

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE**  
**4th MAY 2021**

**(Meeting held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm)**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors Mrs S. Dodd (Vice Chair) and Mrs K. Reeves, Messrs P. Bailey, S. Moore (Chairman), one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

**APOLOGIES:** These were received from Parish Councillor D. Massie and A. Brown, Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland and Stafford Borough and Staffs County Councillor Mr M. Winnington.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN:** Councillor Moore was re-elected Chairman following a proposal from Councillor Dodd which was seconded by Councillor Reeves. Councillor Dodd was re-elected Vice Chairman following a proposal from Councillor Moore which was seconded by Councillor Bailey. There no other nominations and the members were unanimous in their votes.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved as a true record and proposed for approval by the Chairman Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Reeves. All were in favour.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Any matters arising were taken as they appeared on the agenda.

**LATE ITEMS:** The Clerk reported that following Councillor Reeves email outlining concerns over the rotten stiles etc on Footpath 10, she had contacted the Footpaths Officer. The Vice Chairman voiced concerns over the broken rails on the bridge on Birchmoor Lane. The Chairman was to inspect this and attempt a temporary repair and report to Highways.

**OPEN FORUM:** Mr John Edwards discussed the DVD of Church Eaton (Portrait of a Village) which was undertaken about ten years ago. There was some interest in making another DVD but with current COVID-19 restrictions in place it was felt that it was not a viable project at the moment. However Mr Edwards was asked if he could investigate this matter further and perhaps contact the original producer of the film Staffordshire Film Archive and look at costing etc. The Chairman thanked Mr Edwards for his input in this matter.

**PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY:** The Clerk reported that the Borough Council elections office had confirmed that the co-option of a new member did not have a time limit and in order for this vacancy to be more widely advertised it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would draft up an advert requesting any expressions of interest for the position by 5pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. It was further agreed that any suitable candidates could then be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting in July while the Clerk and Chairman would obtain references. The Clerk was to include the vacancy advert in her forthcoming Parish Magazine report and village web site and notice board etc. If required social media could be employed.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mr John Edwards reported that he would still like to hold a public meeting on the Scheme to highlight the various issues and areas of concern. The Parish Council felt that this could be further investigated when COVID-19 regulations hopefully eased.

**CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND:** Following a discussion about re-opening the village playground, it was generally agreed that the playground should be opened albeit with disclaimer signs indicating use of the playground was at the users own risk. Mr Edwards was to supply the Clerk with contact details of a local sign maker to obtain costs and it was hoped following the receipt of the signs the playground would be opened as soon as possible. Councillor Bailey had obtained some suitable wording for the new signs and would forward this to the Chairman to relay to members for their input and approval.

The Clerk had now received the replacement flat swing seats and made arrangements with Councillor Bailey to deliver them to him for him to replace the old ones.

Playground inspections were discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would look into having an independent inspection carried out whether quarterly or annually. The Clerk suggested that the SPCA may be able to advise on this matter and Councillor Bailey was also to look at finding an assessor and costs etc. Weekly inspections were to be continued on the usual rota basis by Parish Councillors.

It was also noted that the plaque adjacent to former Chairman's tree had now had new screws inserted.

**PLANNING:** Since the last meeting the Clerk had contacted the Borough Council's Planning Department to request that the Parish Council adopt the telephone kiosk. The Clerk had also contacted the Parish Council insurers Zurich about this matter and it seemed fairly straight forward, although BT were to be contacted with regard to value.

**MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE:** It was reported that many Church Eaton residents had taken part in the online survey that Mr Jon Gibbs had added to the Parish web site which allowed residents to report mobile phone reception issues and information. The Clerk had now received a reply from Sir Bill Cash MP who was going to take this matter up with the secretary of state involved with these matter and would be supplying a full response shortly.

**HIGHWAYS:** A discussion about speeding traffic in the High Street resulted in plans to look at various ideas including temporary vehicle activated speed signs. The Clerk is to look at obtaining wheelie bin speed stickers, and it was further suggested that a local speed watch group could be set up. It was agreed to add this item to the June agenda for further discussion and action.

Councillor Bailey reported on the gulleys in the High Street which require being jetted out.

**FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET:** There were no updates on this matter although the Chairman would continue to monitor the situation.

**VILLAGE MAP:** Following the new village map being printed and installed in the High Street, Mr John Edwards said he was disappointed that the version that had been

reprinted was not the one he had created for the High Street. Also a local resident had contacted the Parish Council about the boundary on the map around their property which was not correct and requested that a disclaimer was added to the map. This was to be addressed and Mr Edwards was to assist in getting the correct version printed.

The proposed location map for Marston was still under discussion.

**FINANCE:** The Clerk has started work on arrangements for this year's audit. The annual exemption certificate for smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 had been agreed for signing by the Chairman and Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer. This was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman. All were in favour. Helen Bellamy was to be asked to internally audit the accounts.

There was a grass cutting invoice for £50 from JWH which the Clerk had paid, and the Wicksted Play Equipment invoice for the replacement swing seats amounting to £119.40. There were proposed for payment by Councillor Reeves, seconded by Councillor Bailey. All were in favour.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk had asked Mr Jon Gibbs to display election information for the County Elections and information relating to Library Services. This Mr Gibbs had kindly done. Various emails had been received relating to the Glebelands Sports Association and directorship. All other items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 7.30 pm. It was not yet known whether this would be held in the Institute or remotely via Zoom. The meeting closed at 21.35pm.