

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY TELEPHONE  
CONFERENCE CALL ON MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

**Present:** - Cllrs. Brian Gale, Nick Griffiths, Simon Howes (Chairman), Pat Lennard and Rodney Young.

**Also present:** - Cllrs David Hall (SCC) and Liz Perry (SDC).

**In attendance:** - The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1. **Apologies:** - Anthony Betty (SDC) John Paige and Marion Dethier.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:** -

**a. Coronavirus Report (incl. local).**

In the absence of John Paige, no local report was given.

The Clerk read extracts from the latest Somerset County Council coronavirus update, of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Changes to rules on social gatherings from 14<sup>th</sup> September – social gatherings of more than six people are now illegal in England (with some exemptions), amid a rise in coronavirus cases nationally. There has been a rise in coronavirus cases in Somerset, although the number remains low. The changes apply in any setting, indoors and outdoors. The ban will be set out in law and will be enforced by the police. This single measure replaces both the existing ban on gatherings of more than thirty, and the current guidance on allowing two households to meet indoors. It will not, however, apply to schools, workplaces or Covid-secure weddings, funerals and organised team sports.

Hospitality venues, including pubs and restaurants are legally obliged to take contact details and keep them for twenty one days (effective from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

The Chairman said future arrangements for holding Parish Council meetings would remain under review.

**b. Bus shelter tree problem.**

As previously minuted, Rodney Young has managed to obtain agreement from Hi-Line (the contractors employed by Western Power Distribution), to trim the branches of the Yew tree to eradicate the messy berry problem at the same time as the periodic statutory safety pruning is carried out.

**c. Blocked drainage gullies.**

The Chairman outlined the problem which has been brought to his attention by two parishioners who remain concerned over the problem of periodic flooding in Chedzoy Lane outside Temple Farm, caused by a blocked drainage gully. The problem persists even though there has been considerable contact between SCC highways and the adjacent landowner.

Following a discussion it was decided the best way forward would be for the Clerk to arrange a site meeting between Lawrence Hackling (SCC highways), a representative from the parish council, the landowner and David Hall (who has offered to assist). It is felt such a meeting could provide the needed clarity over the complexities of the problem and hopefully lead to a solution to this issue.

**4. County councillor's report.** David reported as follows: -

**a. Proposed unitary authority for Somerset.**

He said the up to date position is that all the constituent councils in the county now support this proposal, with the county council favouring a single unitary authority and the district councils an alternative which would see two authorities. The matter is now before the Secretary of State, who will decide the way forward in due course. David said he thought it would be a good idea for everyone concerned to use the interim time to assess the merits of both options by familiarising themselves with the published proposals. With county council elections scheduled for spring 2020, there is some urgency involved.

**b. SCC Climate Emergence Fund.**

The county council is allocating £1 million in this new scheme, whereby local town and parish councils are being urged to apply for grants of between £5,000 and £75,000 to promote climate friendly initiative such as: -

- Swallow boxes on houses with owner's permission.
- Owl boxes within the parish.
- Bore holes on allotments.
- Parish compositing sites.
- Creation of heritage walking trails.
- Establishment of walking/cycling hubs with notice boards, interactive maps etc.
- Biodiversity study of the parish and associated findings produced into information boards.
- Map parish wildlife with survey and findings etc.
- Further tree planning initiatives.
- Upcycle/recycle/swap shops developed.
- Creation of mini forests in public parks and spaces.

Liz Perry (SDC) said one potential idea being looked at by Sedgemoor included improvements to cycle routes throughout the locality.

A discussion ensued, as a result of which the parish council agreed there was a need to appeal for an enthusiastic person to lead this on behalf of the Parish and spearhead a team of volunteers to consider all options. As we are all aware, action on the climate change agenda is a matter of great urgency.

Applications for grants open on 1st October and so time is short.

Could anyone interested in either leading or simply joining an appropriate team to investigate ideas with a view to making an application please let the Clerk (Chris Fry) know on mobile 0796794037 or email [cnfry@talktalk.net](mailto:cnfry@talktalk.net) , please?

Full details are now available at [www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency)

The Clerk will keep Steve Mewes, Policy and Campaign Manager at Somerset Wildlife Trust updated on the matter.

For more details go to: -

<https://somerset-climate-emergency-community-fund-2020-2021/>

**5. District councillor's report: -**

With little new activity to report, Liz Perry offered to answer questions, and answered one about the solar farm proposal by saying she has heard nothing further, and emphasised the scheme is in the very earliest stage.

**6. Planning: -**

**a. Application number: 18/20/00006/LR.**

**Applicants: Mr and Miss Renehan and Mosedale.**

**Location: Westfield Cottages, Front Street, Chedzoy Bridgwater TA7 8RE.**

**Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension to the rear (NW) and side (SW) elevations.**

The Clerk outlined the application as far as he understood it, and has spoken to the former parish council chair who lives in the adjoining Nine O'clock Cottage, and describes the proposal as not affecting either privacy or natural lighting issues. He has sent a letter of support to the SDC planning portal.

(The present activity on the site related to a previous approved application to replace an old shed with a brick built garage and not the new application).

Following a discussion the Chairman checked individually with all councillors present and a vote was taken through which it was unanimously agreed that the parish council support the proposal, and the Clerk was asked to submit the following comments to the SDC planning department: -

"The Parish Council of Chedzoy supports this application and has no other comment to make".

**b. Manor House Inn reopening.**

The Clerk reported that earlier in the summer (when the reopening was just a rumour), the Chairman asked him to establish that the required planning permission was in place. In reply, Stuart Houlet (SDC) confirmed that all necessary consents were in order.

The Chairman noted that the pub reopening was something of a unique occurrence with the hospitality trade struggling and was welcome news for many.

**c. Planning White Paper.**

The Clerk said this represents the biggest shake-up of planning regulations in over 70 years, and it could have very significant implications for communities and the role of both parish and town councils in the planning system. He was asked to place this on the agenda for the October meeting, when a discussion can take place.

For further information go to: -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf)

## **7. Correspondence.**

### **a. Footpath issues.**

#### **1. Footpath B/W 8/2 – Ward Lane to Northfield running behind the church.**

The footpath officer reported several issues surrounding accessibility at the entrance at Springfield Cottages and the regrading of the Right of Way to the Clerk earlier in the summer, who had made a visit to discuss these matters with the relevant two householders. He is pleased to report the matters have been resolved.

#### **2. Footpath west of the church leading towards Bradney.**

On a more positive note, the footpaths officer has reported that the landowners have cut back the overgrown field edge vegetation all along the path at the side of Northfield to the west of the church, leading to Bradney. He would like to thank them for this.

#### **3. Request for help from the landowners.**

When the landowner ploughed up the hedgerow in 2018 it left a high ridge all along the right of way, leaving the footpath uneven, with some walkers finding difficulty in navigating it. Subsequently it has not flattened as much as was expected over this year. The footpath officer would like to liaise with the landowner and ask that they plough leaving a good path width, and flatten the ridge by tilling right up to the hedge line, which would flatten the path and improve accessibility.

Following a discussion this was agreed to be a good idea and the Clerk was asked to supply the footpath officer with contact details of the landowner so direct contact can be made.

#### **4. Brush cutter training.**

During the summer the Clerk had obtained the agreement for the parish council to agree to cover part of the cost of supplying brush cutter training to the footpath officer. To date no request for payment has been received.

### **b. Somerset Rivers Authority – Annual Report 2019/2020.**

David Hall, as Chairman of the SRA, reviewed this and said it was a very good and constructive report. It continues to be a challenge for the SRA to get all the parties involved to work together – agriculture/drainage/conservationists. Advances have been made with both large and small initiatives from dredging to comparatively modest drainage channels. The SRA are funding the refurbishment of the Northmoor pumping station.

The matter of the granting of full precepting powers to the SRA is still outstanding.

### **c. SDC Budget Consultation.**

The current budget consultation runs until 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and the consultation survey can be found at: -

[www.sedgemoor.gov.uk](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk) (<http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk>)

**d. Somerset Waste Partnership- Recycle More.**

There is a drive to expand doorstep recycling collections, and will be introduced across Somerset in four phases over the next 18 months or so: -  
Firstly in Mendip by the end of October 2020, South Somerset by June/early July 2021 and Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton by February/March 2022.

The roll-out may be varied due to significant uncertainty created by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

For the latest information go to: -

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more>

**e. SCC Climate Emergency Fund.**

See item 4(b) above.

**f. Clerks 'and Councils' magazine.**

The September issue has been received.

**8. Matters arising from the correspondence. – None.**

**9. Finance.**

Balances    Lloyds Bank current account £9378.38.  
                  "            "            deposit            "            £    2.48.  
Cambridge Easy Access                                    "            £12372.04 (earmarked funds).

Eight cheques to issue: -

No 698 £152.47 payee CN Fry (September net salary).  
699 £28.44            "            "            (expenses).  
700 £40.00            "            Oxford rural (allotment rent).  
701 £114.40            "            HMRC (paye July/Aug/Sep).  
702 £168.00            "            Village hall (amenity grant).  
703 £270.00            "            Playing field ( "            " ).  
704 £552.00            "            St Mary's churchyard (annual grant).  
705 £185.00            "            D Johnson (Chedzoy News printing costs).

**Clerk's salary review.**

This was set out in the minutes of the July meeting, to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.  
The Clerk reminded the councillors that this is a matter for the full council to consider, ahead of the Precept setting exercise later in the year

**Amenity grants.**

The 2.5% annual increase, which was suspended some years ago, is due to be reviewed and potentially reinstated next year, and will need to be considered at the precept setting meeting as well.

**10. Any other business and date of the next meeting.**

**Any other business.**

**a. Speeding traffic through the village.**

The Chairman said this matter was of concern to us all, and is featuring on the village Facebook page. A discussion took place and the former Speed Indicator Device (SID) system being mentioned. This was a twice yearly free installation system which logged speeds of passing traffic which was withdrawn due to budget cuts some years ago. The possibility of re introducing a village "Speed watch" team was discussed, as well as the various devices that we see around the locality.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with local parishes to find out more about costings of systems used (such as in East Hunstspill), and the matter will be placed on the agenda of the October meeting.

In the meantime could anyone interested in becoming a member of a revived Speed watch team in the village please advise the Clerk appropriately on mobile 07796794037 or email [cnfry@talktalk.net](mailto:cnfry@talktalk.net) .

**Date of the next meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

**There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9 pm.**

cc