

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY TELEPHONE
CONFERENCE CALL ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

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

Also present: Cllr. David Hall (SCC).

In attendance: The Clerk (Chris Fry) and Steph Bryan (giving a talk on the Climate Emergency Fund application).

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Anthony Betty (SDC).
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 19th October 2020** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

a. Coronavirus Report – Local:

John Paige reported that demand for assistance during this (2nd) lockdown is less than during the first one. There have been a few new requests for assistance. John said he had heard reports of one or two villagers contracting the virus and it turns out that one such person is self-isolating appropriately.

The Chairman thanked John for his continuing help at this time.

b. Drainage problem at Temple Farm and in Front Street (outside Palfrey House):

Outside Temple Farm: -

Following the last meeting the Clerk asked Lawrence Hackling (SCC) if he would attend a site meeting at Temple Farm as the Parish Council wished to bring the various parties together to ensure the nature of the problem was clearly understood. There was a reluctance on the part of SCC highways to attend due to the current lockdown but it was agreed that a site meeting is still desired as soon as this is possible. David Hall has agreed to attend such a site meeting when restrictions are lifted, and he would contact Lawrence as well. The Clerk is suggesting Thursday 10th December and provided David Hall is available he will let the other parties know.

Front Street flooding problems near Palfrey House.

Steph Bryan said that in the 10 years she has lived in Palfrey House, there have been five floods, and each one getting worse. She was lead to believe that the Victorian drains may well have collapsed, meaning significant costs of repair. She has supplied photographic evidence of the last flood at the beginning of October 2020 and the Clerk was asked to report this problem to SCC highways, suggesting a visit when the Temple Farm meeting takes place.

c. Climate Emergency Fund – update:

Steph Bryan, (leader of the team developing the application for grant aid), gave a presentation of their favoured plan: -

Chedzoy Edible Habitat Lane.

Overview: -

The Chedzoy community submitted nine ideas to the Climate Emergency Community Fund (CECF) team. After considering each proposal's viability and gauging levels of interest via FaceBook the decision was made to combine the Pollinator Alley with the Tree planting to achieve a single achievable project (Edible Habitat Lane).

The vision is to plant small areas directly within the village, giving the community regular access to varied habitats and the opportunity to observe, learn, interact and forage throughout the changing seasons. The total area proposed to be planted is approximately 2000 square metres.

Goals: -

1. Provide visually different habitats that inspire our community to Think, Learn and Create change.
2. Provide Pollinator and Wildlife habitats.
3. Encourage education through access to edible habitats.

Specification: -

The main planting areas run from Fishers Farm to Eastfield Corner along with additional spaces: - to the north of the graveyard, to the rear of Fry's Barn (120m) and 280m along footpath BW 8/7.

There are five different planting schemes that work within permaculture principles each designed to encourage our community to observe and explore different perspectives: -

1. Standing Edible Trees.

Varied fruit and nut trees for foraging.

Eastfield Corner.

2. Coppice.

(Sweet Chestnut, Beech and Birch).

Provides material for woodcraft.

Graveyard area.

3. Native Hedging with standing wood.

(Alder, Hawthorne and White Chestnut).

Creates wildlife habitat and windbreaks.

Fishers Farm, Fry's Lane Barn and footpath BW 8/7.

4. Wildlife Areas.

Encourages pollinators and provides annual herbs and medicinal plants.

Front Street verges.

5. Predominantly Edible Herbaceous borders.

Provides all year round wildlife habitats with varied herbs and flowers for foraging.

Front Street verges.

One Plant Principles: -

The project covers the following three principles: -

1. Health and happiness.
2. Land and nature.
3. Local and sustainable food.

Milestones Outstanding.

1. Project Tasks

Clarifying land ownership.
Gillards contract release for land intended for grave yard extension.
Consult Highways.
Finalise planting schemes.
Costings.

2. Application.

Submission online 1st December 2020 (notification date 31st March 2022)

d. Brushcutter training: -

The Clerk said this was taking place this week.

e. Speeding traffic through the village: -

Detailed Community Speed Indicator Device (SID) and Vehicle Activated Sign Guidance.

This has been received from Angie Brook, Traffic Management Public Liaison Officer at SCC.

The cost of appropriate devices range from £2.5 k to £3.5 k for equipment + £500 (approx.) per person installation training. Insurance is required, and PPE and specialist clothing is necessary. To minimise driver complacency, installation is advised to be for no more than two weeks in the same spot, with no return for a month.

The cost involved is therefore significant and one councillor mentioned it seemed like

taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

David Hall said Bawdrip PC was in the process of installing a SID on the A39 near the Knowle Inn near to where vehicle collisions have occurred in recent years.

Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to approach the Bawdrip Parish Clerk to investigate the possibility of some kind of "sharing" arrangement, which might be a way of minimising costs.

f. Amenity Grants – new application process.

At the last meeting it was agreed that, rather than continuing to give out blanket grant aid each year, the parish council should introduce some means of establishing the level of need of the various organisations, and how much is needed and where the money is spent, also requesting a copy of accounts to be sent in.

To this end the Clerk drafted a suitable letter to each of the Churchyard Fund, Playing Field and Village Hall, requesting that they apply for any such future funding for the ensuing year by the end of June annually, starting in June 2020. (a copy of the letter is appended to these minutes)

g. Clerk's salary review (with effect from 1st April 2021).

The Clerk has formally requested a salary review as from 1st April 2021. He said his workload increased considerably recently, and had always been varied. He wished his salary to more accurately reflect the time taken in the position, on an averaged basis.

Current salary level (last reviewed 1st April 2015).

Four hours per week at £11 per hour = £44 per week or £2288 per year.

Expenses as follows: - Mileage rate 60p per mile. Plus

- a. Office heating allowance @ £2 per week or £104 per year (shared with Stawell PC - £52 pa).
- b. Computer/printer allowance £200 per year (shared with Stawell PC - £100 pa).

Requested salary level (with effect from 1st April 2021): -

Five hours per week at £12.50 per hour = £62.50 per week or £3250 per year.

Other expenses to remain as now.

The requested increase is £3250 - £2288 = £962 per year.

A discussion was held with the Chairman expressing the desire to take this matter "off line", and for it to be dealt with by a subcommittee which would make a recommendation back to the Parish Council for their consideration. David Hall was asked how such matters were usually settled and he said that in his experience PCs tended to do "their own thing". He added that he felt four hours per week for what was involved in Chedzoy's case did not seem very much.

Simon Howes, Marion Dethier and Rodney Young agreed to form the subcommittee and take matters forward, with a view to reporting back to the December meeting.

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

a. Unitary Authority for Somerset.

David said that the two versions of this concept were the SCC one of "Stronger Somerset", and that favoured by the district councils of "One Somerset". The matter would be decided in due course by the Secretary of State. With Covid dominating the activity of central government, time constraints were unavoidable, and he mentioned that there was a motion to be considered at the full meeting of SCC this week to request a delay of a year in the County Council elections due in Spring 2021.

b. Draft Climate Strategy.

This is being formulated at present.

c. Hinkley Point.

Steady progress continues here with bio safety measures in operation to deal with any Covid cases.

5. District Councillors' reports:

None.

6. Planning:

No new applications.

7. Correspondence:

a. Footpath fingerpost in Ward Lane.

Ian Medland, Footpath officer, has kindly sent in a report to the meeting and the Clerk said the queries he raised about footpath BW 8/7 behind the churchyard and running down to Springfield Cottages in Ward Lane had been almost dealt with by the Clerk having a word with the residents concerned. He added that Ian had requested to be included in the list receiving agendas and minutes of meetings in future.

Following reference to the Chair and Vice-chair, the membership of "Open Spaces" had not been renewed this year, (saving £45).

b. Covid-19 survey.

The Clerk reported that this survey, designed at understanding the barriers people are facing adhering to Government guidelines to stop the spread of the virus. Unfortunately the survey ran for just two weeks and closed on Friday 13th November.

c. Christmas Parking in Sedgemoor.

SDC have announced that it will be offering free parking in all of its car parks for the three

weekends leading up to Christmas.

d. Free Spring Bulbs.

The Clerk reported that SDC were offering a sack of spring bulbs to each parish again this year. It was agreed to offer these to Rhiannon and Jason Buckton for use within the parish public areas.

8. Matter arising from the correspondence:

None.

9. Finance:

Balances after allowing for items to be cleared:

Lloyds Bank current account	£ 7444.00.
“ “ deposit	“ £ 2.48.
Cambridge BS	“ £ 12372.04 (earmarked funds).

There were three cheques to issue:

No 710	£81.00	payee	CN Fry	(Brushcutter training – drawn between meetings).
No 711	£152.47	“	“	(November net salary).
No 712	£108.92	“	“	(expenses).
No 713	£455.00	“	“	(To P Clapp – Playing field grass cutting).

Precept setting exercise 2021/2022.

The Clerk has sent to the councillors, copies of the actual income /expenditure figures for 2019/2020, actual and projected ones for 2020/2021 and projected ones for 2021/2022, together with supporting comments.

Following a discussion, when it was noted the precept going back over the past three years had been £8500, £7500 and £7500, and bearing in mind the VE Day celebrations meant the £1000 earmarked to go towards the costs of the weekend was not required by the village hall committee earlier this year, so that reserves at the end of 2020/2021 were estimated at £4896, the Chairman proposed a Precept for 2021/2022 at £8000 to give an estimated surplus of £278 at 2021/2022 year end, with estimated reserves at £5174 to allow for unforeseen expenditure. This was seconded by Marion Dethier and all agreed.

10. Any other business and date of next meeting.

Any other business:

a. Telephone box library.

The Chairman reported that Karen Medland had volunteered to take over from Sarah Sutcliffe, who set up the library and who was soon to leave the village. This was welcomed and the Chairman expressed the gratitude of the council to Sarah for all her good work.

b. The Badger Cull.

Jo Smoldon has sent an email requesting the councillors listen to the recording of South Somerset District Council discussing the badger cull - go to: -

<https://youtu.be/qwoZS3kn?t=S5DC>

Date of next meeting Monday 21st December 2020 at 7.30 pm.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.06 pm.