley and Russell Harmes indicating their willingness to take part. The Clerk distributed copies of the "Chedzoy Village Action Plan", produced by the Parish Council in 2009. The Chair confirmed that she has the several parishioner submissions, and she kindly offered to take the lead in taking the formation of the sub-committee forward.

e. First Aid Training.

The councillor attendees to the first aid course all agreed that the course was of a high standard, and the lunch (provided by the Parish Council) was delicious. The Clerk was asked to send emails of thanks to both the course leader and the parishioner who provided the lunches.

A small number of attendees expressed reservations about their personal details being published (which they did not realise would happen).

The Chair confirmed that nine attendees were agreeable to have their details put into the public domain, for use in a health emergency situation.

f. Telephone Box library and: -

g. Fingerpost at Cross Tree.

Karen Medland confirmed that she has the paint for the kiosk, and would be appealing for volunteers to assist in the refurbishment, when the weather improves.

Karen's friend from Catcott will kindly advise on the paint type etc. for the fingerpost in due course, and she feels the two subjects can now be dropped from future agendas.

h. King Charles III Coronation.

Rodney Young confirmed that the village hall committee were arranging the screening of the Coronation procession and Ceremony in the village hall on Saturday 6th May 2023, with cream teas in the afternoon and a barbecue arranged by the playing field committee in the evening. The concert from Windsor on Sunday 7th May will also be screened in the village hall.

Mary Clothier led a discussion as to the Parish Council's involvement in Coronation activities. It was decided to plan for a "driveway" type picnic lunch get-together throughout the village on the Sunday, similar to that held for the VE Day celebrations, and a litter pick on Monday 8th May 2023 from 11 am to 1 pm (meet at the village hall). The Clerk was asked to liaise with SDC Clean Surroundings about the loan of safety equipment (high vis jackets, pickers) as well as bags.

Also under discussion for Monday 8th May are a Nature Trail bench re-painting/re-varnishing, an orienteering event to span several days over the weekend and various craft activities to be held in the village hall. Mary kindly said that she would organise a flyer and liaise with Rodney Young on a "Clarion" insertion in the edition to be published shortly, to ensure the parishioners are fully aware of Coronation plans.

i. Frys Lane issues.

Following the report from a parishioner just before the last meeting, the Clerk contacted the farmer concerned and had a word with him about the understandable concerns raised. The Chair (a resident of the lane) said that matters have improved. She reminded the meeting that Frys Lane was adopted highway up to the first field gateway.

A discussion was held and concern raised that any future adverse situations raised by residents should be promptly dealt with, without the need to wait for a subsequent PC meeting. The Clerk said he was happy to raise the matter with the farmer as necessary.

Planning Application notifications.

The Clerk has circulated an email reply from the SDC Planning Manager responding to his in which he raised the rumours that notifications to neighbouring properties of new planning applications might cease as part of efficiency savings.

An assurance has been given that this is not being considered, although some efficiency savings surrounding the consolidation of press advertising requirements will be centralised, as currently five different press notifications over the Somerset area are done, with five different fees being charged, are planned. The neighbouring property notifications will still, on the whole, be undertaken as at present, and some applications (where currently there no requirement for notification) will still be subject to a notification process to ensure that Parish/Town councils and members will continue to be appropriately advised.

The planning department is still operating and encouraging subscription through the website that would offer a weekly notification of new applications.

We are assured that, from a Sedgemoor perspective, there is expected to be a greater level of notification, in the future, than currently exists.

j. Grass cutting at the allotments.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk has received clarification of the breakdown of the fuel claim submitted in connection with this, which he circulated to councillors. During a discussion it was emphasised that all costs associated with the allotments must be fully covered by the total rents received from the plot holders, with no burden being placed on general PC funds. The Clerk was asked to monitor matters appropriately.

The Chair proposed that the invoice for the 2022 season should now be paid, this was seconded by Russell Harmes and agreed by all.

The Clerk has since delivered the cheque and explained the limitations to future grass cutting costs, and on this basis the same resident has agreed to continue in the role.

4. County Councillors' report.

a. Budget projected overspend 2022/2023.

This has dropped slightly to £24.3 million, with Adult and Childrens social care remaining the largest expense.

b. Unitary Authority.

The first annual budget of the new Unitary Authority has been signed off.

c. Local Government reorganisation.

This is on track for the launch of the new authority on 1st April 2023.

d. Local Community Networks.

The first meeting of the 'Levels and Moors' area will take place on Monday 31st July 2023 (location to be advised), at 6 pm. The administration of these LCN meetings will be undertaken by unitary council officers.

5. District Councillor's report: - Anthony Betty reported as follows: -

With just eleven days to go, SDC is running down its activities. There is just one SDC planning meeting and a full council meeting to go.

Anthony said that both himself and Liz Perry (serving four and eight years respectively) has found it a privilege to represent Chedzoy on SDC.

The Chair returned the warm thanks of the Parish Council for both their terms of office.

6. Planning - No new applications –

7. Correspondence.

a. Great British Spring Clean.

This event is taking place from 17th March to 2nd April 2023. Chedzoy's litter pick is scheduled for Monday 8th May as part of the Coronation weekend events.

b. Sedgemoor south-east Police newsletter.

This latest newsletter has been received. It mentions Chedzoy's speed watch team formation.

c. £2 maximum bus fare.

This has been extended until the end of June 2023.

d. Somerset Day – 2nd Saturday in May.

Special offers on bunting and flags are available.

e. Somerset Waste Partnership.

The March 2023 edition has been received.

f. Clerks and Councils Direct magazine.

The March 2023 edition has been received.

8. Matters arising from the correspondence: - none.

9. Finance.

Balances after due allowance for any outstanding items: -

Lloyds bank current account: - £9780.51 (PC £8285.07 CCCP £1495.44)

“ “ deposit “ : -£2.48.

Cambridge BS EA account: -£10322.17 (interest rate 1.25% -earmarked funds).

Four cheques to issue: -

No 825 £68.62 payee Dion Evert (allotment entrance grass cutting – 2022 season).).

No 827 £285.00 “ CN Fry (expenses).

No 828 £213.60 “ HMRC “(paye Jan/Feb/Mar 2023).

No 829 £60.00 “ CN Fry (first aid course lunches – via BACS).

Section 137 limit 2023/2024.

SALC have confirmed the Section 137 limit for 2023/2024 will be £9.93 per elector.

This is a statutory power which permits Parish and Town councils to spend in a single year to a maximum amount of money, which the council resolves will “bring benefit” to the community.

10. Any other business.

a. Wilder Churches – Community Event.

The public are being encouraged, through a programme of on-line training and resources to get to know the wildlife of their local churchyards and burial grounds.

For more information, go to: -

<https://www.somersetwildlife.org/events/2023-03-29-wilder-churches--welcoming-new-cumminities>

b. SALC – March 2023 newsletter.

The latest edition has been received.

c. Planning concerns.

The Clerk was asked to clarify certain aspects of planning requirements.

d. Localised flooding in Chedzoy Lane opposite West End Farm.

Russell Harmes reported that there are three storm water drains that are totally blocked in this area of fairly frequent localised flooding.

The Clerk was asked to report this to SCC Highways.

e. Playing Field grass cutting.

With the recent retirement of the playing field grass cutting contractor, the PF committee have been researching possible alternative arrangements which would both fill the gap and will provide more control to be exercised by the PF committee of future grass cutting activities. To this end details have been received from the playing field chair, proposing that the mowing and stinging will be separated. Costings are not completely clear and this first of year the new arrangements will to an extent be a trial year.

On the whole anticipated overall costs may not be a lot more than the old “cutting only” arrangements.

An initial cut will be needed before Easter.

The Parish Council will be kept advised appropriately.

Date of next meeting Monday 17th April 2023.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.