

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Cllrs. Mary Clothier, Marion Dethier (Chair), Russell Harnes, Simon Howes and Karen Medland.

Also present: None.

In attendance: The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Brian Gale and Rodney Young. Cllr Anthony Betty (SDC).
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 26th September 2022** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

a. Footpath Officer's report: -

Ian Medland's report this month advises the brush cutter/trimmer course for the new volunteer will take place on 28th October 2022 at the Blake Training Centre in Middlezoy, following which Ian will ensure SCC officially recognises the new volunteer. (The Clerk has arranged for the invoice to be forwarded to him for settlement in due course).

Strimming has continued along footpath BW 8/2 from the church towards Bawdrip.

Two missing fingerposts have been replaced at Red Track (Ward Lane) and beside Croftside in Front Street. The third one reported missing, at the entrance to footpath BW 8/6 at Parchey (leading eventually to Aller), is still awaited, SCC advise the posts are out of stock and new ones are on order.

The Clerk said he would liaise with Ian and clear up what seems to be a misunderstanding about exactly what support Ian is requesting from the PC. Karen Medland said it was to do with the replacement of the third fingerpost mentioned above.

b. Chedzoy Climate Change Project update.

The Clerk said he has received a Climate Emergency Fund Project Evaluation and Monitoring Report form from Natasha Tremelling, support officer for the administration of the Climate Emergency (CE) Fund. He said he would liaise as appropriate and complete and return this.

A planting exercise has taken place at the playing field, with the matting in the centre of the pump track having been taken up and stored at the Chair's house, and the area planted out. Further planting is scheduled this weekend and a tree planting exercise on 12th November 2022. Maintenance of the bus shelter garden is also planned.

John Paige is liaising about the siting of the jubilee beacon at the bus shelter garden. The beacon may well be needed in the future, perhaps at the time of the coronation of King Charles in 2023.

c. Chedzoy Playing Field Association amenity grant.

The Clerk confirmed that the RTL2 funds of £793 have been transferred from Stawell to Chedzoy and an application form is with the association for completion and submission to SDC in due course.

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Simon Howes that the amenity grant be granted at the same level as last year (£270), and unanimously agreed.

With the retirement of the playing field grass-cutter at the end of the year, the association is actively seeking alternatives and the Clerk was asked to place this matter on the agenda of the next meeting when further developments can be discussed.

d. Local Community Networks (LCNs).

Due to time constraints surrounding the closing date of the LCN consultation, the Parish Council has already submitted its considered response to the consultation, and broadly supported Proposal A, with the preference for more “levels” parishes to be included, together with the inclusion of Bridgwater in our LCN, in order to bring the population level up to a more acceptable level. The fact that we have very little in common with North Petherton was also mentioned in the response.

The response was a draft one and a motion to convert it to a formal one was proposed by Simon Howes, seconded by the Chair and unanimously agreed.

The Parish Council has been asked to support a letter drawn up by several “Levels” parishes in which they state their preference that more such parishes are included in the same LCN. Following a discussion the general consensus was favourable, but with the addition of Bridgwater within the LCN to bring the population total up to a more acceptable level. On receipt of this letter the Clerk successfully negotiated a two day extension to enable the submission to be made by 19th October 2022. Anthony Betty was phoned during the meeting and accepted the position. The necessary motion to take this line was proposed by Mary Clothier, seconded by Karen Medland and unanimously agreed.

The Clerk as asked to respond to Anthony promptly the day after this meeting.

e. Glebe House development.

Concern was shown at the last meeting that condition 8 of the planning approval for application no 18/19/00001/DT, concerning the need for remedial action to contain the surface drainage of water from the site so that it does not flow on to the highway. The Clerk reported that he has sent an email to the SDC planners asking them to confirm the position

on this point, and when he receives a response then further appropriate action can follow. If it transpires condition 8 has not been addressed then the SDC enforcement team could be involved.

Councillors expressed their unease that the matter of the piles of slate pieces placed on both sides of the entrance to Glebe House had not been raised with the planners and asked the Clerk to send a strongly worded letter to the developers regarding both issues.

f. LGA Model Code of Conduct – consider adoption.

The Clerk has sent a copy of the code to all councillors so they could acquaint themselves with the terms of the code.

A motion to adopt the code was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Russell Harmes and unanimously agreed.

g. Final request to spend RTL2 funds before SDC ceases to exist.

Covered under #3 above.

h. Telephone Kiosk Library.

Karen Medland brought up the problem of the poor state of the former telephone kiosk library, saying she was holding the specialist paint (handed over when the former care taker moved away). Karen said that, with the aid of a couple of volunteers, the refurbishment of the kiosk could be carried out in spring 2023.

The signage of the library facility was discussed and it was felt that that of say the Burrowbridge kiosk, where the “telephone” sign has been replaced with ”Library” would be better.

The Clerk was asked to place this matter of the on the agenda of the February 2023 meeting so matters could be advanced appropriately.

i. Fingerpost at CrossTree.

Karen Medland brought up the matter of the poor state of the Cross Tree fingerpost. She said a friend of hers, who used to be a Catcott Parish Councillor and had been on the necessary training course (required by the local council before restoration can be carried out), was prepared to offer advice to Chedzoy, should we wish it. Voluntary labour would be required.

A motion to spend up to £100 on paint was proposed by Simon Howes, seconded by the Chair and unanimously agreed.

The Clerk was asked to place this matter on the agenda of the February 2023 meeting.

j. Alterations to gateway near the children’s’ home in Chedzoy Lane.

The Clerk reported that he had referred this to SDC planners, who have in turn referred it to the enforcement team, who are taking appropriate action. They will keep the parish council

up dated on developments.

k. Cars speeding through the village.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk reported he had approached Stawell Parish Council, suggesting that a speed watch team be set up, with the intention of covering each other's patch. The response was unenthusiastic but there could be a response following the publication of the Stawell PC minutes on the village website.

Karen Medland has obtained details of setting up a speed watch team, and two parishioners have expressed an interest.

The Chair said she would liaise with these parishioners and report back to the next meeting.

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

4. County Councillor's report: - None.

5. District Councillors' reports: - None.

6. Planning: -

a. Application number: -18/22/0000/CM.

Application Type: - Full Planning Permission.

Applicant: - Mr Horsfield.

Location: - The Cottage, Ward Lane, Chedzoy Bridgwater TA7 8RN.

Co-ordinates: - E 334219.13 N 137683.74.

Proposal: - Erection of porch to the front (SE) elevation and re-rendering works to the front (SE) and side (NW and SW) elevations to the main house.

This application was discussed with Karen Medland saying she had spoken to the nearest immediate neighbour who had confirmed no problem with the proposal.

It was proposed by Russell Harmed and seconded by Mary Clothier (with unanimous agreement) that the Clerk advises SDC planners that Chedzoy Parish Council supports the application.

b. Reference: - 18/22/00006/JB.

Application Type: - Work on Trees.

Applicant: - c/o Agent.

Location: - The Old Coach House, Front Street, Chedzoy, Bridgwater TA7 8RB.

Co-ordinates: - E: 333992.31 N: 137490.14.

Proposal: - Crown reduce height of two limes (T1 and T2) by 2-3m (20%), reduce lateral branches by 1-2m and crown lift by 2-3m above ground level.

The Chair said there are several large dead trees which present a danger to buildings at the location.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Russell Harmes and unanimously agreed that the Clerk advises SDC planners that Chedzoy Parish Council supports the application.

7. Correspondence: -

a. Levels Climate Forum.

A SCOP II Climate Conference is being organised to shadow the Cop 27 Climate Summit in Egypt, to be held at the Edgar Hall Somerton TA11 6SB on Saturday 5th November 2022.

The Clerk was asked to send the details to all councillors and place the matter on the agenda of the next meeting.

b. Clerk's LGR update meetings.

Cllr. Diogo Rodrigues (SCC) kindly arranged for the Clerk to receive an invite to attend the virtual fortnightly half hour meetings attended by the LGR programme team. He has yet to attend.

c. Oil heating grants.

Following an announcement on 19th September 2022, grants of £100 are to be made to everyone who relies on oil-fired heating.

The Clerk was asked to post a suitably worded entry on the village Facebook page, to make parishioners aware of it.

d. Voter Registration Forms.

Members of the public who have not responded to this will be receiving a visit from an SDC official (who will carry ID).

e. SWP winter hours at recycling sites.

Somerset's 16 recycling sites have gone on to their winter opening hours. On their opening days sites will open from 9 am to 5 pm, and at weekends (9 am to 4 pm).

f. SALC – Exiting Changes.

Following receipt of funding from SCC public health department, SALC have appointed two new members of staff: -

A health and wellbeing officer and a business and council support officer.

The Clerk was asked to email these details to the councillors.

8. Matter arising from the correspondence: -

a. Protocol when the Clerk forwards information to councillors.

Simon Howes requested that the Clerk includes brief information about the content of items he forwards to councillors.

9. Finance:

Balances after due allowance of all outstanding items: -

Lloyds Bank current account £12183,75 (PC) £11426.32 (CCCP) £757.45.
“ “ deposit “ £ 2.48.
Cambridge BS “ £ 12401.82 (earmarked funds).

Four cheques to issue: -

No 813 £216.40 payee CN Fry (October net salary).
No 814 £186.00 “ Blake Training (Brush cutter/strimmer course).
No 815 £240.00 “ PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fee).
No 816 £57.82 “ CN Fry (expenses).

No 808 £270.00 “ CPFA (now completed).

10. Any other business.

a. Spring bulbs 2022.

We have received this allocation and they were passed to Mary Clothier.

b. LGA Webinar: - Councillor Safety and on-line safety for councillors.

The Local Government Association is arranging webinars on this topic. The next one is on Wednesday 7th December 2022 from 1.30 pm to 3 pm.

The Clerk was asked to send details to all councillors to see who might like to attend.

c. Planning intentions for field beside the church.

Ian Medland has very helpfully sent the Chair an email in which he details activity he witnessed in July 2022 concerning possible pre-planning permission activity for the field beside the church. Drone activity over the field and surrounding area was taking place, controlled from the dis-used farm yard off Pig Lane. He spoke to someone involved who advised him that they were surveying the land to establish levels and potential drainage issues.

The suspicion is that this activity could be in preparation for the submission of a planning application for a substantial number of new homes.

Mary Clothier said the planning training she recently attended emphasised the need for any opposition to planning applications to be made very firmly and as soon as possible after applications are submitted.

Karen Medland said Chedzoy should give serious thought to producing a Design Statement in a way similar to that of Othery. It was suggested the matter be considered and each future parish council meeting, concentrating on one aspect at a time. Each councillor was

encouraged to study Othery's Design Statement and the Clerk was asked to place the matter on the agenda of the next meeting.

d. **Independent Visitor and Advocacy for Children in Somerset.**

Independent advocates are being sought for vulnerable children and young people in Somerset.

For more information visit: -

www.route1advocacy.co.uk
Route1businesssupportadmin@somerset.gov.uk
Telephone 01749 822801.

e. **Badger Cull.**

Simon Howes said he spoke to a badger cull protestor on the way to this meeting, who told him that the current cull would end in about 12 days or so.

In the meantime parishioners should be aware of possible noise nuisance with drone activity, whistles and torches etc. – after dark.

Date of next meeting Monday 21st November 2022.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.