

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 12th JULY 2021 AT 7.30 PM.

Present: - Cllrs. Marion Dethier, Simon Howes (Chairman), Patricia Lennard, John Paige and Rodney Young.

Also Present: - Cllrs. David Hall.

In attendance: - The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1. **Apologies:** - Cllrs Nick Griffiths, Anthony Betty (SDC) and Liz Perry (SDC).
2. **Minutes of the last meeting of 21st June 2021** were taken as read, agreed and, with a few minor amendments/corrections, signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

a. Footpath Officer's activity.

The Chairman suggested that the Footpath Officer did not need to give a written report to every meeting.

The Chairman and Marion Dethier reported on a conversation they had with a member of the public regarding the ongoing situation with footpaths in the Northfield area, particularly with regard to an ongoing dispute as discussed in previous minutes. It was felt that the landowner kindly allows public access to the pond along what is not an official footpath, whereas less use is made of the cross field footpath (which has required the manual cutting back of crops in recent years). It is therefore reasonable to suggest that the Footpath Officer does not need to clear the path across Northfield in future as another nearby path provides access. Walkers would still be perfectly within their rights to use the cross-field path, whether cleared or not.

The Clerk was asked to update the Footpath Officer appropriately.

b. Climate Change Project report.

The four benches have been installed and the bus stop garden re-edged and improved. The herbery at the village hall is due to be planted this weekend, all this work carried out using voluntary labour.

David Hall asked if the Parish Council would support SCC in promoting/advertising the project's progress as it develops, possibly using publicity photographs. It was felt this was a good idea, with Marion Dethier, who is heavily involved, saying this would be good, with the completion of the herbery being an appropriate start point.

i. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) breach.

Statement read to the meeting by the Clerk: -

"Following the constraints of Covid-19, and in order to give parishioners a chance to find out about, and give feed back to the plans of the Chedzoy Fair Share Habitat scheme, a couple of public meetings have been held in the village hall.

Following the first of these, feedback was received in letter form from four households close to the proposed site of some of the project activities.

In the light of this feedback it was decided to drop both the hedging on the raised grass verge from St. Mary's Close to Glebe House, and drop all activity on the grass verge in Manor Road. With the Parish Council fronting the scheme (submitting the application, receiving the grant monies from SCC and managing and expenditure and reclaiming vat in due course), I, as Clerk, was asked to reply to the four letters, giving them the (good) news. I did this by way of an open letter which I hand delivered on 28th June.

I subsequently received an email from one of the recipients of the open letter, advising me that I was in breach of GDPR, and that I would be reported to the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) in the form of a complaint.

I consulted with the Parish Council Chairman, and sought the advice of SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) who advised me that my letter of 28th June 2021 would probably be classified as a breach by the ICO. I was advised to speak to the ICO before replying to the complainants email.

ICO's advice of 1st July 2021.

I was advised that the Parish Council should assess the risk and consider containment, possibly by retrieving the letters of 28th June 2021. The ICO advised that the matter did not appear to warrant reporting by the Parish Council, but a detailed account should be made and retained in case of any case of any complaint being received by the ICO from any member of the public. The Act takes no account of apologies, albeit the Parish Council might deem it appropriate to issue one. This I was pleased to do.

I visited the three households other than the complainant, retrieving two of the letters and being given an assurance that the third one would be destroyed.

The complainant has requested that I give a written assurance to him that the disclosure of his personal data, that is his name and address, will not be used again in any form or for any reason, whether for distribution in the public domain, by letter or email or posting on the village internet site or the local bespoke notice board or to whoever the recipients are, whether they know him or not.

Following advice from SALC I shall be issuing such an assurance".

The Clerk assured the Parish councillors that he will keep the GDPR Toolkit, which sets out the current data protection laws, and which was supplied to him by SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils), to hand from now on in his endeavours to avoid any future breaches of the GDPR. As a guiding rule, no names of members of the public will be placed in any written correspondence of the Parish Council, as well as in the future minutes of Parish Council meetings, without permission or valid reason.

c. Drainage matters.

i. Manor Road outfall ditch.

The Clerk reported that, on reflection, he had not visited the householders whose section of the outfall ditch in Manor Road has not been cleared, as he felt there could be a more effective course of action.

A discussion ensued with David Hall (SCC) being invited to participate. It was

decided that a more effective approach might be to liaise with “Homes in Somerset”, advising them of the position and enquiring if they are able to help in resolving this long standing problem. It was possible that the tenants among the households may not be contractually responsible for water courses on their rented properties.

The Clerk was asked to contact “Homes in Somerset” appropriately.

ii. Ward Lane.

The Clerk said he had reported the localised flooding issue to SCC Highways. No response has been received but it is thought the jetter lorry had visited the area in the last few weeks.

The Clerk was asked to monitor and follow up as necessary.

iii. Gully emptier’s report.

There has been no response to the request to have sight of this following the visit to the village in May 2021. The Clerk will try to obtain this.

iv. Front Street localised flooding.

The Clerk has for some time now been endeavouring to establish when the necessary maintenance work on the concrete outfall ditch in Pig Lane would be carried out. SCC Highways are under the impression that there is more work planned by the Internal Drainage Board, and that it should be completed by August 2021, and Lawrence Hackling (Highways) suggested it might help progress if the Parish Council also follows up. We understand that this outfall ditch takes some of the water from Front Street.

A record has been kept of all flood events over the last six months by a concerned parishioner, and she asked to Clerk for advice on how to get a site meeting arranged with SCC Highways to discuss the matter. In response the Clerk was asked to email the IDB as mentioned above. He received a response within 30 minutes late on Friday afternoon from the Mr King at IDB saying they has dug a sump to unblock the system on their side of things, but went on to say: -

“..... however, Highways need to now sort things out on their side of things as well as the landowner adjacent to the rhyne.”

Mr King said he had spoken to (SCC) Highways about this only a few weeks ago, and hoped some results will follow shortly. He went on to say that the original board no longer exists and the rhyne is not shown on their asset register, and they have no indication of ownership – hence handing it over to Highways. The Clerk advised SCC Highways of this information and is awaiting their thoughts on the confusion that appears to exist.

The Chairman said the people responsible must be held to account. It seems the completion of maintenance to the concrete outfall ditch in Pig Lane may well hold the key to some of the problems in Front Street, and possibly it might also help drainage in other areas of the village. David Hall advised the Parish Council to keep on reporting issues, and suggested an email to Roger Burge who is in charge at the IDB might help.

The Clerk was asked email appropriately and monitor a response from SCC Highways, following up as necessary.

d. Speeding cars.

Problems with speeding cars persist and it was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to look at options to mitigate this.

David Hall reported that the last Bawdrip PC meeting had been cancelled and he would enquire about the speed watch equipment at the next meeting.

The Parish Council were advised of a used SID being available from Pitminster PC, at a cost of £995.

As the Parish Council's next regular meeting is not until 20th September 2021, the Chairman called for a motion to give him the authority to liaise with Pitminster PC about the SID, and take matters forward as necessary. The following motion was proposed by John Paige and seconded by Marion Dethier: -

“The Parish Council of Chedzoy resolves to delegate authority to the Chairman to incur expenditure of up to £1000 if he feels it appropriate, for a speed indicator device.”

Any cost to be met from reserves. All in favour.

e. Enso Energy Project update.

The Chairman reported on a conversation he and Marion Dethier had at the Enso Energy presentation in at the village hall on 14th June, with one of the presenters from Enso. As part of the overall project, it may be possible that Enso might be prepared to allocate some limited funding for a village project which would benefit the parish. Discussions have taken place with the team managing the Chedzoy Fairshare scheme to identify potential enhancements to this project. Ideas are being considered and will be fed back to the parish council in due course.

Cllr. Anthony Betty has previously advised the Clerk that Sedgemoor has not yet received any planning application.

4. County Councillor's report. – David Hall reported as follows: -

a. Unitary Authority for Somerset.

The Secretary of State's decision is awaited, but should be announced before the Parliamentary recess.

b. SCC's financial position.

David said these were in a healthy state.

c. Covid-19 – relaxation of restrictions.

David said that Somerset's infection level, although having risen, is still comparatively low.

5. **District Councillor's report:** - None.

6. **Planning.**

Application number: 18/21/00004.

Applicant: Mr C Rhodes.

Location: West Moor House, Ward Lane, Chedzoy Bridgwater TA 7 8RW.

Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural to commercial for storage.

(Comments by 15th June 2021).

The applicant wishes to change the land use to facilitate the storage and processing of timber for sale as domestic fire wood. Two lorry deliveries per year of cordwood to the site are anticipated, which would be processed into fire wood and seasoned in the open air. Deliveries to households would be made by pick-up when requested. The two lorry loads would typically produce 80 pick-up loads, and the applicant himself would provide the labour, running the log business on a small scale. The structure of the site will remain unaltered apart from planting a small copse, a small orchard and a line of trees around the boundary.

The Chairman reported that a two parishioners have expressed concern at the large lorries using Ward Lane due to the narrow access and proximity to several properties. It was also felt that any change from agricultural to commercial use should be approached with caution to prevent undesirable or unsuitable commercial activities in the area.

Following a discussion it was decided that the Parish Council should support the application, with some reservations, and the following comments were sent to Sedgemoor planners: -

“The Parish Council of Chedzoy supports application number 18/21/0004, with the provisos that any permission granted should specifically restrict the number of lorry deliveries to two per year (as outlined in the application), and limit the commercial activity to that currently being sought, i.e. for the processing and sale of logs, exclusively. We have concerns over the increase in heavy vehicle traffic in what is a very narrow lane and also in ensuring the commercial usage is limited.

We therefore support the application on the basis that the above limitations are included in any consent.”

7. **Correspondence.**

a. **HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacons – 2nd June 2022.**

Next year's chain of beacons will possibly be the last ones lit in the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth. Community participation is being encouraged. Advice on the types of beacons (e.g. gas or wood) is being provided.

Following a discussion it was felt this is something Chedzoy may wish to participate in and John Paige kindly agreed to look into the matter, which will be placed on the agenda of the September meeting.

b. **Somerset Waste Partnership updates.**

SWP are asking residents across the county to put out their rubbish and recycling by 6am at

the latest. Residents are also being urged to report missed collections on line as disruption continues for Somerset waste services. A nationwide driver shortage and local pressures has led to delays in recent weeks.

The “My Waste Services” feature on www.somersetwaste.gov.uk is available 24/7 and this is the quickest way to report missed collections or to make contact with SWP.

c. TV licences for the over 75s’ – June update.

With the extended transition period put in place due to Covid ending on 31st July, everyone is reminded to either apply for a free licence if they are in receipt of pension credit, or at a reduced cost if they are partially sighted, or to buy a licence soon.

No one needs to leave home to set this up.- go to: - www.tvl.co.uk/75pay or call 0300 790 6151.

d. Allotments.

The Clerk reported with details of the current allotment holders. He said all rents were paid for this year and there is just one person on the waiting list.

e. Poor visibility at Ruggs Drove/Westonzoyland Road junction

Marion Dethier reported poor visibility here and the Clerk has emailed SCC Highways appropriately.

f. GDPR breach – See item 3 (b i) above.

8. Matters arising from the correspondence – none.

9. Finance – -balances after allowing for all items clearing:

Current account	(PC) £7664.04 + (Fair Share) £7269.99.
Deposit account	£ 2.48.
Cambridge BS	£12389.43 (earmarked funds).

Three (PC) cheques and two (FS) cheques to issue.

No 735 £60.00 payee CN Fry (substituting No 733-destroyed-BACS sent).- **FS**

No 736 £432.60 “ “ (July/August net salary).

No 737 £162.20 “ HMRC (paye Apr/May/June).

No 738 £13.69 “ S Howes (misc. Wood) – **FS**.

No 739 £114.63 “ SALC (affiliation fee 2021/22).

10. Any Other Business – and date of next meeting.

Any other business.

a. “Get outside in Somerset” launches.

SDC are delighted to announce the “Get outside in Somerset” project is now live. They are hoping to empower and support people across Somerset to get outside and move in new ways that suit them.

For tips, advice and guidance on how to keep or get active outdoors go to:

www.getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk

View the new campaign video at:

YouTube channel or download directly here:

<https://we.tl/t-bjxLZv2037>

b. Parish Council Guide to Rural Affordable Housing.

Follow the link which you may find interesting and useful: -

<https://ruralhousingalliance.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/parish-councillors-guide-to-rural-affordable-housing.pdf>

c. Clerks' and Councils' Direct magazine.

The latest issue has been received.

Date of next meeting Monday 20th September 2021

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 9.25 pm.