

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHEDZOY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 21ST JUNE 2021 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present: - Cllrs. Marion Dethier, Brian Gale, Nick Griffiths, Patricia Lennard, John Paige and Rodney Young.

Also Present: - Cllrs. David Hall (SCC) and Anthony Betty (SDC).

In attendance: - The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1. **Apologies:** - Cllrs. Simon Howes and Liz Perry (SDC).

In the absence of the Chairman Marion Dethier took the chair.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 17th May and the Annual Parish Meeting of 17th May** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

a. Footpath Officer's report.

Ian Medland submitted the following update which was read out by the Clerk: -

"For various reasons I haven't been able to get out much since the last meeting. Just 260m of the path from Fry's Lane towards Three Oaks Farm (path BW 8/12), I cut as far as the point where there should be a stile but this has been missing for many years. It was reported to SCC on 13/07/16 by someone and is still on their interactive map as an issue (#40844), nearly 5 years later.

Concerning the blocked Right of Way on EA land at Parchey Bridge, I have heard nothing more after providing the requested images to show the exact location, sent 10/06/21. Information I have provided twice previously.

I have had no response concerning the Northfield Incident. I have chased this up with George Montague today (21/06/21) as he is the person responsible for this Parish. The other chap, Chris East, was just trying to be helpful and has his own area to deal with.

Anyone walking our paths will note that most are seriously overgrown. Even those which I cut earlier in the year look as though I was never there. Other parishes have more than one SCC RoWLO and it's clear that one volunteer occasionally maintaining the paths has limited impact. Other residents could be encouraged to become a RoWLO, or maybe adopt a path and maintain just that section. Something to think about.

Have a nice meeting."

David Hall commented on how valuable it was for the Parish Council to have an efficient Footpath Officer. He added that it was sometimes more effective to have a quiet word with the landowner following local incidents. He said the SCC Footpath Officers had very heavy workloads.

b. Drainage matters.

1. **Gully Emptier's visit 17/05/21.**

Two councillors spoke in passing to the gully emptier men when they visited the village. The problem of poor drainage in Ward Lane from Cross Cottage to Sunnyside was mentioned. The Clerk has requested a copy of the report that would have been lodged with SCC Highways following the visit.

He was asked to follow this up and mention the Ward Lane issue at the same time.

2. Jetter activity around the village.

The Clerk reported that he had seen the jetter operating outside Palfrey House following the last localised flooding, also outside Temple Farm.

3. Manor Road drainage ditch.

Following the letter sent in March to the four householders in Higher Road, it was noted that two had cleared their portion of the drainage ditch in Manor Road (at the bottom of their gardens), but there remains two to be cleared to enable the ditch to operate at maximum efficiency.

The Clerk was asked to have a word with the appropriate householders.

c. Speeding cars.

The Clerk reported that he had emailed the Bawdrip Clerk suggesting where the speed watch equipment might be. David Hall said he would remind them at the forthcoming Bawdrip parish council meeting.

d. Climate Change project update.

1. Benches.

The four benches are being installed with the use of adult volunteer labour this weekend. The appropriate landowners have been advised.

2. Greening Corner tree planting licence.

The Clerk has submitted the documentation, including payment, agreement duly signed, confirmation of Statutory Undertakers equipment not being affected or present at the planting site and the tree planting schedule to the SCC. We await the issuing of the licence.

3. Financial transactions motion.

The Clerk explained that, by its very nature, the release of funds from the grant monies held by the Parish Council, would be needed both at short notice and on an ad hoc basis, against receipts, of course.

To facilitate this the Clerk called for the following motion to be accepted by the councillors: -

“Chedzoy Parish Council hereby delegate to the control to the Clerk and Chairman the release of funds to the Chedzoy FS team, against receipts, as and when it is required. The cheques so drawn will be reported at the following Parish Council meeting.”

This motion was proposed by John Paige and seconded by Pat Lennard – all

agreed.

4. Scheme progress reports.

A request has been received from a parishioner that progress on the scheme could be reported on the Parish Council notice board, for the benefit of those villagers who did not view the village Facebook page.

Marion Dethier agreed to take this forward.

5. Road safety.

John Paige raised this issue, particularly with regard to the tree planting on Greening Corner. Marion Dethier was able to assure him that visibility of road traffic would not be affected by the work.

She added that SCC would not sanction the installation of a very low boundary fence (which would have deterred traffic from cutting across the corner verge), and so the site would remain open.

Note:- We are all aware of the fatal accident some fifty or so years ago, when a motor cyclist was killed on the corner, and which led the local council to purchase the land to open up visibility.

6. The Whittling Wood.

John Paige said there was some concern in the village about the planting of this area behind the churchyard, and whether it would affect the availability of the land for the original purpose of providing a burial ground extension for use when the churchyard becomes full. He was assured that the plants and trees concerned could easily be grubbed out if required.

The Clerk advised the meeting that it was likely to be at least fifteen years before the churchyard would be full.

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

a. Unitary Authority for Somerset.

The Secretary of State's decision is awaited. (See under AOB below for the report on the recent local poll).

b. Nuclear Fusion.

There have been no developments as yet on the interest SCC has voiced on the possible use of the HP (A) and (B) reactor sites to develop this concept

c. Gravity (the old ROF site at Puriton).

The reported idea that Tesler selecting this site for its future expansion has not yet gone anywhere.

d. Hinkley Point Workforce levels.

The current workforce level has not yet been disclosed.

Last week's fire on the site was well away from any nuclear danger zones.

e. Small business recovery plans support.

The SCC has allocated £6 million to a fund to provide support to small businesses emerging from the Covid-19 lock-down.

f. Climate Change fund.

An additional £500.000 has been allocated by SCC to trickle down support to the applications which only just lost out on being successful in the recent scheme grant allocations.

5. District Councillor's report. – Anthony Betty reported as follows: -

a. Face to face SDC meetings.

These were beginning again, with a hybrid team system being adopted.

b. Unitary Poll. – See AOB (10) item (b) below.

6. **Planning.** – No new applications.

a. Solar Park presentation.

It was generally agreed that the recent presentation to the three Parish councils of Chedzoy, Bridgwater Without and Westonzoyland has been very effective. The house to house leaflet drop has already taken place. Plans are expected to be submitted in the coming weeks

It was reported that there would be a long delay of a number of years in obtaining the solar panels which are manufactured in China.

b. Possible planning breach- Fry's Farm.

Details of several possible planning breaches have been reported to the SDC planners and Oxford University, both of whom are considering the position.

Information only.

c. Land to the rear of The Glasshouse.

It has been reported to the Parish Council that a householder is considering the development of this wooded area, which lies outside the village development boundary, and which is reported to contain a badger set and a rabbit warren.

Information only.

7. **Correspondence.**

a. Defibrillator housed at the village hall.

The Clerk reported that the village hall management committee had agreed to take over responsibility for the future maintenance of the defibrillator. The

value of this equipment has recently been highlighted by the collapse of a Danish footballer at the Euros. There is likely to be maintenance contract taken out.

The Clerk reported that he has advised the hall committee that the Parish Council would be prepared to cover the cost of a new battery, if required.

8. Matters arising from the correspondence – none.

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

Current account	£8003.40 + (Fair Share balance £7628.80)
Deposit account	£ 2.48.
Cambridge BS	£12389.43 (earmarked funds).

Two (PC) cheques to issue (Fair Share) cheque to issue

No 731 £216.20 payee CN Fry (June net salary).
No 732 £88.14 “ “ (expenses).

One (Fair share) cheque to issue:

No 733 £60.00 payee SCC (Tree planting licence).

The external audit is now under way.

a. Amenity grants.

The Clerk reported that he has received a letter from the Chedzoy Playing Field Committee, one was expected from the Village Hall committee and he said he had advised the Church treasurer that no such letter was required from them for the following reason: -

The grant this year will cover just under 50% of the cost of cutting the churchyard grass.

The amenity grants are due to be considered at the next meeting.

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

Any other business.

a. Somerset Waste Partnership update.

The latest update contains an apology for any missed collections and states the problem is caused by a shortage of HGV drivers.

b. Unitary Authority Local Poll.

The Clerk read out a letter which has been sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the wake of the poll result which showed overwhelming support for the Stronger Somerset from the residents of the county.

The letter can be viewed at: -

<https://www.strongersomerset.co.uk/SiteAssets/Files/110621%20Rt%20Hon%20Robert%20Jenrick%.pdf>

c. Overgrown tree in Manor Drive.

Pat Lennard reported that she had great difficulty in walking on the footpath past an overgrown tree at a house in Manor Road (originally the Police House).

The Clerk was asked to have a word with the householder concerned.

Date of next meeting Monday 12th July 2021 (brought forward by a week to allow the consideration of a planning application received today which requires comments by 15th July, thereby negating the need for a special planning meeting).

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 8.42 pm.