

# Chedburgh Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of a Meeting held electronically via Zoom on

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chair), Jon Cardy, Michael Chester, Teresa Landymore and Margaret Rickard.

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);  
1 Member of the public.

### 40. Apologies

All Members were present and so there were no apologies.

### 41. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest in matters on this agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.
- c. Cllr Roberts recorded that she had a private interest in item 46c.

### 42. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

### 43. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a. County Cllr Soons spoke to her report which she had submitted in advance and this was received by the Council. While welcoming the introduction of the automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system being introduced at the recycling centre, a councillor asked whether any consideration had been given to the potential impact on fly-tipping. C Cllr Soons acknowledged the problem of fly-tipping but was not aware of any specific consideration of this in relation to the introduction of the ANPR.
- b. District Cllr Chester submitted a written report and this was received by the Council. D Cllr Chester highlighted the launch of an anti dog-fouling campaign on Facebook and the fact that the forthcoming local elections would include byelections for three district council wards.

### 44. Public Forum

No matters were raised by members of the public.

### 45. Clerk's Report

- a. The Clerk reported that delegated powers had not been used since the last meeting.
- b. **Surfacing around the roundabout** - The Clerk reported that an impasse had been reached, following a further exchange of emails. While there will need to be some corrective work done, the roundabout had been installed and is working so it seemed unfair to retain the entire amount. It was proposed to pay the bulk of the money and retain £1,500 - (£1,800 inc VAT). In discussion it was agreed that this was a satisfactory approach and the Council resolved to pay the outstanding invoice, less £1,500 plus VAT.

**Tree works on the Green** - These have been completed but there is a branch on a tree on the other the other side of the Green that has apparently been fouling the flag. The Clerk proposed to get Stuart Bradnam to fix that and this was agreed. A new flag to replace the damaged one would cost £65.32 (this is for a proper cotton, sewn flag) and this was also agreed.

**Quiet Lanes** - arising from the last meeting the Clerk reported that he had investigated the

process in relation to Queens Lane. The process is not straight forward but any nominated lane has to have less than 1,000 car movements per day and must be single track. A team from the Council inspects nominated sites and the first step is to formally nominate the lane in question. In discussion it was asked whether the fact that part of Queens Lane is not single track would be a problem and it was noted that any designation would apply to the main length of the lane that is single track. The Council resolved to nominate Queens Lane as a Quiet Lane.

**Grit bins** - The Clerk had reported to Highways the fact that grit bins were running low, in order to receive a top-up. In the event, so many villages had been asking for top-ups that Highways would be carrying out a general refill around the county. It was noted that some of the scoops were broken and so new ones were needed. After a brief discussion of the relative merits of plastic and metal, it was resolved to order five metal scoops at a cost of £7.00 each.

It was pointed out that, although the roads in Mulberry Park are currently unadopted, some street lights have been adopted and so it may be possible to agree to the filling of the grit bin within the development. If not, it was resolved to seek approval for an additional grit bin at the entrance to the Mulberry Park development that would then be filled by Highways.

**Fencing of the play area** - The Clerk reported that he had held back on this in the light of the potential groundworks (see item 48) which would require a significant amount of digging.

**School Transport Opt-in** - The Clerk drew attention to the deadline for School Transport opt-ins at the end of May and encouraged Members who are aware of residents with school age children using school transport to highlight the date and the need to re-opt each year to continue to receive free transport.

#### **46. Planning and Environment**

a. There were no planning applications to consider.

b. **Update reports** - There were no updates.

c. **Mulberry Park development** - D Cllr Chester agreed to contact Enforcement about matters affecting the ongoing maintenance of the Public Open Space.

d. **The Marquis Cornwallis Pub /Community Hub** - The pub is now being marketed for sale as a pub (rather than as a dwelling) at £350,000. However, the land opposite, which provides parking and which forms part of the designated Asset of Community Value, is excluded which makes it an unrealistic and unattractive proposition as a pub.

#### **47. Memorial Bench**

The Clerk reported that Ian Leggett had raised money for a teak bench to serve as a memorial for servicemen who lost their lives during the second world war and he sought support from the council to place the bench near the bus stop on the Green. Mr Leggett had also obtained a quotation for installing the bench.

Council discussed the proposition and supported it wholeheartedly, although it was felt that the installation cost was high. The Council resolved to support the placement of the bench on the Green and to arrange for this to be carried out. At the same time the existing bench, which has reached the end of its life, would be removed. In accordance with statutory procedures, the Clerk will obtain estimates for the cost of the removal and installation.

#### **48. Poor Drainage at the Erskine Centre /Play Area**

The Clerk reported that he had discussions with groundworks companies. In order to be confident of specifying exactly the right solution to the problem it will be necessary to have a survey of the area both in terms of the lay of the land and in terms of what's below the surface. The solution could be as simple as using gravel and hard core to increase drainability or could involve the installation of pipe work. The Clerk also reported that he had spoken to the Chair of the Community Council, as they are responsible for part of the land in question. The CC Chair felt that the Community Council would be happy to contribute to the cost of whatever works are determined

necessary and, in the meantime, was content for investigatory works to be carried out. After discussion, in which it was reported that the adjacent playing field has a network of drainage pipes running below it to address a similar problem, it was resolved to allocate a sum of up to £600 for initial assessment and the Clerk will set this in motion.

**49. Wall at Majors, Queens Lane**

The wall - in fact further along Queens Lane than Majors, is cracked and it was felt that it may become unstable. The Clerk will inspect the wall and establish ownership and responsibility for it before the next meeting.

**50. Hard standing for Re-Cycling Receptacles at the Erskine Centre**

The area around the receptacles becomes boggy each year but it was noted that this year has been especially bad. It was proposed to create hard-standing for the receptacles and immediately surrounding area. It was resolved to include this area in any groundworks arising from item 48, above, but that in the meantime the offer of wood chippings from Cllr Cardy would help the situation and his offer was gratefully accepted.

It was felt that the entrance to the Erskine Centre was in need of tidying in order to make it and the surrounding facilities more attractive and it was agreed that the Clerk will discuss this with the Chair of the Community Council.

**51. Grass Cutting for the 2021 Season**

The quotation from the Council was not available and so the award of the contract was delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with Councillors.

**52. Finance, including the 2021/22 Budget**

The schedule of receipts and payments was received and approved by Council.

**53. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

Cllr Cardy updated the Council on works to the Telephone Kiosk which the Council had agreed for him to carry out as a volunteer. In liaison with the Clerk, materials were being obtained and work would start soon.

It was thought that some residents of Chestnut Close may be using the Public Open Space as extensions to their back gardens, for dumping garden and other waste and even cultivation. This will be checked and appropriate action taken by the Clerk.

**The meeting closed at 9.16pm.**

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

..... Chair

..... Date