

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
1ST FEBRUARY 2022 AT CHURCH EATON
VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

APOLOGIES: These were received from Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland and Staffordshire County Councillor and Stafford Borough Councillor, Mr M. Winnington.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 4th January 2022 proposed for approval by the Chairman Councillor Moore and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Dodd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: The Chairman reported that the notice from BT had been placed in the telephone kiosk at Marston to notify potential users that the box had been decommissioned and the equipment removed. The kiosk had been added to the Council's insurance policy.

The Parish Council was saddened to hear reports about dog fouling in the High Street. The Clerk was asked to include concerns over this matter in the forthcoming parish magazine and to remind dog walkers that failure to clean up after their dog in a public place could result in a hefty fine.

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

LATE ITEMS: There were no late items.

OPEN FORUM: Mr Matthew Burslem along with another member of the Cricket Club were in attendance to request financial support from the Parish Council in relation to the proposed refurbishment of the sports pavilion. The Cricket Club had been working hard to raise funds for these necessary works but still had a shortfall. Following a question and answer session about funding, the Cricket Club representatives left the meeting. The Parish Council to consider this request more fully in the March meeting.

Mr Barry Sharratt informed the Parish Council of the progress with removing the fallen tree from the playground and also his intentions to repair the basketball hoop which had been pulled down and bent. The Chairman thanked Mr Sharratt for all his efforts in this matter.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: It was unanimously agreed to drop Neighbourhood Watch as a regular agenda item from the monthly meeting agendas unless a situation arose or there was a need for an update. In the interim the Chairman was to contact Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Mr John Edwards to discuss this with him further.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: The Chairman had not been able to carry out any further maintenance jobs due to the inclement weather conditions.

Councillor A.Brown had carried out inspections for the previous month and reported that the playground was all in order despite a small amount of litter which he had removed. Councillor Brown retained the book for the forthcoming month.

PLANNING: Two planning applications had been received since the last meeting. The first was for single storey rear extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling at 6 Ashley Croft (21/35165/HOU). There were no objections made to this application although the Clerk was asked to advise the Borough Planning Department that the proposed development was near to a main sewer. The second application was for use of land associated with Marston Gables, Little Onn Road, Marston as dog walking paddocks and a car parking area (21/35268/COU). Following detailed discussion of this application, the Parish Council members were unanimously opposed to this application, There were concerns over the site being used seven days a week from morning to dusk. It was felt that there would be more noise generated from barking dogs, an increase in traffic to the site and the potential for more floodlighting during the winter months. The Chairman, Councillor Moore declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or vote. The Clerk was asked to convey these comments to the Borough Planning Department.

HIGHWAYS: The Chairman reported that there had been a visit to the High Street where gully sucking and road sweeping had been carried out.

FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET: Severn Trent Water had completed their CCTV survey and reported that there were no visible problems that would have caused recent flooding issues. The Parish Council has provided them with dates when flooding occurred so that Severn Trent could analyse their pumping station telemetry in an attempt to identify any possible cause.

The Chairman and Councillor Gibbs had continued to clear some of the local watercourses. There had not been any updates from the County Council's Flood Team.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING: The Clerk was to chase up training opportunities with Martin Watson and hopefully this would be arranged for early Spring, depending on Martin's availability.

It was reported that Parish Council had taken on responsibility for the defibrillator located at Little Onn which was originally installed by the late Mr Tony Lendon. Councillor Gibbs had checked out the defibrillation in terms of condition, pads etc and the Clerk has contacted Zurich to add this to the Parish Council insurance policy.

FINANCE: Payment was approved for the following:

- Hire of Institute £20.00

This was proposed for payment by Councillor Dodd, seconded by the Councillor Reeves. All were in favour.

The Clerk was to contact the HSBC bank to enquire why the account name had been changed on a recent statement to that of 'charitable' status instead of the previous 'community' title. Charges were also being made on transactions which had never occurred before. This seemed to have occurred following the recent Safeguard Review process.

CORRESPONDENCE: All items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived. Of note was information relating to free NHS checks which was to be displayed on the notice board and web site.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.