

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON ON TUESDAY 27th. MAY 2025.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman – Councillor M Ahmad

Councillors – S Bagnall, S Beardmore, V Cornes, M Cunningham, A Grocott, G Grocott, K Grocott, K Harvey, CA Lovatt, SJ Rogers, V Salt, T Williamson and M Worthington

Clerk - Mrs. L Green

Reverend H Hope and several members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received from Councillor O Pointon and Councillor L Shaw and it was resolved to accept these.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Clerk asked if there were any nominations. Councillor Bagnall nominated Councillor Ahmad and was seconded by Councillor Worthington; Councillor Harvey proposed Councillor Lovatt and was seconded by Councillor Rogers. A vote by show of hands was taken and Councillor Ahmad was duly elected.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The chairman stated that he was happy to continue as chairman and thanked everyone present.

4. **RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

No remarks made as the chairman was re-elected.

5. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The previous vice-chairman stated her wish to retire from the role as she was soon to become a mother and would not have the time to fulfil the required duties. The Clerk asked if there were any nominations. Councillor Worthington nominated Councillor A Grocott, and this was seconded by Councillor Salt. Councillor Cornes proposed Councillor Lovatt and was seconded by both Councillor Harvey and Councillor Rogers. A vote by a show of hands was taken and Councillor Lovatt was duly elected and accepted the office.

6. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR FOR VACANCY IN CHEDDLETON WARD**

The Clerk announced that two candidates had put themselves forward for this vacancy, Councillor Rogers asked to put a question to the chair regarding articles 58 and 59 of the standing Orders Code of Conduct. It had come to her attention that one of the candidates was in a personal and pecuniary relationship with a serving Councillor. According to articles 58 and 59, this relationship should have been declared to the Clerk in writing before the co-option. Councillor Rogers asked the Clerk if she had received a declaration and the Clerk said that she had not. Councillor Rogers then stated that, as this was the case, the standing orders stated the candidate who had failed to declare should be disqualified, and

furthermore, as the Council still had a suitable candidate, that candidate should be considered for the post. Councillor Worthington proposed a deferral for a month to give the other candidate chance to make the necessary statement in writing, Councillor Bagnall seconded this proposal, which the chairman agreed to carry. There followed a heated discussion between some Councillors over the suggestion that procedures were not always being followed and that there was unfair representation in the CPC. The chairman said that the matter would be deferred and would be discussed the following month.

7. CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE –

The co-option did not take place.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 22ND APRIL 2025

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

9. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

a. Planning and Amenities Committee

The following Councillors agreed to serve on the above committee: - S Bagnall, V Salt, S Beardmore, V Cornes, G Grocott, T Williamson, S Rogers, C Lovatt, and L Shaw.

b. Community/Craft Centre Management Committee

The following Councillors agreed to serve on the above committee: S Rogers, V Cornes, T Williamson, L Shaw and the caretaker.

c. Footpath & Countryside Cheddleton Playing Field Committee

The following Councillors agreed to serve on the above committee- C Lovatt, S Rogers, L Shaw, M Worthington, K Harvey, S Beardmore and three members of the public.

d. Wetley Rocks Tollbar Playing fields Committee

Councillor C Lovatt agreed to serve on this committee,

e. Burial Ground Committee

The following Councillors agreed to serve on the above committee: - M Cunningham, M Worthington, S Rogers, and V Cornes.

f. HR Committee

The following Councillors agreed to serve on the above committee: A Grocott, M Worthington, C Lovatt, M Ahmad, and V Cornes.

g. Finance Committee

This will be attended by the chairman, vice-chairman, and the chairs of all Committees.

h. Cheddleton Cautionary Land Charity

The following Councillors already serve on this committee: M Ahmad, M Worthington, M Cunningham, and O Pointon but there was one vacancy. The Clerk asked if anyone would like to volunteer to take this vacancy. Councillor S Rogers volunteered and was accepted.

i. Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly

Councillor M Ahmad and Councillor S Rogers already attended the Parish Assembly regularly and it was agreed that they would continue.

j. Wetley Rocks Village Hall Committee

It was agreed that Councillors M Ahamad, S Bagnall and M Worthington would continue to serve on this committee.

k. Advanced Protein Liaison Group Meeting

Councillors M Cunningham and S Rogers will attend these meetings with Councillor Ahmad as the reserve.

l. Cheddleton Pound & War Memorial Keeper

Mr Stanley Beardmore (Cheddleton) has agreed to do this.

m. Wetley Rocks War Memorial Keeper

The Clerk stated that Steve would be happy to do this.

n. Parish Tree Contact

The Clerk is the main contact for this.

o. Parish Planning Contact

The Clerk is the contact for planning issues.

p. Disciplinary and Grievance Hearing Panel

It was agreed that Councillors M Ahmad, K Grocott, O Pointon, M Worthington and V Cornes should all remain on this panel.

q. Safeguarding Leads

Councillors S Rogers and V Cornes had both completed the training and were qualified to do this.

11. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There was a declaration of interest by Councillor V Salt.

12. MEMBERS DISPENSATION REQUESTS

There were no dispensation requests.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk announced that there was an upcoming event on 23 May, when Councillor Rogers would give a presentation on the history of Caverswall Castle at Caverswall Village Hall,

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME The chairman invited questions from the public, but no questions were asked.

15. CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE The chairman's allowance currently stands at £500 pa, it was agreed that it would remain the same.

16. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Clerk distributed the latest calendar of meetings. There were some suggestions that certain meetings should not be held on the same night. There was some disagreement, and

it was decided to discuss this issue at a future meeting. Councillor Rogers stated that there should be a separate public meeting about the community centre car park,

17. ATTENDANCE RECORDS

These were issued by the Clerk.

18. REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER

The Clerk has published this on the website. The only change is the Tollbar playing fields which has had new playing equipment, but the value has not changed much. Total assets are £768,882.91 and the insurance value is over £2,000,000.

19. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Cheddleton Parish Council is now a member of SPCA, but the Clerk has not been able to access the NALC website. She will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

20. GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS (SHOWN ON THE AGENDA AS ITEM 23)

No issues were raised. The chair and the Clerk have met with Jim the handyman, and everything is going well.

The residents at 25 Birch Avenue reported an issue with a tree on the playing fields. Jim will remove the overhanging branches at a cost of £125. Following the risk assessments at all 3 burial grounds, in St Edwards Burial Ground there is a conifer and a cherry tree, which have died. Jim has quoted £75 to remove them. Along the Asylum Burial Ground walkway, there are a number of trees with dead branches, Jim has quoted £185 to remove them. A proposal was made by Councillor Worthington to accept these quotes and was seconded by Councillor Lovatt the proposal was voted in by a show of hands.

A hawthorn tree causing issues in Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery is actually growing in the church grounds, so the Clerk will ask SMDC to deal with it,

Sleeping policeman ramps have been installed on the entrance to St Edwards Lawn Cemetery to slow down drivers.

The entrance to the Asylum Burial Ground looks very messy, the Clerk will contact James to tidy it up.

A Wetley Rocks resident has complained about barbed wire under a hedgerow at Tollbar Playing fields causing danger to children. The Clerk will ask Steve to remove it.

21. FUNDING GRANTS COMMITTEE

(SHOWN ON THE AGENDA AS ITEM 24)

Cheddleton Playing fields/Community Centre/Butter Cross

The solicitor has been in touch and the deed of dedication for Cheddleton Playing fields was signed off on 21st May.

Severn Trent have funding available that we may be able to access for the Community Centre upkeep. Councillor Lovatt said that the National Grid Community Fund had funds, but the council are not eligible for, but small groups such as sports clubs, scouts, guides etc. may be able to access. The chairman suggested setting up a community group to apply for some funds,

The Clerk and Councillor Harvey put together details to be on a placard for Butter Cross. One of the footpath volunteers kindly offered to put together a photographic record of the restoration progress from start to finish. The project is almost complete with just a few cosmetic details to finalise. The Clerk met Karen Bradley and made her aware that Butter Cross is now all but complete and has sent her some photos. Councillor Harvey was thanked for his contributions. It was suggested that CPC has an opening ceremony.

22. EVENTS – FLINTMILL/VE DAY 80

(SHOWN ON THE AGENDA AS ITEM 25)

The VE celebration at Wetley Rock Village Hall had been a success. Councillor Rogers suggested that for future events, the Cheddleton elderly should also be invited. Councillor Rogers said that the Flint Mill Event in June was on track and that tickets were now on sale.

23. UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (SHOWN AS ITEM 26 ON THE AGENDA)

Councillor Ahmad commented that the council had a new County Councillor in Su Beardmore.

The Clerk stated that a resident had reported another overweight vehicle going over the 7.5 CWT bridge by the Boat Inn. She had reported the vehicles details to the police and, hopefully, the driver will be prosecuted. This has been an ongoing problem for many years because lots of overweight vehicles go over the bridge to get to the industrial estate, Highways will be surface dressing Hollow Lane in June and undertaking road repairs in Ostlers Lane to Cheadle Road on 18th August. An earlier start has been requested.

The Clerk had received reports of a vehicle parking on the pavement on the main road, causing an obstruction. She informed the PCSO, and the problem appears to have been resolved. Councillor Rogers also reported a car parked on Hollow Lane with no tax or MOT and she has been sent a link to report it. The Clerk encouraged everyone to look out for similar road traffic infringements and report them.

24. UPDATE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

(SHOWN AS ITEM 27 ON THE AGENDA)

The electrical contract has been signed but is due for renewal in September. As prices are supposed to be dropping by up to 7% this year but have only dropped by 2.96% so far, she suggested waiting as long as possible before renewing them to see if prices drop further before locking the CPC into another contract.

25. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS

(SHOWN AS ITEM 28 ON THE AGENDA)

Councillor Rogers stated that she checks them every week and they are all in good order and have had no usage. The Clerk has had a letter from AED Donate about defibrillators over 10 years old being out of warranty. Councillor Rogers reported that the only one approaching that age at the Boat Inn has already been replaced.

26. FOOTPATH UPDATES/ROW MODIFICATIONS

(SHOWN AS ITEM 29 ON THE AGENDA)

The Clerk said that she had recruited another volunteer from the dry-stone walling recruits.

There will be another Himalayan Balsam pull on 14 June and she asked for volunteers. There has been no update on the issue with the towpath by the Flint mill.

27. UPDATE ON ISSUES CANAL & RIVER TRUST

(SHOWM AS ITEM 30 ON THE AGENDA)

Councillor Rogers said that the Canal & River Trust had given permission for 3 barges to pass through Hazlehurst lock to the Flint Mill for the upcoming event.

28. UPDATE LAND BEHIND LAYBY A520/BRIDGE EYE PLAYING FIELDS

(SHOWN AS ITEM 31 ON THE AGENDA)

The Clerk had established that this land belonged to Kenny Carr. He had been in touch and agreed to look into the mess, but he blamed the catering van, Truckers Tucker. However, Councillor Rogers stated that the caterers use white garbage disposal bags, labelled as provided by SMDC, which are removed regularly. Councillor Worthington stated that he had asked Councillor Cunningham to arrange a valuation of Bridge Eye which the CCLC plan to sell to Batemans for use of a car park, and to give the proceeds to the church. Councillor Mahfooz suggested that it should go to public consultation, but Councillor Worthington disagreed. There was some discussion between Councillors regarding parking for residents of Station Road, the dangers of lorries using the car park and what permissions would be needed.

29. SLOW DOWN SIGNS

(SHOWN AS ITEM 32 ON THE AGENDA)

The Clerk has had a conversation with Ron Richardson regarding speeding traffic in Ostlers Lane and whether more slow down signs could be put up or speed hump put down. There seems to be particular problems at the intersections of Dalehouse Road and Ox Pasture. The Clerk suggested that there was a reconnaissance of the area to identify the best solution.

30. YEAR OF THE MOORLANDSVILLAGE – THE RT HONORABLE KAREN BRADLEY

(SHOWN AS ITEM 33 ON THE AGENDA)

Karen Bradley has written to CPC to say that she is featuring Werrington, Wetley Rocks and Cheddleton and is planning to visit various sites. She has already had photos taken with the chairman and also in other locations. She may also visit Butter Cross.

31. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

(SHOWN AS ITEM 34 ON THE AGENDA)

- a. **Planning & Amenities Committee** - already agreed.
- b. **Community/Craft Centre Management Committee** – Councillor Rogers raised an issue with the minutes regarding an issue with the car park and requested an amendment to the minutes, there was a heated discussion before the minutes were agreed by a majority.
- c. **Footpath & Countryside/Cheddleton Playing field Committee** – minutes agreed.
- d. **Reports of Outside Bodies** – SMDC – no issues, Wetley Rocks Village Hall – Councillor Cunningham said that the last meeting AGM on 24/4/25 was not well attended but they have elected a committee. Advanced Protein Liaison Group – there have been complaints about smell from the plant. Councillor Rogers, who attended the meeting on 25/4/25, said the factory had installed new bio filters and they needed time to bed in. SPCA a second meeting has been arranged, and the Clerk has circulated details. National Grid 21/5/25 – discussed under item 21.

32. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ACCOUNTS 2024/2025/NEXT YEARS AUDIT - (SHOWN AS ITEM 35 ON THE AGENDA)

The Clerk read out the auditor's report, which was satisfactory. A copy of the signed AGAR had been sent to the Clerk. The reserve is adequate. The cost of the audit was £238.50,

She has agreed to charge no more than £222.00 for next year and it was agreed that the Clerk will book her to undertake next year's audit.

33. END OF YEARS ACCOUNTS – STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

(SHOWN AS ITEM 36 ON THE AGENDA)

The Clerk read out the Statement of Assurance to all present, this was duly signed by the chairman, the accounts will now be sent to external audit,

34. END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2024/2025 – ANNUAL RETURN

(SHOWN AS ITEM 37 OF THE AGENDA)

Copies of the annual accounts have been circulated to all Councillors.

35. RIALTAS/ALPHA SOFTWARE ANNUAL SUPPOT AND MAINTENANCE LI-CENSE RENEWAL £203

(SHOWN AS ITEM 38 ON THE AGENDA)

The Clerk has had an issue with the software and was unable to circulate last month's accounts.

36. ELECTRONIC BANKING/SIGNATORIES

(SHOWN AS ITEM 39 ON THE AGENDA)

As the Natwest bank in Leek is closing, the Clerk will be paying the expenses electronically.

The Clerk asked if the present signatories would like to remain as signatories, but as some of those had left the meeting she would have to ask individually.

37. ACCOUNTS

(SHOWN AS ITEM 40 ON THE AGENDA)

The Clerk asked permission to pay the accounts and this was granted,

38. CORRESPONDENCE

(SHOWN AS ITEM 41 ON THE AGENDA)

- a. **Hopedale Children and Family Services – Volunteering** - The Clerk had received a letter from the school asking if some of the children could volunteer to litter pick in the village if we provided them with the equipment. The Clerk can get the equipment from SMDC, she asked for this to be added to the next agenda,
- b. **SLCC Stafford Branch Meeting 17th June 2025 in Stafford** - The Clerk hopes to attend.
- c. **Myparishcouncil.co.uk – website updates free** – They are offering free widgets so the Clerk will look to see if any are suitable for the CPC website.'
- d. **SCC Data Protection Services** - The CPC does not have a data protection officer, provided that they are members of the ICO. As the CPC are members, this is not required. She asked for it to be added to the next agenda.
- e. **SPCA Membership Documents** – The Clerk now has all the details of membership.
- f. **Milestones – Berkswich Parish Council** – This is a project relating to painting milestones. Alan Taylor would like to join up with other councils.
- g. **Campaign begins on Devolution and Local Government Reorganization - SMDC** – SDMC are now publicising this campaign to give members of the public the opportunity to state their views.
- h. **Public Spaces Protection Order (Wildfires) 2025** – this will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

39. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(SHOWN AS ITEM 42 ON THE AGENDA)

The chairman invited questions, but there were none.