**Chedburgh Parish Council**

**M I N U T E S**

of a Meeting held at he Erskine Centre, Chedburgh on

**Monday 4th July 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present**: Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chair), Jon Cardy, Mark Hill and Margaret Rickard.

**In attendance**: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);

2 Members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies as all Councillors were present.

1. **Declarations of Interest**
2. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest in matters on this agenda.
3. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th May 2022 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

1. **Reports from County and District Councillors**
2. A written report had been received from County Cllr Soons. The unadopted roads at Mulberry Place were raised and, as no answer had been received from Highways, C Cllr Soons would chase this. C Cllr Soons noted that this would be the Clerk’s last meeting and thanked him for his work over the years. A photograph was taken to mark the occasion.

C Cllr Soons stayed for Item 5.

1. A written report had not been received from District Cllr Chester who had sent apologies for the meeting which he could not attend due to his other civic duties.
2. **Speed Limits/ Speed Survey**

Cllr Cardy had undertaken an analysis of the speeding data which had been forwarded by County Council officers in a raw form, which made interpretation difficult. The key information from one of the data sets provided included:

* 23,000 vehicles had used the road during the seven day survey period of which 93% were in class 3 or 4 and 96.6% were in classes 3, 4 or 5;
* The average speeds at entry into the 30mph zone were 34.6mph overall and 40.4mph the 85th percentile;
* The pattern of volume of traffic showed that on Monday to Thursday there were commuter tape peaks in both the morning and evening rush hour while on Friday there was an early afternoon peak but no obvious commuter peaks;
* Saturdays were similar in pattern to Fridays while Sunday’s pattern was more like the Monday to Thursday pattern;
* Overall, the volume of traffic was highest on Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday, followed by Monday and Sunday and lowest on Saturday;
* Average speeds were highest on Friday and Saturday, followed by Thursday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with Monday and Sunday showing the lowest averages;
* Maximum speeds followed a similar pattern with the highest speed being recorded on Saturday and Friday followed by Thursday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday;
* The distribution of speeding through each day followed a similar pattern, with day times (7 am to 7 pm) showing the slowest speeds and the highest speeds as being recorded between 10pm and midnight.

In discussion, Members thanked Cllr Cardy for his work on the statistics and agreed that the figures demonstrated that the Council’s points about the failings in the timing and methodology used in the survey earlier in the year had been valid. It was hoped that, because of this, Highway would not include the original survey in its charging. It was agreed that the figures supported the need for a speed buffer zone at both ends of the village.

The Council resolved to email Highways, via C Cllr Soons, mentioning its surprise at the rawness of the data and setting out its conclusion that the data demonstrate the necessity of speed buffer zones.

1. **Public Forum**

A member of the public raised the fact that the grass in Majors Close, verges and other green areas had not been cut for some time and was looking messy, although the playing field has been done properly.

The Clerk responded that cutting of the playing field is undertaken by the District Council under contract to the Parish Council whereas the other areas are the direct responsibility of the District Council. The Clerk will chase-up the matter with West Suffolk Council.

1. **Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk reported that no action had been taken under delegated powers.

The Summary Accounts were presented along with the bank reconciliation which were received by the Council.

Depden Parish Council had been in touch to invite a representative to their next meeting to explore overlaps in interest in the reduction of speeding on the A143 and discuss potential co-operation. The Clerk could not attend and it seemed likely that no councillors were available either. It was resolved that In this event the Clerk would liaise with Depden’s Clerk to outline what the Council had done so far and to confirm that it was willing to collaborate on the matter for the benefit of both villages.

The Clerk reported that he had followed up speeding problems with C Cllr Soons and this had resulted in a further survey (see item 5) and the non-adoption of the roads in the Mulberry Place development, on which there was no news. It was noted that the large sales hoarding at the entry to the development was becoming an eyesore but that the Parish Council did not have jurisdiction to remove it. It was hoped that it would be removed soon.

As reported at the previous meeting, three new bins have been ordered and delivery was expected in the next few weeks. Councillor Cardy was mandated to obtain quotations for the installation of the bins and the new bench.

1. **Planning and Environment**
2. There were no planning application consultations.
3. There were no Update reports on applications considered previously.
4. Mulberry Place - This had been covered under items 5 and 7a.
5. **The Marquis Cornwallis Pub**

There has been no activity recently but it was noted that ownership had again changed and was becoming more opaque.

1. **Finance & Governance**
2. **Code of Conduct -** The Council considered the new Suffolk Code of Conduct and after discussion it was resolved to adopt the new code as the Council’s new Code.
3. **Co-option -** The Council received a nomination to co-opt Mr Andrew Smith as a Councillor and resolved to do so unanimously.
4. **Receipts and Payments -** The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.
5. **Telephone Box Refurbishment**
   1. Good progress has been made on the phone box, thanks to the efforts of Colin Cordy to whom the Council extended warm thanks. Further work is necessary and the Council resolved to allow up to £100 for additional materials.
   2. It was agreed that replacing the current “Telephone” panels with panels reading “Chedburgh” would be well worthwhile and there was a brief discussion about the merits of Perspex or glass panels (the former yellow with age but are cheaper). The Council resolved to replace the existing panels with glass panels reading Chedburgh at a cost of £120 plus VAT (this is is in addition to the allocation made under 11a, above).
6. **Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas**

It was reported that the Jubilee event had been well attended and appreciated and the specially commissioned rulers had been well received by young people. The remaining stock has been lodged with Little Teapots for distribution to future children.

It was reported that Pat Fisher had indicated that this will be last year in which she undertakes planting in the village. Thanks were extended to Mrs Fisher for her efforts over several decades that brightened up the village and made a significant contribution to its attractiveness.

The Chair extended her personal thanks to the outgoing Clerk for the support that he had given her and noted that the Clerk had been a stalwart of the village for the past six years. Members echoed those thanks and extended a round of applause in farewell.

**The meeting closed at 9.55pm,** after reserved matters concerning staffing had been considered.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date