

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
3RD AUGUST 2021 AT CHURCH EATON
VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

APOLOGIES: These were received from Parish Councillor J. Gibbs and Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 6th July 2021 were proposed for approval by the Chairman Councillor Moore and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Dodd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: It was reported that following the last meeting verges had been cut along the Haughton to Church Eaton Road. Following a query by a Little Onn Road resident to the Clerk about overgrown verges in Little Onn, it was confirmed that they had also been cut. It was further reported that the verges in Marston especially along Birchmoor Lane were very overgrown.

LATE ITEMS: Councillor Reeves reported that there was a small hole in the Parish notice board. Councillor Bailey was to inspect this to see whether a repair would be effective even as a temporary measure.

In his absence, the Chairman reported that newly co-opted Jon Gibbs had forwarded his pecuniary interests forms to the elections office at Stafford Borough Council and would sign the declaration of office ledger and return to the Clerk his signed model code of conduct form at the next meeting.

OPEN FORUM: Mr John Edwards reported that the re-printed village map was now ready for installing on the map notice board and that he would arrange for this to be done. Discussions took place as to whether the replaced map might be displayed at another location - perhaps in the village institute.

The broken stile on Footpath 10 near to Park Hall, which Mr John Edwards had reported to the Clerk, was discussed and the Clerk confirmed that she had reported this to the Footpaths Team.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Mr John Edwards reported that he would still like to hold a public meeting regarding the Scheme in order to highlight the various issues and areas of concern - possibly in October subject to any COVID-19 regulations.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: The Vice Chairman reported that she had undertaken weekly inspections and had noted that both the railings and the single swing frame needed attention. It was agreed that if the paint could be effectively removed it might be easier to maintain these with just a bare metal finish. Councillor Bailey confirmed that he had carried out some routine maintenance work to some of the equipment, notably the twister, and that the Chairman had also undertaken some further maintenance work. Progress has been made with arranging an independent risk assessment and inspection of the playground through Sportsafe, which Councillor Bailey was to arrange. It was anticipated that this would be carried out shortly. It was however agreed that weekly

inspections by a Parish Councillor would continue with Councillor Massie taking the inspection book for the forthcoming month. The Clerk was asked to see whether the grass cutting contractor John Hall might be able to prune back some of the overgrown hedging.

PLANNING: The Clerk has now received a contract from BT to allow the Council to adopt the de-commissioned BT telephone kiosk at Marston, and subject to suitable terms it was hoped that this matter could be progressed quickly.

The Clerk had received notification that the planning application in relation to the proposed erection of a summer house at Briar Cottage had been withdrawn. A new application described as a steel framed agricultural building to cover a holding yard between an existing building and farmyard at the New House, Little Onn Road had been received (application number 21/34332/FUL). There were no objections made to this. .

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE: The Chairman reported that he had had a poor or no response from Vodafone, O2 and EE about the poor mobile telephone coverage in the Parish and had not yet heard from Three who the Clerk had written to. The Chairman had also written to Sir William Cash MP, Staffordshire County Council Chief Executive John Henderson and Paul Chatwin Superfast Staffordshire Programme Manager with an update.

The Clerk had recently received information from Staffordshire County and Borough Councillor M. Winnington concerning a pre-application consultation relating to a proposed telecommunications installation at Woollaston. The Clerk had forwarded this to members for their consideration.

HIGHWAYS: Councillor Gibbs and the Chairman had installed some bollards supplied by Staffordshire County Council at Mr and Mrs Skelson's property at Marston to try and alleviate the issue of vehicles encroaching on their property due to a pot hole in the highway.

A note of interest had been made with Councillor Winnington relating to a time share arrangement with other parishes using speed activated vehicle signs. The cost of purchasing these would probably be prohibitively expensive but temporary ones might be shared with other Parishes.

The Clerk reported she had written to the owners of the bio energy plant at Lower Reule about concerns expressed by local residents about two tankers which had been seen on the 11th June leaving the plant and heading towards Church Eaton village. This was of concern as tankers are restricted under the planning consents for the bio energy plant from accessing the village however it was acknowledged that this may have been due to the recent road works in and around the Parish. The letter also addressed whether any progress had been made requiring that a liaison committee be set up with local residents as required when the additional permission for the plant was granted.

FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET: County Councillor Mark Winnington had organised a site meeting in Church Eaton on 28th July with representatives from the County Council, Parish Councillors and local residents affected by flooding and drainage issues. The aim was to inspect the key locations that are contributing to the current flooding issues and to share the local knowledge with those at the County Council who are responsible for drainage. Following this meeting it was agreed that several actions would be carried out including the County Council clearing any

blocked gullies along with the jetting of connecting drains to ensuring underground movement of water is unimpaired in the village. The Chairman agreed to continue discussions with the Environment Agency, Severn-Trent Water and the Canals & Rivers Trust in the hope that a survey of local water courses and drainage might be undertaken to assess where there were problems with water flow after it left the village.

HANGING BASKETS & TUBS COMPETITION 2021: The Clerk reported that judging of the annual hanging baskets and tubs competition had taken place. The winner for 2021 was Cherry Tree Cottage and the two runners up were Maltshovel Farm and 7 Parkers Close. Each would each receive a National Gardening Voucher. The competition was judged by Mrs Joan Hubbard.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST TO THE PARISH COUNCIL:
This matter was to be discussed at the next meeting.

FINANCE: The Clerk confirmed that the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounts would end after a period of 30 working days on the 9th August 2021.

Payments were approved for the following:

- Re-printing of the village map - £18
- Grass cutting by JWH for June - £100

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

CORRESPONDENCE: All items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived. Two emails had been received from Dr Gill Walker and Helen Bellamy thanking the Parish Council for supporting the request to have the mobile library van visit the village during school hours so that pupils could use the service. This was to begin in September.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.35pm.