

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 16th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM.

Present: - Cllrs. Graham Bentley, Marion Dethier (Chair), Simon Howes and Rodney Young.

Also present: - None.

In attendance: - The Clerk (Chris Fry) and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllrs. Mary Clothier and Andy Dingwall (SC).
2. **Minutes of the last regular meeting of 18th September 2023** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

a. Footpath Officer's activity.

No report this month.

b. CCCP project update.

The Clerk has received an email from the playing field committee this afternoon, and one in response from Mary Clothier, both of which he forwarded to all councillors upon receipt.

The playing field committee points out that, when it agreed that certain elements of the CCCP (hedging, trees, wild plants etc.) being installed at the field, it did so with the express caveat that it did not have the resources (time and financial) to maintain the planting. Volunteers have, in the last few days, begun clearing the mess of weeds and grass overtaking the areas of CCCP planting at the field. The playing field committee points out that this level of on-going maintenance cannot be sustained.

Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting at the playing field between Marion Dethier, Mary Clothier, himself and a person recommended who is interested in carrying out the necessary maintenance work, explaining requirements with a view to obtaining costings.

c. Chedzoy Village Design Statement – update.

The Chair reported on a recent sub-committee meeting, saying that it was decided to pause matters for the time being for the following reasons: -

1. The Unitary Authority will be publishing its new local plan, in due course, and the Chedzoy Design Statement would need to take account of that.
2. It seems likely that there will be an increase in housing development in the future due to a possible change of government, the relaxation of mineral regulations and new planning law).
3. The prescribed process of either a design statement or a full parish plan would involve a consultation process.

The Clerk was asked to carry out a review of PC minutes during the time when Chedzoy was moved from an “unsustainable” to a “Teir 4” development grading. Looking at the background circumstances and the possibility of requesting a change back to the previous “unsustainable” grading. and report back to the next meeting.

d. Speed watch team update.

The Chair asked the Clerk to report on his enquiries of a volunteer team member. He said he understood that SC Highways needed to upgrade the road signage (roundels and repeater signs) in Chedzoy Lane, to allow the police to carry out the necessary data collection.

Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to follow up with Streetwise the estimated timing of the upgrading work.

e. Parish Council vacancy.

Two applicants to fill the vacancy have come forward and it is now up to the PC to co-opt a new member.

Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to invite the applicants to a meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair, following which they would make recommendations to the PC. We are looking to hold that meeting on Monday 23rd October at 6.30 in the village hall.

f. Cycle Track extension at the Chedzoy Lane/A39 junction.

Improvements to the cycle track entrance are now complete, and the work was achieved without the complete closure of Chedzoy Lane.

The Clerk was asked to thank both Diogo Rodrigues and Andy Dingwall (SC) for their assistance in the matter.

g. CIL Payment – 2021/2022 return.

The Clerk reported that the £2240 payment received in that year was fully utilised in the purchase of the SID (costing £2677 plus vat).

h. Overgrown hedge in Manor Road.

The Clerk has reported this problem to “Homes in Sedgemoor”.

i. LCN meeting – 20th September 2023 at Westonzoyland.

Rodney Young attended this and reported as follows: -

The meeting was well attended and there was much enthusiasm. Data surrounding the 33,600 population of the Levels and Moors LCN area was collated under various headings. Areas of mutual concern included speeding, flooding, transport and active transport (running, walking, cycling etc).

Two groups have been set up, covering: -

1. Active travel.
2. Health and wellbeing.

The next LCN meeting will be held on Monday 13th November 2023 – venue TBA.

4. County Councilor’s report –

None.

5. Planning – no new applications.

Review of 2023 applications: -

Reference no 18/23/00001 – Parchey View – construction of a triple garage with external staircase and hobbies room above – under consideration.

Reference no 18/23/00003 – Parchey View – retrospective application for use of land as a vehicle training centre - under consideration.

Reference no 18/23/00004 – Fowlers Plot Farm - application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed extension of an agricultural building – refused permission.

Application number 18/22/00007 – Parchey View – Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of storage yard for business purposes (use class B8) – originally refused permission. This has gone to appeal under reference number APP/V3310/X/23/3325523.

6. Correspondence.

a. SALC affiliation fee 2023/2024.

The £121.22 fee has been requested via BACS.

7. Matters arising from the correspondence: - none.

8. Finance.

Balances after due allowance for any outstanding items: -

Lloyds bank current account: - £12427.68 (PC £11106.84 CCCP £1320.84)

“ “ deposit “ : -£2.48.

Cambridge BS EA account: -£10322.17 (earmarked funds).

Six cheques to issue:

No 851 £146.28 payee CN Fry (expenses – replacing no 843 returned “words and figures differ”)

No 852 £121.22 “ “ (SALC affiliation fee 2023/2024 – via BACS).

No 853 £285.00 “ “ (October net salary).

No 854 £40.00 “ Oxford rural (allotment rent).

No 855 £ 47.07 “ CN Fry (expenses).

No 856 £355.00 “ CPFA (playing field grass cutting to date).

A discussion took place concerning the precept setting exercise for 2024/2025.

The Clerk was asked to enquire the levels of amenity grants for that year from Chedzoy churchyard, village hall and playing field. A discussion will take place at the November meeting with a decision on the 2024/2025 precept being taken at the December meeting.

9. Any other business.

a. ‘Fangtastic’ advice for cutting Halloween waste.

A letter has been received suggesting ways of cutting Halloween waste and this will be displayed on the PC notice board.

For more information visit: - www.somerset.gov.uk/SeasonalWaste

b. Taunton recycling site fire.

The Taunton recycling site will remain closed for the foreseeable future following the fire which began earlier this month.

The Wellington and Bridgwater site will remain open seven days a week until the Taunton site can safely reopen.

c. Badger cull activists.

Although the Parish Council understands that this year's badger cull may have been suspended, there have been reports of nocturnal activity, possibly by activists against the practice, around the village.

Parishioners should take note of this.

d. Postal service delays.

Simon Howes brought up this continuing problem, which is being experienced in many areas.

e. Large pothole at Fowlers Plot.

Graham Bentley reported on this and supplied photos of it. This was the site of a potentially serious cycling accident a few weeks ago (involving the air ambulance).

The Clerk was asked to report this to SC Highways.

Date of next meeting Monday 20th November 2023.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.38pm

