

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
7TH DECEMBER 2021 AT CHURCH EATON
VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

APOLOGIES: These were received from Parish Councillor Mrs K.Reeves, Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R.Sutherland and Stafford Borough and Staffs County Councillor, Mr M.Winnington.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 2nd November 2021 were deemed as a true record and were duly proposed for approval by the Chairman Councillor Moore and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Dodd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: Councillor Reeves had emailed information relating to the proposed tree planting in response to the Queen's Green Canopy project as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations for 2022. Councillor Reeves had obtained an initial quotation of £50 for a 5 - 6 ft specimen. The Nursery Councillor Reeves had contacted, suggested planting a beech in the playground rather than another oak as planting a new oak next to an already diseased oak may infect the new tree.

Other trees to consider were sweet chestnut and wild cherry with a smaller tree such as a crab for planting near to the entrance so as not to overshadow the nearby housing when mature. Councillor Reeves was to contact the Nursery in March to see what might be available as there had been a shortage of British grown stock this year.

The Council agreed that Councillor Reeves should continue to look at obtaining trees and a budget of £100 was allocated for this plus the cost of any other planting sundries. This was proposed by the Councillor Dodd, seconded by Councillor Bailey. All were in favour. The Clerk was asked to email this proposal to Councillor Reeves.

Councillor Bailey reported that he had carried further investigations into the notice board repairs and that he might be able to source some suitable posts to replace the old ones.

Any other matters arising from the previous meeting were taken as current agenda items.

LATE ITEMS: There were no late items.

OPEN FORUM: Mr John Edwards expressed concerns over security lights placed on properties near to roads which were causing inadvertent glares to passing motorists. It was not clear what the Parish Council could do about this issue but it was suggested that a note of this could be included in the next Parish Magazine asking householders to check that their security lights were not causing any issues.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Mr John Edwards issued a report to the Council on the public meeting he had organised to discuss Neighbourhood Watch with the aim of

focusing local crime reports more effectively. The meeting was held on the 23rd November 2021 at the Village Institute at 7.30 pm and Mr Edwards was very disappointed that only three people had participated and that only three apologies had been given. Even so, Mr Edwards felt that there was some valuable discussion concerning a review village communications amongst those in attendance. What did emerge from this discussion was that while more communication methods had been set up through the use of social media and specific interest groups such as the school and sports clubs etc there was less chance of people seeing them. Mr Edwards further reported that people tended to use their favourite methods of communication.

Mr Edwards did however feel it might be worthwhile setting up a WhatsApp group to cover specific issues relating to Church Eaton. As for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Mr Edwards reflected that it would remain as a one way communication channel but that he would inform members of any new communications group.

The Chairman thanked Mr Edwards for all his hard work and efforts and that the Parish Council would support any future endeavours in these matters.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: Councillor Reeves had returned the inspection book which Councillor Bailey took for inspections during the forthcoming month. A hawthorn tree had been blown over by the recent high winds and Councillor Massie reported that a local parishioner had cut up the tree and removed it so as not to cause any safety issues with playground users.

The Chairman reported that the tyres were to be replaced shortly on the balancing trail and that he was to trial priming the entrance rails when weather permitted.

PLANNING: There had been no new planning applications since the last meeting.

HIGHWAYS: The missing 30mph sign on the Gnosall Road, which had not been found, had been raised by the Chairman with the County Highways Department.

The Clerk reported she had received an email from Staffordshire County Council who use One.Network to process and promote Temporary Road Closures for activities in the Highway, such as Utility works and Events. They pointed out that One.Network has the ability for to create distribution lists to notify residents, businesses and other interested parties of any forthcoming road closures.

The Traffic & Network Management team would like to add all Parish Councils to the relevant distribution lists for their local area but do require the Council to opt-in to receive these notifications. It was unanimously agreed that Church Eaton Parish Council should opt-in to this scheme.

FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET: The Clerk reported there had been no response from Severn Trent Water to the recent letter she sent them. She was asked by the Council to update this letter and re-send it.

The Chairman and Councillor Gibbs, along with two members of the County Council's Flood Team had undertaken another walk along the Parish water courses and further investigations were to be carried out.

TELEPHONE KIOSK MARSTON: The Clerk had emailed BT about progressing the adoption of the Marston Kiosk but had not yet received any response. She was asked to chase this matter up in the New Year.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING: The Clerk had again been in contact with defibrillator trainer Martin Watson and confirmed that the Parish Council would look to undertake training in the New Year. This would be advertised nearer to the time.

FINANCE: Payments were approved for the following:

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| • Grass/hedge cutting by JWH for October | £180.00 |
| • Hire of Institute | £20.00 |
| • Christmas Tree | £25.00 |
| • Primer Playground Rails | £8.39 |
| • Hire of the Institute
(Neighbourhood Watch meeting November) | £35.00 |

These were proposed for payment by Councillor Gibbs, seconded by Councillor Dodd. All were in favour.

The Clerk reported on the budget she had prepared up to the end of the current financial year. Parish Council funds were healthy and plans were discussed to look at whether the Council might be able to purchase speed activated signs for the High Street. The Clerk was to make some general enquiries with other Parish Councils regarding any traffic calming schemes deploying speed activated signs.

It was agreed to discuss the setting of the Parish Precept and the request from the Cricket Club for a donation towards refurbishment of the sports pavilion in January 2022.

The Clerk reported that she had to obtain a new security device from the bank HSBC in order to activate the on line banking system. This had resulted in a request form having to be being signed by the Chairman and Vice Chair.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Borough Council had sent information relating to the forthcoming Gala Performance of the pantomime Snow White which the Clerk had forwarded to Councillor Dodd. 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 4th January 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.