

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
6TH JULY 2021 AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE
INSTITUTE**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Mrs S. Dodd (Vice Chair) and Mrs K. Reeves, Messrs P. Bailey, D. Massie, S. Moore (Chairman), Staffordshire County and Stafford Borough Councillor Mark Winnington, two members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: These were received from Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 1st June 202 were 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: Councillor Reeves updated the Council on the recent Glebelands Sports Association AGM held on the 5th July 2021 whereby Mr F. Annis was appointed as a director and new chairman and Mr P. Jones as a director and vice chairman. Councillor Reeves concluded her report by stating that everything seemed positive going forward with the Association.

OPEN FORUM: This was not required on this occasion.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY: Attending the meeting were two candidates, Mr Alex Lloyd and Mr Jon Gibbs who had applied for the vacant position for a parish councillor following Mr P. Harriman's retirement in March. Both candidates gave a short presentation about their interest in applying for the position and following this were both asked to leave. The five members of the Parish Council in attendance were highly impressed by both candidates and following a vote both candidates received two votes each with the Chairman not voting in this round but used his casting vote in favour of Mr Jon Gibbs. The Chairman was to contact both candidates to thank them for their interest and attendance at the meeting. It was hoped that Mr Lloyd would continue to take an interest in the Parish Council as parish elections would be occurring next year. The Clerk was to notify the Borough Council's election office of this appointment.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: The Clerk reported that Mr John Edwards had emailed her to inform the Council that he would not be in attendance at the meeting and that there were currently no developments to report. Mr Edwards also reported that the village map re-printing was in hand, and that there was a broken stile on Footpath 14. The clerk had replied to him to say that she would report the stile to the County Council's Footpaths Team.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: Chairman Councillor Moore reported he had inspected the playground and everything seemed in order although the piece of equipment known as The Twister needed some attention to free up the movement. The Chairman and Councillor Bailey discussed carrying out this repair.

The Clerk reported she had purchased a new inspection book which Councillor Dodd took for the forthcoming month.

The proposed annual playground inspection and risk assessment was discussed and the clerk reported she had contacted the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association to see if they could recommend somebody to carry out this work. They had provided a link to a list of inspectors. Councillor Bailey was also actively involved in finding an assessor. In order to progress this matter as quickly as possible, it was agreed that quotes would be discussed between the Councillors as they were obtained and an appointment for an inspection made.

PLANNING: The Clerk reported that BT had emailed her a contract to allow the Council to formally adopt the kiosk at Marston. The Clerk was to forward this to all members for their consideration and to ask for any queries so these could be dealt with before the next meeting.

Two planning applications for the erection of a summer house at Briar Cottage had been received (21/34117/LBC and 21/34511/HOU). There were no objections to these applications although Councillor Bailey declared an interest in this matter. There was also an application to develop a link between the dwelling and swimming pool building at The Old Rectory Church Eaton (21/33972/HOU). There were no objections to this proposal.

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE: Over the last few months, the Parish Council had conducted an on-line survey to collect mobile phone signal information from residents in the village so that issues could be identified and quantified. 51 responses showed that none of the four UK mobile networks gave an indoor signal and residents needed to walk outdoors to obtain reception. The Chairman had electronically contacted Vodafone, O2 and EE about this poor coverage but had been unable to contact Three. The Clerk was therefore to send by post a copy of the Chairman's enquiry and comments as above. Also as a means of an update, the Chairman agreed to draft a letter for the Clerk to send to Sir William Cash MP, Staffordshire County Council Chief Executive John Henderson and Paul Chatwin Superfast Staffordshire Programme Manager.

HIGHWAYS: Staffordshire County and Stafford Borough Councillor Mark Winnington was in attendance and the Chairman asked him if he could contact Mrs Gill Skelson who was waiting for an update on the large pothole outside her property.

Speeding traffic in the High Street was discussed with Councillor Winnington who was looking into whether it would be possible to obtain speed activated vehicle signs. The cost of these would probably be prohibitively expensive but temporary ones might be shared with other Parishes. The Chairman was to email Councillor Winnington on this matter.

Concerns had been expressed from a couple of local residents about two tankers which had been seen leaving the Lower Reule bio energy plant heading towards Church Eaton village, on the 11th June 2021. This was of concern as tankers were restricted under the planning consents for the bio energy plant from accessing the village. It was acknowledged that this may have been due to the recent road works in and around the Parish. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the owners of the bio energy plant at Lower Reule and also address the progress with the extra

permission that was granted requiring that a liaison committee be set up with local residents.

Fingerpost painting was raised by the Chairman who was keen to set up a working group to tackle painting the finger post bases subject to suitable weather conditions.

Overgrown verges in and around the Parish were also discussed following complaints to the Parish Council. Staffordshire County, Councillor Mark Winnington, was to chase this matter up.

FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET: There had been more concerns raised from residents in Church Eaton over recent flooding issues. It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged which Councillor Winnington was to oversee. This would include representatives from the County Council, members of the Parish Council and local residents affected by flooding.

VILLAGE MAP: Mr John Edwards had this matter in hand.

FINANCE: The Clerk confirmed that the paperwork relating to annual audit had been completed and that a notice detailing the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounts had been published. This stated that the accounts would be available for inspection for a period of 30 working days from the 29th June 2021 until 9th August 2021.

The Chairman who had previously obtained a form from HSBC to have his signature added to the mandate required the two other signatories Vice Chairman Councillor Dodd and the Clerk to sign a further form. This was proposed for signing by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor P.Bailey. All were in favour.

Payments were approved for the following:

Hire of the Institute for June and July meetings - £40

Grass cutting by JWH for May - £100

The purchase of compost by Mrs J.Moore for the Marston area planters - £15.

These were proposed for payment by Vice chairman Councillor Dodd, seconded by Councillor Bailey. All were in favour.

The Clerk's quarterly fee of £466.54 and tax of £116.60 was also approved for payment.

CORRESPONDENCE: All 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 3rd August 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.05pm.