

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 26th September 2022 AT 7.30 PM.**

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

Also present: Cllrs Diogo Rodrigues and Andy Dingwall (SCC).

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Anthony Betty (SDC).
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 18th July 2022** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

a. **Footpath Officer's report:** -

Ian's report covered strimming activity, which has resumed in earnest in September following the excessive heat of the summer. He has found a committed new volunteer who he is anxious to get trained to use the brush cutter/trimmer, and Ian is requesting the PC fund the £186 inclusive cost. A suitable course run by Blake Training is available on 28th October. The Chair proposed that the PC covers this cost, which was seconded by Simon Howes with all in favour.

The Clerk has confirmed the booking and arranged for the invoice to be sent to the PC.

Ian is requesting the support of the PC with a particular issue with footpath BW 8/25, and the Clerk is asking for further details on this.

b. **Chedzoy Climate Change Project update.**

Tamyls have now professionally marked the boundary of the strip of land behind the church, and the boundary fence installed. Simon Howes explained that this fence, installed at a cost of £1580 (incl) is an interim measure suitable until the land is required as the burial ground extension. The remaining Cambridge balance of £10821.82 will continue to be held as earmarked funds.

The possibility of planting a hedge along the boundary was discussed, with the need for maintenance and hedge laying. No conclusion was reached.

Further CCCP activity includes maintenance of the bus shelter garden. It is felt that the Willow Dome at the playing field will need specialist pruning.

There was a miscommunication regarding the inside of the 'pump track'. The Playing Field Committee assumed that as the Fair Share Project undertook to mat the inner area for planting with leftover matting from another site, it would also fund the planting. As this was not part of the original bid the cost of planting would fall on the

Playing Field Committee. Mary Clothier undertook to relay this to the PFC. As they have no funds for this it was to be left to the PFC to decide the next step. If possible the matting should be lifted for possible reuse elsewhere.

c. Jubilee Beacon equipment.

John Paige is storing the jubilee beacon and he will liaise with Mary Clothier about the most appropriate place to site it when the garden is tidied up.

d. Amenity grant applications.

1. Chedzoy village hall committee.

As agreed at the last meeting, a grant of £250 has been agreed.

2. St Mary's Churchyard.

Some further information has been received and the treasurer (present at the meeting) was invited to take part in the discussion.

The £1200 applied for would cover the basic grass cutting costs, allowing the churchyard reserves of £6457 (as at 31st December 2021) to cover other substantial maintenance issues, including weed control of the gutters, which has not been attended to for at least two years.

The annual PC grant is the only regular churchyard income and other funds are sporadic. The last bequest received was in 2019. Income from grave stone installation is irregular and for the most part modest. It is not unusual for the churchyard reserves to decline by about £1000 per year.

Simon Howes reminded the meeting that, should the church become redundant then the entire maintenance costs of the churchyard would become the responsibility of the local council, The Church treasurer said the cost of employing contractors would be very significant. Simon said that no allowance was made under the precept setting exercise for the current year for any increase in funding, but with the PC reserves standing at about £7400, he proposed that the grant be increased by £325 (to £877) this year with the PC giving consideration to the possibility of considering any further increase at the next precept setting exercise. This was seconded by the Chair , all in favour.

3. Chedzoy Playing Field Association.

The annual PC amenity grant is the only regular source of income to the association. They have sufficient funds to cover the fixed costs of approx. £800 this year, but , as detailed at the July meeting, there is an ever growing need for the fence along the left hand side, nearest to the play equipment to be renewed, at a cost estimated to be in excess of £3500.

Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to follow up on Liz Perry's (SDC) mention at the July meeting of SDC grant funding being available for such

playing field improvements (see minute item 18/07/2022 5 (a)).

The Clerk advised that Stawell PC has indicated its possible willingness to gift its RTL2 funds (standing at £793) to Chedzoy as it has no playing field itself, see item 7(g) below.

The Clerk was asked to place this matter on the agenda of the next meeting, when a decision can be taken about the level of PC amenity grant funding, in the light of the further information being sought.

e. Local Community Networks invite and re issue of briefing packs.

Diogo Rodrigues and Andy Dingwall are holding an open discussion on the LCN consultation (closing on 17th October 2022), for Clerks and Chairs, at a Teams meeting on Monday 10th October 2022 (19.00 – 20.30), with the aim being for them to assess and take into account the feelings of parishes.

The Chair suggested the councillors get together at her home on Wednesday 5th October at 7pm to formulate a joint approach.

Diogo has since sent the Clerk details of the Somerset LCN Community Conference being held at Westlands entertainment centre, 1 Westbourne Close, Yeovil BA20 2DD on Tuesday 4th October (9.00 – 16.00) which the Clerk and Chair will attend.

f. Glebe House development.

Following the last meeting the Clerk contacted the developers, Messrs Harris Bros and Collard, to raise the concerns of the PC as detailed in the minutes of that meeting. A response was eventually received, with the developers saying the slate pieces were only a temporary solution and with the contracts of sale of Glebe House having been exchanged, they felt the new owners would replace them, although they felt there was little movement of the slates on to the highway. The grass verges have recovered to a satisfactory state.

Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to send a strongly worded letter to the developers pointing out the fact that it was a condition of planning approval that a French drain be installed at the entrance.

g. Dog fouling problems.

Following the last meeting the Clerk hand delivered a letter to all Parchey residents, appealing for their help in tracking down the culprit placing dog mess inside the entrance gate of footpath BW 8/6. He has attached a sign to the bus shelter bin (no dog mess please), together with a “no fouling – maximum penalty £1000” at the gate entrance. He checked a few days ago and there was nothing there.

4. County Councillor’s report: -

Andy Dingwall reported that SCC has been awarded Central Government support of £9

million to support bus services throughout the county, which has resulted in a £2 maximum single ticket price being applied. Bus passenger numbers are well below pre pandemic levels and services have been cut as a consequence. Two all-electric buses have been purchased. The new CEO of SCC has been appointed, Duncan Sharkey (formerly CEO of Windsor and Maidenhead), and the new Lord Lieutenant of Somerset is Mohammed Saddiq.

Diogo Rodrigues reported on a further deterioration of SCC finances, with the current overspend estimated to be £23.9 million.

Both Andy and Diogo reminded the meeting that they always welcomed questions.

5. **District Councillors' reports:** - None.

6. **Planning:** -

Application number: -18/22/00004.

Application Type: - Full Planning Permission.

Applicant: - Mr A Jakins.

Location: - White Hart Cottages, Ward Lane, Chedzoy Bridgwater TA7 8RL.

Co-ordinates: - E 334173.50 N 137665.10.

Proposal: - Retrospective for the erection of a porch to south elevation.

On receipt of these details, and to negate the need for a special planning meeting, the Clerk negotiated an extension on the comments due date until 20th September (the day after the then planned PC meeting). He then visited the location and spoke to the house holder who confirmed that the new porch was probably allowed under "permitted development" (as the builder had advised them), but they have decided to obtain planning permission just to be on the safe side.

With the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, and the date of her funeral being 19th September, there was insufficient time to re-arrange a PC meeting before the planning officer was required to decide on the matter. He confirmed that there had not been any comments from neighbours and permission has now been granted. Therefore no PC comments are now required.

7. **Correspondence:** -

a. **LGR Scrutiny Committee observations.**

Since the last meeting Diogo Rodrigues has very helpfully shared his key observations of the committee's meeting of Friday 19th August, with the PC. Progress at that time seemed to be somewhat disappointing with anticipated LGR cost savings looking less certain, concerns over staff shortages and little clarity on LCNs.

b. **Avon and Somerset PCC Street Safe Tool.**

This Street Safe Tool allows local people to anonymously tell Avon and Somerset Police and Partners about public places where they feel or have felt unsafe.

The tool has been introduced as part of the Government's response to tackling violence against women and girls, but all local people are being encouraged to use the tool to help identify areas where there are fears caused by anti-social behaviour and environment issues including lack of street lighting, abandoned buildings and vandalism.

No crime needs to have been committed in order for local people to indicate where they feel unsafe. Please remember that the Street Safe Tool should not be used to report crimes.

To report crimes visit: -

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report>

Visit the Street Safe Tool via: -

<https://www.police.uk/pu/notices/streetsafe/street-safe/>

c. Important information for unpaid carers.

Somerset Care can provide support to unpaid carers, including people who are not in receipt of carer's allowance.

It is difficult to access unpaid carers because some people don't see themselves as unpaid carers, and they may be looking after their partner, child or a friend. It is important to make people aware of the support they are entitled to.

Go to: -

communicationsteam@groups.gov.uk

d. Grit bin process.

SCC Highways will shortly be replenishing the roadside grit bin near the old telephone kiosk, ahead of the winter.

e. LGA Model Code of Conduct – adoption and training session 12th October 2022.

Held over till the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to forward an electronic copy to the councillors for their perusal.

f. SCC Chair's Award for Services to the Community 2022/2023 – 17th February 2023.

The deadline for the return of nominations is Monday 31st October 2022.

For more information: -

Telephone 01823 56804 email: - becky.angel@somerset.org.uk and www.somerset.gov.uk

g. Final request to spend RTL2 funds before SDC ends.

Parishes with RTL2 funds are reminded that they must apply for the use of their remaining RTL2 funds or agree to transfer them to a neighbouring parish prior to 31st December 2022. This will allow the money to be spent before the council is abolished on 31st March 2023.

The funds must be spent within the named parish or a neighbouring one (where a physical boundary is shared), if this represents a more effective use of the funds.

RTL2 spend criteria: -

1. Acquisition of land for play space.
2. New playground equipment.
3. Ancillary items for the playground i.e. gates, litter bins, signs etc.

Although Chedzoy has no RTL2 funds, Stawell does and it has been suggested that, as they have no playing field, they may be agreeable to transfer and utilise these funds to Chedzoy, within the time-frame specified.

The Clerk was asked to take matters forward with the playing field association.

h. Clerk's and Councillors' Direct magazine.

The September issue has been received.

i. Finger post at Cross Tree.

Held over until the next meeting.

j. Telephone Kiosk Library.

Held over until the next meeting.

k. KSD enhancements.

Simon Howes reported on an email he had sent to the Environment Agency about dangerous incidents caused by their contractors travelling to and from the KSD site at the beginning and end of the working day. He said an improvement was subsequently seen.

l. New Gateway, Higher Rd

The clerk was asked to enquire as to whether planning permission required for new wider entrance and rules regarding the gravel where it joins the road as there may be safety implications for 2 wheel transport. Cllr Young thought there were rules

regarding this.

8. **Matter arising from the correspondence:** - None.

9. **Finance:**

Balances after due allowance of all outstanding items: -

Lloyds Bank current account £14065.18 (PC) £13307.73 (CCCP) £757.45.
“ “ deposit “ £ 2.48.
Cambridge BS “ £ 12401.82 (earmarked funds).

Eleven cheques to issue: -

No 801 £216.40 payee CN Fry (September net salary).
No 802 £ 90.94 “ “ (expenses).
No 803 £50.05 “ S Howes (Jubilee beacon gas).
No 804 £162.20 “ HMRC (paye Jul/Aug/Sep).
No 805 £40.00 “ Oxford Rural (Allotment field half yearly rent).
No 806 £116.65 “ SALC (Affiliation fee 2022/2023).
No 807 £65.00 “ CN Fry (Tamlyn's deposit reimbursement).
No 808 “ CPFA (Held over until next meeting).
No 809 £250.00 “ CVHC (Amenity grant 2022/2023).
No 810 £877.00 “ St Mary's churchyard (Amenity grant 2022/2023).
No 811 £547.43 “ Tamlyns (Marking land boundary fee).
No 812 £1580.00 “ Wynns Hill Farm (Fence installation).

The new Lloyds Bank mandate has been confirmed.

CCCP £85.00 Somerset Food Trail Event – 20th July – credit received.

Allotment rent from plot holders up to date.

£4100.00 2022/2023 Precept second tranche received.

10. **Any other business.**

a. **Cars speeding through the village.**

The Chair invited public participation.

There was a general feeling that cars travelling at excessive speed and in potentially dangerous ways are becoming a regular occurrence in the village.

Karen Medland said the police needed to have accurate data in order to take action. Diogo Rodrigues (SCC) said that various traffic calming measures might be possible based on data analysis from the SID.

The possibility of setting up a Community Speedwatch Team, possibly to team up with a neighbouring parish (i.e. Stawell) , to enable the teams to cover each other's patch, to reduce any invective between offending neighbours, was discussed.

The advantages and disadvantages of speed bumps were discussed and although they slow traffic down and possibly increase driver awareness of speed,

it can also be said they simply slow traffic down at the speed bump site, only to speed away when moving away.

A former Chairman of the PC said it is important to deter speeding drivers and he suggested moving the SID periodically between different locations might deter potential culprits.

Mary Clothier said there was a suitable telegraph post outside her home that could be used.

The Chair said the possible legal implications from pointing CCTV cameras on to areas outside your own home (i.e. the highway) should be taken on board.

For further information go to: -

<https://ioc.orf.uk/your-data-matters/domestic-cctv-systems-guidance-for-people-using-cctv/>

Karen Medland kindly said she would liaise with the local police about how speed watch can be set up.

The Clerk (also the Clerk of Stawell PC) was asked to raise the pairing possibility at their next meeting.

Simon Howes kindly said he would look into the data capture facility of the SID.

The Avon and Somerset PCC website gives details of equipment and training available.

The Chair reminded the meeting that there was probably significant cost implications with many of the things discussed.

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

b. Domestic CCTV systems.

Covered under 10 (a) above.

c. Somerset Energy Saver Campaign.

The Somerset Energy Saver is a free online hub with advice for residents on how to make energy saving changes to their home.

For more information please visit: -

www.somersetenergysaver.co.uk

d. Othery Village Design Statement.

Anthony Batty (SDC) has forwarded an electronic copy of this.

The Clerk was asked to send this to the councillors.

e. **Protocol to improve email communications with Parish Councillors.**

File format.

The Clerk was asked to ensure all documents, agendas and minutes should be sent in a universally available format such as pdf.

Forwarding emails from the Clerk to Parish Councillors.

The Clerk was asked to avoid forwarding without an explanation and instructions on the nature of the forwarded message and any action required.

Please avoid using "FYI" as this requires every councillor to read every message and interpret what, if anything, they should do.

A few guiding words should be included in the forwarded message such as, "please read before next meeting", "please see the response to our query (insert ref)", please respond to me (or a third party), if appropriate" etc.

f. **Badger Cull.**

A member of the public reported some seriously suspicious nocturnal activity, possible surrounding the current badger cull, with gun fire being heard at all hours of the night by those licenced to carry out the cull.

He felt the general public should be aware of this.

The date of the next meeting – Monday 17th October 2022.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.38 pm.