

Chedburgh Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chair), Jon Cardy, Michael Chester, Mark Hill, Teresa Landymore and Margaret Rickard. Cllr Amy Savage joined the meeting from Item 41 onward

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

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

35. Apologies

All members were present and so there were no apologies.

36. Declarations of Interest

- a. Cllr Cardy declared a potential Pecuniary Interest in item 43. As the interest is only potential at this stage, the Clerk recommended that Cllr Cardy simply abstain from any voting on the matter.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.

37. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th September 2021 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

38. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a. County Cllr Soons had submitted a report in advance and this was received by the Council. C Cllr Soons added that enhanced Covid prevention guidelines had been issued to schools as the infection rate in Suffolk had again increased and was running at comparatively high levels.
- b. District Cllr Chester had submitted a report and this was received by the Council. D Cllr Chester was asked, in relation to a press report of an announcement that parking charges were to be increased, by how much the charges were likely to go up. D Cllr Chester responded that he did not have the answer but would check; he also pointed out that charges had been static for five years and that they had been waived during the lockdown last year.

39. Public Forum

The Chair of the Chedburgh Marquis Community Hub (CMCH) spoke in support of the proposal for the Council to make a joint application with CMCH for Asset of Community Value Status for the Marquis Cornwallis pub.

40. Co-Option

The Council voted unanimously to co-opt Ms Amy Savage to the Council. Ms Savage signed the Acceptance of office forms, was welcomed to the Council and joined it for the rest of the meeting.

41. Clerk's Report

- a. There were no matters to report in terms of use of delegated powers.
- b. The following correspondence was reported:
 - ◆ From Mrs Vanessa Upton concerning the recent serious accident on the A143. Commenting on the accident, which had involved multiple vehicles and had resulted in life-changing injuries, Mrs Upton reported many near misses and felt that it was essential that a 40mph limit be put in place to calm traffic on the stretch of the road north of the current 30mph limit. Mrs Upton email

argued that this stretch of the road dangerous generally and especially for residents accessing and exiting their drives as cars not only speed there but also use this stretch to overtake, causing additional and difficult to anticipate dangers. The Clerk thanked County Cllr Soons for her prompt response, asking Highways to undertake speeds survey using funds from her Highways Locality budget. In discussion the Council repeated previously expressed support for speed reduction measures on the A143 and will await the survey by the Highways before further pressing for change.

- ◆ From Little Teapots Pre-School inviting members to their AGM on 16th November 2021.
 - ◆ From the Highways' Community Liaison Engineer reporting that an order had been made for the blanket clearing and jetting of all the gullies and off-let pipes along Queens Lane from the village end down to Kings Park. This will include the road crossing points which it was felt may be a particular problem and root cause of the flooding.
 - ◆ From the Police and Crime Commissioner, informing us that he has opened a survey consulting on the 2022-25 Police and Crime Plan. Anyone interested in commenting can find the survey online.
 - ◆ From SALC regarding a petition on the Government website, calling for the introduction of sanctions against councillors who behave badly, as there is no effective system of sanctions at present. The petition calls for an amendment to the Localism Act and is sponsored by Jackie Weaver. Councillors and the public can sign the petition on line and a parliamentary debate is triggered if the signatures reach 100,000.
 - ◆ From NALC, launching a survey about abuse/ intimidation of Councillors because this is an increasing problem and they are keen to understand the exact nature and magnitude of the problem.
- c. **Progress Report on Actions Arising from Prior Meetings** - The Clerk reported as follows:
- ◆ **Volunteers/ Village Warden** - The advertisement for volunteers to undertake tasks in the village had been published in the magazine. If no or little response arises he posited the idea of a Village Warden - a person who would have an eye to the state of the village, reporting problems and attending to some of the basic maintenance tasks that arise. It was agreed to incorporate this idea into budget planning for next year, for further consideration.
 - ◆ **Litter Bins** - He had been able to confirm that the contents of litter bins and dog waste bins are emptied into the same wagons. This means that single, multi-purpose bins, would be the best solution. Advice on litter bin types had been sought but was not yet available. In the meantime, Cllr Cardy had seen some bins in use in Haverhill that he felt could be suitable and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Cardy would do some research and come back to the January meeting with a definitive plan for all the bins.
 - ◆ **New Bench on the Green** - The installation of the new bench and making good of the area where the old one had stood had been completed.
 - ◆ **The Defibrillator** - The Community Council was to meet later in the week and would determine where the unit would be installed. The importance of the unit being as near to and as visible from the road as possible had been underlined to them. The Council will remain responsible for the cost of the installation, for registering the unit with the Circuit and for ongoing maintenance, as well as the small running costs (a maximum of £5 per year for electricity).
 - ◆ **Ground Works** - A site meeting had suggested that crate drainage to the east of the new roundabout would be the best solution to the drainage issues in the play area and estimates are awaited. The muddiness of the area around the recycling holders (Community Council responsibility) would be solved most economically by using stone chippings. However, it was pointed out that a certain amount of broken glass is created when the units are emptied and that chippings would make that difficult to clear. It was agreed to obtain costs for alternative treatment to the area between the edge of the existing surfaced area and the front of the recycling units.

42. Planning and Environment

a. Planning Applications -

DC/21/2068/HH, 32 Majors Close, Chedburgh: Relocation of oil tank Location. In discussion it was noted that this was a straightforward application for the replacement of a cracked oil tank from a back garden position to a front garden position and away from buildings, in order to conform with current regulations. The proposal included the addition of hedging and trellis screening and it was also noted that there had been no objections from neighbours. The Council resolved to raise no objection to the proposal.

b. Previous Applications - There were no updates on previous planning application consultations to consider.

c. Mulberry Park development - There has been no progress on the question of maintenance and ownership of the Public Open Space - District Cllr Chester will pursue this with District Council officers. With regard to the potential Adoption of the roads, it was agreed that that the Chair would discuss the matter with C Cllr Soons and in the light of that discussion draft a letter for the Clerk to review and send.

43. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub

a. Update - There were no further general updates.

b. Asset of Community Value (ACV) - The Clerk reported that prior to submission of the application for renewal of ACV status that had been approved at the last meeting, he had been approached by Chedburgh Marquis Community Hub (CMCH) with a view to making a joint submission because they had been advised that this would make for a stronger application. Subsequently, a Zoom meeting had been arranged between the Clerk, two representatives of CMCH and the District Council officer responsible for processing ACV nominations and this confirmed that a joint approach would be both possible and potentially advantageous. The Council resolved to adopt this approach, with Cllr Cardy abstaining from the vote (see 36a, above).

44. Queens Lane

Following discussion of the possibility of achieving Quiet Lane status it was resolved to seek signage / approval from the Highways department for signage indicating 'Single Track Lane without passing places - Not suitable for heavy traffic' to be placed at the north end of the lane and just beyond Kings Park.

45. Wildlife Friendly Village

The Council received an update Cllr Savage - there had been strong interest from residents and from neighbouring villages. News from the district council concerning verges was awaited and would be chased.

46. Community Engagement

There was initial discussion of ideas to boost community engagement including the following possibilities:

- ◆ Spring Litter-Pick in mid to late March
- ◆ Updates in the Suffolk Heights benefice magazine of key points covered at meetings
- ◆ Meet your councillors event(s)
- ◆ News on the web site
- ◆ PC stall at the Summer Fête
- ◆ Walking tour of the village
- ◆ Road Reps

It was noted that care should be exercised as long as Covid is prevalent. The Council resolved to expand the discussion at the next meeting.

47. Finance

a. Financial Statements

The Council reviewed and received the bank reconciliation and summary accounts to 30th September 2021 and noted the current financial position.

b. 2022/23 Budget

The Council conducted a preliminary discussion of the 2022/23 budget, which will be discussed and finalised at the January meeting.

The Clerk explained that the figures presented now were intended only as a stimulus for thought, prior to the main discussion. The figures provided a baseline using the projected outcome for the current year (with any one-offs stripped out) together with a measure of inflation proofing. He encouraged Councillors to consider any spending initiatives, the degree of inflation-proofing advisable and so forth, with a view to bringing forward a complete budget for approval in January. Councillors were asked to submit any ideas by the 6th December so that appropriate budget models could be presented ahead of the next meeting.

c. Receipts and Payments

The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.

48. Additional Meeting

The Council resolved to hold an additional meeting on the 6th December 2021 at 7.30pm.

49. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas

There were no reports.

The idea of some tree planting was suggested and the Council expressed support for a proposal to be brought to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm.

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

..... Chair

..... Date