

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

of a Meeting held at the Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh on

Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chair), Michael Chester, Mark Hill, Teresa Landymore, Margaret Rickard and Amy Savage

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);
4 Members of the public.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

57. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Cardy and the Council resolved to approve the reason.

58. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.
- c. Cllr Hill declared a private interest in Item 64.a.i.

59. Minutes of the last meeting

- a. The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 8th November 2021 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.
- b. The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th December 2021 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

60. Chair's Opening Report

The Chair wished members and the public a happy New Year and went on to acknowledge the hard work of members since she had been elected as Chair. She felt that the Parish Council should take a moment or two to reflect on the achievements of this period, which included:

- ◆ New Parish Council notice board made and installed;
- ◆ Broken bench removed from the bus stop on the Green and a new base laid further back on the Green;
- ◆ New, donated Memorial bench installed;
- ◆ Roundabout surface play area repaired;
- ◆ All public bins now formally co-ordinated and emptied regularly by the District Council;
- ◆ Defibrillator sourced and fitted On Erskine Centre;
- ◆ New Lancaster Close sign;
- ◆ Queens Lane drains finally fixed after numerous years of trying;
- ◆ Contributed grant support for the new roof on the Erskine Centre and facilitated further funding;
- ◆ Contributed grant support to Little Teapots for the outdoor classroom / play shed;
- ◆ Initiating the Wildlife Friendly Village scheme;
- ◆ Attracted two new PC members to assist us.

The Chair went on to say that none of this could have been achieved without the hard work of Members. She felt that, In the context of going in and out of various lockdowns due to Covid 19 and learning how to meet virtually via Zoom for some of the time, this was a considerable achievement

on behalf of the village. The Chair concluded by thanking the Council warmly and saying that she looked forward to tackling further projects in the future.

61. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a.** County Cllr Soons reported that the County Council's budget would be agreed in February but, given the time of year, there was little else to report. Cllr Hill asked whether there had been a general increase in the level of litter on highways as he had noted that there was a great deal alongside the A14 at present.
- b.** District Cllr Chester submitted a written report and noted that a traffic survey was in place on Bury Road. The written report was received by the Council and Cllr Chester also reported that he had received further correspondence from a resident on Queens Lane about tankers using the lane and speeding and about the level of traffic arising from diversions. The resident felt that temporary signage should be deployed in the event of diversions off the A134, to ensure that traffic did not use Queens Lane which, with its lengthy section of single track, is unsuitable for large volumes of traffic and for any large vehicles.

62. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

63. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported no use of delegated powers and stated that because of Christmas and the recent extra meeting, there was little to report. However, he did report that only one objection had been received to the planting of the Queen's Tree and that the objection related to species rather than principle. The Council therefor agreed to go ahead with planting as previously resolved.

64. Planning and Environment

a. Planning Applications

- i** **DC/21/2404/HH** - East House, 6 Kings Park, Chedburgh: *a. two storey front and side extensions; b. porch extension; c. single storey side and rear extension (to form a link between the existing garage and dwelling) d. partial conversion of garage.*

After lengthy discussion, during which it was agreed that the principle of some further development of the house in question would not be objectionable, it was resolved to object to the application on the following grounds:

- There is an existing significantly sized extension and the scale of the current proposals would add excessive further mass. Given that the house is outside the settlement boundary and on the edge of open fields, with views from the Bury Road, this was felt to be especially unacceptable.
- The design of the small development of which the subject house forms a part had been carefully considered in the light of its position outside the settlement boundary. Design that related to vernacular architecture had been required and, together, the houses formed a coherent group. The current proposal to add flat roofs pays no regard to local character and distinctiveness.
- The extent and positioning of the proposed extension would have a significant impact on the amenity of neighbours, with at least one window facing directly into the living space of the neighbouring house, representing an unacceptable loss of privacy.
- The proposal for the garage created more questions than it answered in that there was no information about the intended future use or detail of any further work. Given that the proposal included bringing the level of insulation of the garage up to domestic standards it was agreed that the intention for future use was at best ambiguous and that further information would be required before this could be supported.

- b. Planning Application Updates** - There were no updates on planning application consultations considered previously.

c. Mulberry Park development - District Cllr Chester informed the meeting that he is in discussion with the Chief Executive of the District Council in relation to the future maintenance of the Public Open Space and will report back further.

65. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub

There was no further information to consider.

66. Community Governance Review

The Council noted that a review of local boundaries (Parishes) was underway and that would be consultation on any proposals for change that arose.

67. Grass Cutting Contract for 2022

The Council considered tenders for grass-cutting for the coming season and after some discussion resolved to accept the tender from West Suffolk Council for the coming year but with a caveat that, given the variable quality of the year, a close eye would be kept.

68. Finance, including the 2022/23 Budget

- a. The Council reviewed the draft budget for 2022/23 and, after some discussion, resolved to adopt it as drafted.
- b. The Council resolved to set a precept of £10,872 for 2022/23.
- c. The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.

69. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Councillor Savage reported that the trees that it had been agreed to plant around the playing field would be supplied by the Woodland Trust in the autumn.

Cllr Chester tendered his resignation, explaining that his District Council duties were becoming greater, especially since taking on the role of Deputy Chair of the Council. The council passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Cllr Chester for his considerable service as a Parish Councillor, including several years as Chair.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Signed as a true record by authority and on behalf of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date