

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH DECEMBER 2022
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

APOLOGIES: These were received from Parish Councillor, Mr A. Brown, 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 1st November 2022 were proposed for approval by the Vice Chair Councillor Dodd and seconded by Councillor Bailey. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: The Chairman reported that he had attended the Borough Council Service of Remembrance and that the recent visit of the LeLog Land's End to John O'Groats classic car reliability trial had passed through Marston on the 4th December and had gone well with no issues.

LATE ITEMS: The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Gibbs had attended a meeting on the 5th December 2022 at the Bradford Estates with Alexander Lord Newport and Eliza Newport. This meeting was held at Lord Newport's request to discuss various matters including the Bradford Estate's 100 year plan, flooding issues, and initiatives involving pupils from local schools. The Chairman concluded that the meeting had been both informative and useful.

OPEN FORUM: Vice Chair Councillor Dodd thanked all members of the Parish Council for their hard work over the past year. These comments were echoed by the Clerk.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME: There was no update on the scheme other than training would commence in earnest in the Spring. Councillor Bailey reported that there were lots of wheelie bins in the High Street displaying the 30mph stickers from the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership. PCSO Wright offered to support and assist the Community Speedwatch group when their monitoring sessions commence.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: Councillor Lloyd reported that sanding would be needed to remove the recent graffiti that had appeared in the playground. The Chairman reported he had not heard from Sportsafe concerning the Playground certification but would chase this matter up.

PLANNING: There had been no new planning applications received.

With regard to the Stafford Borough Local Plan 2020-2040: Preferred Options Consultation, the Chairman suggested the Parish Council respond that they unanimously support the categorisation of Church Eaton Parish as Tier 5 in the Settlement Hierarchy and therefore not an area designated for new development.

This response was proposed by Councillor Gibbs, seconded by Councillor Bailey. All were in favour. The Chairman was to formulate this response and forward it to the Borough. The Clerk requested a copy of this.

HIGHWAYS: It was reported that the missing 30mph sign on the Gnosall Road had been replaced. Vice Chair Councillor Dodd commented on the potholes in Birchmoor Lane. The Chairman had already reported these and they had been categorised as none urgent by the County Council's Highways Department. Councillor Dodd queried this decision as one of the potholes was in her opinion very severe. The Chairman was to follow up this matter.

There had been no serious flooding issues reported within the Parish but the Chairman requested that if any occurred to let him know immediately.

DEFIBRILLATORS: The Chairman confirmed that the defibrillator recalls were now complete and that the defibrillators all had new batteries.

Following the initial checks of the defibrillators by Gnosall First Responders, the Clerk suggested making a modest donation to the organisation as a way of thanking them for their monitoring and maintenance of this equipment. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the January 2023 meeting.

CIVIC AMENITY VISITS: The Clerk had now received confirmation of the forthcoming Civic Amenity visits for 2023. These were to take place on the 18th March 2023 and 7th October 2023 between 9.00 – 10.00 am at the Royal Oak Car Park. There were some changes proposed to the items of furniture that could be picked up due to new legislation. These would be publicised by the Borough Council before the first collection was to take place.

FINANCE:

The Parish Council Pension Scheme compliance declaration was made. The Chairman also reported on the clerk's salary increment payment which would now be made in line with the agreed national settlement as back pay. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Gibbs. All were in favour.

It was agreed that the setting of the 2023-2024 Precept would be discussed and formalised at the January 2023 meeting. In the interim the Chairman was to forward to all members his spreadsheet to help assist with forecasting any rises in the precept.

Payment was approved for the following:

- Grass Cutting £110
- Hanging Basket & Tubs Competition Vouchers £20
- Village Hall Hire for meetings (Sept – December) £88
- Defibrillator battery pack £201.13
- Re-issue of non-presented cheques by CEVI £80

These were proposed for payment by Councillor Gibbs and seconded by Vice Chair Councillor Dodd. All were in favour.

CORRESPONDENCE: All items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived and included information relating to the forthcoming Borough Carol Service and Mayoral Ball for February 2023. A financial donation to the CPRE was discussed.

It was noted that Nigel Bickley was to have a look at repairing the village notice board over the Christmas period.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.15pm.