

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

Present: Cllrs. Brian Gale, Simon Howes (Chairman), John Paige and Rodney Young.

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

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Marion Dethier, Nick Griffiths and Pat Lennard, and Liz Perry (SDC).
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 21st February 2022** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

- a. **Footpath Officer's report:** - None.

- b. **Climate Change Project update.**

The Clerk outlined the current position. The project is now reaching its end, with the opening event planned for Sunday 3d April 2022. David Hall handed a plaque from Somerset County Council commemorating the Fair Share project to the Clerk who passed it on to John Paige who has kindly offered to liaise with Steph Bryan and decide on a suitable location and frame it. It was generally felt that an outside spot, possibly near the benches behind the churchyard should be considered. David added that, with the county and parish elections having now been announced, it would be thought inappropriate for him to take part in the opening ceremony (the Chairman said he would be attending and all parish councillors are invited).

- c. **Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance "Blossoming and Blooming" Open Gardens scheme.**

As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk has liaised with Steph Bryan about the possibility of the Fair Share project taking some part in this initiative.

It was felt that, with no connection to the project goals or its guiding principles, it would be inappropriate to become involved.

- d. **Chedzoy PC website.**

John Paige (webmaster) opened this discussion. Activity statistics supplied by HCI Data Ltd (Phil Hobson), show an encouraging average of 5050 monthly visits to the website over the past year. Phil advises that, of its client base, only Chedzoy PC still uses the Content Management System (CMS), which is very old and no longer maintained. Other previous users have all migrated to other CMSs such as Wordpress or a hosting site's custom CMS.

It is generally felt that the current layout looks old and lacklustre. To revamp the layout could cost in the region of several hundred pounds. HCI recommend using a package used by well-known hosting companies as being most cost effective.

HCI are most obliging and have up-dated the disc space available before charges apply, from 200 Mbytes to 300 Mbytes.

John is still liaising on the whole matter, but he is happy to recommend that the PCs

website remains with HCI.

The Chairman suggested that three councillors should jointly consider the best way forward, and it was decided that Rodney Yong and Marion Dethier join with John Paige to consider matters. John will update councillors on his findings. He also confirmed that he is happy to continue in the webmaster's position, even if he ceases to be a parish councillor.

The Clerk was asked to place this subject on the agenda of the next meeting

4. County Councillor's report: -

a. Local Elections 2022.

David Hall advised that the necessary Statutory Change order had passed the House of Lords (with only hours to spare) confirming the change to a Unitary Authority for Somerset County, and the Notice of Elections for County and Parish councillors has today (21st March 2022) been published. He said he had not been selected for his existing area for the Somerset Council, but that he was standing in Somerton.

b. Gravity Site at Puriton.

Very positive negotiations with two possible tenants remain at a critical stage.

This being the last meeting that David will attend, the Chairman thanked him for all his hard work and assistance to the parish over the years.

5. District Councillors' reports:

a. Local Elections 2022.

Anthony Betty reported that he had not been selected to stand for his existing area, but would be standing for one of the North Petherton seats. All Sedgemoor DC councillors stay in place for a further year. Liz Perry is not seeking re-election.

b. Northgate Yard in Bridgwater.

This is progressing on schedule.

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: - Under review. (Since approved).

7. Correspondence:

a. Local election for County and Parish Councillors 2022: - Key dates: -

Notice of Election published – 21st March 2022.
Nominations accepted from – 22nd March.
Deadline for candidates nominations – 5th April 2022.
Statement of persons nominated published – 6th April 2022.
Deadline to register to vote – 14th April.
Close of postal vote applications – 19th April 2022.
Polling Day – Thursday 5th May 2022.
Count of votes and declarations of results for 110 councillors – 6th May 2022.

The Chairman has placed information on the village Facebook page calling for any parishioners interested in standing for election as a Parish Councillor to come forward. He said he has been approached by three people who may be interested and has advised them to contact the Clerk if they require assistance in obtaining an information pack.

8. Matter arising from the correspondence: - None.

9. Finance:

Balances after due allowance of all outstanding items: -

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lloyds Bank current account | £ 8387.10 (PC) | £4446.38 (FS).. |
| “ “ deposit | “ £ 2.48. | |
| Cambridge BS | “ £ 12401.82 (earmarked funds). | |

Twelve cheques to issue (four FS cheques issued between meetings).

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| No 771 | £102.00 | payee HCI (Web renewal for two years to 19/04/2024). |
| No 772 | £ 658.77 | “ SW Bryan (Herbs, bird boxes). FS. |
| No 773 | £216.40 | “ CN Fry (March net salary). |
| No 774 | £162.20 | “ HMRC (paye Jan/Feb/Mar 2022).. |
| No 775 | £40.00 | “ Oxford rural (allotment rent to Sept 2022). |
| No 776 | £558.00 | “ CN Fry (Jubilee Beacon) |
| No 777 | £392.83 | “ SW Bryan (brushes, varnish, pegs, wrap).FS. |
| No 778 | £1000.00 | “ (Final management fee). FS. |
| No 779 | £345.00 | “ RJ Countryside (strimming, prep wild seed beds).FS. |
| No 780 | £45.17 | “ CN Fry (expenses). |
| No 781 | £32.04 | “ L Uren (bus shelter redecoration materials). |
| No 782 | £814.80 | “ SDC (bus shelter tree trimming). |

The village hall treasurer attended the meeting to discuss appropriate treatment of VAT on expenditure being incurred for the parish. To highlight this there was a discussion regarding the possibility of providing a Platinum Jubilee commemorative mug to each household in the village (at a total cost of approximately £1000 inc vat), and this was considered by the councillors. The Clerk advised the meeting that this sort of expenditure (by the PC) was completely in order and had been carried out before on similar occasions, and a motion to spend up to £1000 (inc vat) was proposed by John Paige, seconded by Brian Gale and agreed unanimously on the basis that the village hall committee were prepared to make a donation of half the cost to the Parish Council.

The Clerk to liaise with Carole Edmunds (representing the village hall committee) to finalise details and place an order in the name of Chedzoy Parish Council.

10. Any other business and date of next meeting.

Any other business:

a. SID location.

Brian Gale brought this subject up and said that he considered the current location to be too far away from the main village settlement, and that drivers may increase speed between the SID and the start of houses at Manor Farmhouse. The Chairman pointed out that options has been limited in choosing the initial installation site due to the need to attach the SID to an existing post or telegraph pole and that safety access for working on the SID was a factor. He also pointed out that the parish boundary was further back towards Slapes Cross, so choosing too far into the main settlement may create other concerns. Following a discussion it was agreed that the site of the former SID (in the days when SCC provided one twice a year on loan), on the post displaying the 30 mph repeater sign – opposite Manor Farmhouse – would be considered when the SID is re-located.

The Chairman pointed out that the proposed post had been hit by a passing vehicle and was currently leaning at an angle. The Clerk was asked to request SCC Highways to restore the post, thereby making it a viable alternative SID site.

The date of the next meeting – 25th April 2022 (a week after Easter Monday).

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.32 pm.