

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 18th September 2023 AT 7.30 PM.

Present: - Cllrs. Mary Clothier, Marion Dethier (Chair), Russell Harnes, Simon Howes and Rodney Young.

Also present: - Cllr. Andy Dingwall (SC).

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

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr. Graham Bentley.
2. **Minutes of the last regular meeting of 17th July 2023** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

a. Footpath Officer's activity.

No report this month. It was noted that the second strimmer has been active.

b. CCCP project update.

It is understood that a further planting session will be required of saplings which will complete the tree line in Northfield. This to take place following the harvesting of the maize crop.

c. Chedzoy Village Design Statement – update.

The Chair said she was still awaiting information from Andy Dingwall (SC) and he confirmed that he was still awaiting replies to his enquiries.

The Chair received a comprehensive response to questions raised at the last subcommittee meeting from Nicke Tait (service manager – policy) at Somerset Council

Matters will be progressed at the next sub-committee meeting (TBA).

d. Parish Council vacancy.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that it is now up to the PC to co-opt a new member.

Please would any parishioner interested in joining the PC to contact the Clerk by 9th October 2023, contact details as follows: -

E mail: - cnfry@talktalk.net mobile: - 07796794037.

e. Playing Field committee.

The Clerk reported on a conversation he had with the current Chair of the CPFA, when she advised that she wished stand down and nobody had come forward to take over.

The Clerk was asked to establish the position following a recent meeting of the CPFA and report back to the next meeting.

(Since this PC meeting it appears that a new committee member is willing to take over, and the current Chair has agreed to stay on while she settles in).

4. County Councilor's report –

a. Somerset Council finances.

The current financial position has been described as “stark and challenging”, with the current year's shortfall estimated to be £28.6 million. Last year's overspend was £18 million. Reserves as at the inception of the Unitary Council stood at approximately £100 million and so unless something dramatic happens to improve things, it seems likely that Somerset Council is likely to lodge a Section 114 notice in just a couple of years. Should this happen, Central Government would appoint Commissioners to run essential services (those that the council is legally required to provide) with other ones being under threat

Adult and Childrens' social care continues to be the largest expense the council faces.

b. Bridgwater roundabouts.

The remaining roundabouts to be redesigned in the town may well include advertising features.

c. Covid/ flu vaccinations.

These are now taking place for those who qualify and invitations will be issued.

5. Planning –

Application number: - 18/23/00003.

Applicant: - Mr H Meadows.

Location: - Land to the south of Parchey View, Ward Lane, Chedzoy Bridgwater TA7.

Proposal: - Retrospective application for the use of land as a training centre.

A full discussion took place, including an address to the meeting by the applicant.

The adverse effects of heavy plant and ancillary traffic negotiating the narrow lanes both approaching and through the village to the site, remains a major concern to the PC. This has recently caused problems when a very large low loader attempted to access the site via Front Street but failed to negotiate the corner into Ward Lane, requiring it to reverse back to the Front Street/Higher Road junction and to leave the way it had arrived. On another occasion, a pedestrian had to give way due to a large vehicle overhanging a footpath (see Highway safety below).

The applicant indicated that the problem with the crane has diminished to some extent, with the large crane now being housed on site on a permanent basis and needing to be transported away for repairs as and when they are required. He also said it might be possible for low loaders to use an alternative route to and from the site, thereby avoiding the village altogether.

It was felt that specific planning regulations needed to be addressed in the application with specific conditions being placed on any planning consent, if it were to be granted..

It was decided that the PC would comment only at this time. This was unanimously agreed by the councillors and the Clerk was asked to draw up an appropriate submission, liaising with the Chair, to send in to the planning North department. A copy of the submission is attached to these minutes.

Application number 18/22/00007 – this has gone to appeal under reference number APP/V3310/X/23/3325523 and refers to a certificate of lawfulness for existing use of storage yard for business purposes.

6. Correspondence.

a. Overgrown hedge in Manor Road.

This was brought to the attention of the Clerk shortly after the last meeting, with the hedge representing a traffic hazard. He reported it to “Homes in Sedgemoor” and it has now been cutback. A parishioner at this meeting pointed out that although the width of the hedge has been dealt with, the height was now encroaching on overhead power lines.

The Clerk was asked to report this to “Homes in Sedgemoor”.

b. High fence being erected in Manor Drive.

A parishioner reported that the fence would adversely affect the splay vision for vehicles emerging from Manor Drive on to Higher Road to the Chair. She requested the Clerk contact Highways and the planners, who advised that planning permission was required for a fence of this height. The Clerk visited the property and pointed out the situation. The construction has now been halted.

c. Dead fox at the allotment site.

Following receipt of a complaint about a dead fox at the allotment site which was causing a foul smell to adjoining properties as the animal decayed, the Clerk contacted the relevant allotment tenant who was abroad on holiday. He said he would get a friend to deal with it. There ensued some confusion and the problem worsened with the hot weather. The outcome was that the fox was not removed, although the problem has now gone away.

The Clerk was asked to circularise all the allotment tenants to request that any similar problem in the future could be dealt with promptly.

d. Highway safety.

Concern was voiced by councillors about several incidents of late in the village that were considered to be road safety issues, namely: -

Accident in Chedzoy Lane – involving a farm trailer being towed by a tractor, a car and a young man riding a motorcycle. The tractor was turning into a field and the car was stationary behind when the motorcycle, travelling at speed hit the car and slid under the trailer. Thankfully there were no serious injuries. Also, and on the same day there were incidents involving cyclists in the village.

Heavy plant and low loaders - a very large low loader travelling to the Parchey site was unable to negotiate the sharp corner at the church. It has no option than to reverse to the Cross Tree junction and return along Chedzoy Lane. Subsequently a smaller low loader was used.

Road closure notifications - these are sent to the Clerk ahead of planned road closures

and they detail alternative routes for traffic to follow. A recent such notification concerning the installation of a new entry point to the cycle route at the Chedzoy Lane junction with the A39, stated that the road would be closed and that no farm traffic, cars, school and public buses or motorcycles and bicycles would be allowed into the village for a fortnight. The suggested diversion route was through Sutton Mallet and Moorlinch and up to the A39.

Andy Dingwall requested the Clerk let him have the emails concerning the queries he has raised with SC Project Manager – Infrastructure Programmes, and he agreed to take the matter up with Cllr. Mike Rigby – SC executive lead member for transport, and keep the PC advised.

e. Grit bins – Winter 2023/2024.

The Clerk reported that grit bins would be automatically refilled ahead of the Winter by SC Highways – Sedgemoor and Mendip.

f. CIL payments return.

The Clerk is required to complete a return for 2021/2022 of any CIL funds received and how it was spent. He was asked to put this on the agenda of the next meeting.

g. Levels and Moors LCN – 20th September 2023 at Westonzoyland.

The Chair is unable to attend and Rodney Young will be there..

7. Matters arising from the correspondence: - none.

8. Finance.

Balances after due allowance for any outstanding items: -

Lloyds bank current account: - £14948.96 (PC £13628.12 CCCP £1320.84)

“ “ deposit “ : -£2.48.

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

Eight cheques to issue: - (Chq no 841 £45.28 payee Mary Clothier (craft materials) – signed following last meeting).

No 842 £285.00 payee CN Fry (September net salary).

No 843 £146.28 “ “ (expenses).

No 844 £48.00 “ “ (playing field grass – via BACS)

No 845 £252.00 “ PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fee).

No 846 £213.80 “ HMRC (paye Jul/Aug/Sep).

No 847 £1000.00 “ Chedzoy Churchyard (grant 2023/2024).

No 848 £270.00 “ CPFA (amenity grant 2023/2024).

No 849 £293.00 “ CVHC (“ “ “).

Two formal motions covering this year’s amenity grants to CPFA (£270) and CVHC (£293) were proposed by the Chair, seconded by Simon Howes and agreed unanimously.

9. Any other business.

a. SCAM prevention.

With the average age of people being scammed standing at 75, Able Community Care have provided a limited number of door stickers and advice cards on how to avoid being

scammed.

Please would anyone wishing to receive one contact the Clerk on: -

E mail cnfry@talktalk.net or mobile: - 07796794037.

b. Somerset and Exmoor Coast Festival – 23d September to 1st October 2023.

This festival of walking, food and drink, performance, arts and music and coastal celebrations is due to be held shortly. The Clerk has a poster which will be placed on the PC notice board.

c. Somerset Recycling Week.

Details have been received from Somerset Council is launching its “Recycle Week” with a celebration as the latest tracker shows the county’s recycling rate has risen to its highest ever rate - 56.4%.

d. Clerks’ and Councils’ Direct Magazine.

The September edition has been received.

e. Parish Briefing – Flooding.

An update has been received about the recent flash flooding which affected mainly West Somerset.

Anyone affected by flooding can report it on line at: -

<https://swim.geowessex.com/com/somerset> or email flooding@somerset.gov.uk

Date of next meeting Monday 16th October 2023.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

