

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
1ST MARCH 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, S. Moore (Chairman), Staffordshire County Councillor and Stafford Borough Councillor, Mr M. Winnington, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: These were received from Parish Councillor D. Massie and Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland. The Parish Council were sorry to hear that Councillor Sutherland had recently been unwell and the Clerk was asked to email a get well message.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 1st February 2022 were proposed for approval by the Chairman Councillor Moore and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Dodd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: Councillor Gibbs reported on how helpful Caitlin from the Royal Oak had been in asking visitors to be aware of not parking too near the road junction adjacent to the pub as this was obscuring the vision of motorists accessing the junction.

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

LATE ITEMS: Councillor Brown was to look at budget planning and forecasting of the Parish Council's finances and as such the Clerk was to send Councillor Brown confirmation of the annual precept and functions allowance monies on receipt at the beginning of April. There were no other late items.

OPEN FORUM: Mr John Edwards reported on his progress with setting up a Church Eaton specific WhatsApp Group. He was currently looking at finding a suitable name. The Parish Council offered to support Mr Edwards with the setting up and publicity of the new group.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY: Following Councillor Karen Reeves tendering her resignation as Parish Councillor, this was to be her last meeting. The Chairman stated that following Karen's long service and all her hard work, she would be very much missed. These sentiments were echoed by other members and everyone wished Karen all the best in her future plans.

Following Karen's resignation a vacancy had therefore become available. The Clerk had notified the Borough elections department and a notice of vacancy had been emailed to the Clerk. This had been posted in the usual manner on the Parish web site and village notice board. If no election was called by ten local residents, the Parish Council would then be in a position to co-opt a new member.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: Councillor Brown reported that he had, for the previous month, carried out weekly inspections and that both the playground was in good order and that the bins had been emptied. Councillor Brown kindly volunteered to carry out inspections for the forthcoming month.

Despite her resignation from the Council, Councillor Reeves informed the Council that she still intended to oversee the planting of two new trees within the playground. Johnsons Nurseries had been in touch and had suggested planting potentially a Crab Apple, Rowan or Wild Cherry. It was unanimously agreed to select a Rowan to be planted in the gap of the back hedge and a Crab Apple near to the entrance. The Chairman thanked Councillor Reeves for continuing to complete this project. Mr Barry Sharratt, in his absence, was also thanked for making a great job of clearing ivy in the playground.

PLANNING: There had been one planning application received since the previous meeting for a two storey side extension and open porch at Rose Cottage, Little Onn Road (21/35259/HOU). The Council had no objections to this application.

HIGHWAYS: The Parish Council, who were continuing to consider setting up a Community Speed Watch scheme, were very pleased to receive some positive interest from local residents who had indicated that they would like to become involved. In light of this the Chairman agreed to attend a workshop on setting up a Community Speed Watch Scheme to be run by Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership on March 12th at Haughton Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to inform all interested parties of this event.

The Chairman reported that following the recent high winds, one of the arms had fallen off the finger post by the pig farm at Little Onn. Mark Keeling at Staffordshire County Council's Highways had been contacted for a replacement. Councillor Dodd, expressed concerns over several pot holes by Manor Farm. The Chairman was to report these to Highways.

FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET: Councillor Gibbs had been inspecting the local watercourses following the recent wet weather and reported that the water level in the brook was high but appeared to be flowing. The Chairman had cleared some debris from under the bridge on the Wheaton Aston to Marston road to help the water to flow.

DECOMMISSIONED TELEPHONE KIOSK MARSTON: It was agreed to discuss how best to use the kiosk in the spring. The Clerk had chased up BT as to further arrangements in the adoption process and had not had a response. She was asked to chase this up once again.

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

CIVIC AMENITY VISITS: Two civic amenity visits (refuse lorry collections) had now been confirmed and would take place on the 21st May and 15th October 2022 at the Royal Oak Car Park between 09.00-10.00. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to the management at the Royal Oak for allowing these visits to take place.

FINANCE: Payment was approved for the following:

- Hire of Institute £20.00

This was proposed for payment by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Dodd. All were in favour. It was noted that the Institute fee regular user hire fees were to be increased to £11 per hour from April 2022.

The Clerk had been in contact with HSBC as part of the continuing Safeguard Review process and was to receive a call to complete this in early April. This was also an opportunity to enquire why, on a recent statement, the account name had been changed to that of 'charitable' status instead of the previous 'community' title. There was a short discussion about potentially changing to a new bank. The Clerk was to look into this matter.

An email from Jenny Annis on behalf of the Village Institute requesting financial support for proposed window replacements was discussed. The Clerk was asked to invite representatives from the Institute to a future meeting to discuss this matter more fully.

CORRESPONDENCE: All items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived. Of note was an email from the Staffordshire Community Foundation asking for expressions of interest in entering the 2022 Best Kept Village Competition. The Clerk was asked to advertise this in the next Parish Magazine report and to ask for volunteers who might be interested in getting involved with such an entry.

The Chairman also expressed thanks to John at Street Scene for supplying green bags for litter picking activities at Marston.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.45pm.