

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7th FEBRUARY 2023**  
**AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors Mrs S. Dodd (Vice Chair), Messrs A.Brown, J. Gibbs, A.Lloyd, D. Massie, Stafford Borough and Staffs County Councillor, Mr M.Winnington, three members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

**APOLOGIES:** These were received from Parish Councillor Mr S.Moore (Chairman), Parish Councillor, Mr P.Bailey and Stafford Borough Councillor, Mr. R. Sutherland and PCSO Pat Wright.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 were proposed for approval by Councillor Gibbs, and seconded by Councillor Massie. All were in favour.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Chris and Bee Byford reported on the progress that had been made in setting up a Community Speed Watch Group for Church Eaton. Training was due to take place in March and there were sufficient volunteers to form at least two teams of three to carry out monitoring. Mr Byford was looking to create a further team of three and the Clerk was to publicise this in the next edition of the Parish Magazine. The Parish Council expressed support for this project and were in agreement to pay initially for the hire of the Institute for the training session in March. Mr & Mrs Byford suggested that if equipment and signage were to be purchased approximately a further £500 would be required. The possibility of borrowing a speed gun from another group was also discussed and the Council agreed to consider the level of further funding once this option had been explored.

**LATE ITEMS:** There were no late items.

**OPEN FORUM:** This was not required on this occasion.

**COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME:** This was discussed at length in Matters Arising. The Clerk was to continue to keep this item on the agenda.

**CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND:** Councillor Lloyd had reported that the playground continued to be in good condition albeit with some litter and that he still intended to carry out the sanding to remove the graffiti when the weather improved. There had been a complaint about dogs being exercised in the playground which was not allowed. The playground signage was to be re-visited.

**PLANNING:** The Clerk reported that two planning applications had been received and forwarded to all members since the last meeting. The first was for extensions, alterations, 3 bay garage and a new access gate at the New House, High Street (22/36389/HOU). The second application was for a front porch and two storeys side and rear extensions at Rose Cottage, Marston (22/36595/HOU). There were no objections to the developments proposed at Rose Cottage which most members considered would be an improvement to the current property. In relation to the New House, all Councillors, except one who had no comments, agreed with the report and findings that had been provided by the Borough Conservation Officer. The Clerk was asked to inform Stafford Borough Council Planning Department of the Councils views on both of these applications.

The Clerk had received on the day of the meeting a planning application for land east of The Oaklands, Lapley Road for change of use of land from paddock/grazing to domestic curtilage and erection of a timber single storey 2 bed dwelling lodge (22/36871/FUL). As there had not been sufficient time for members to examine the application, the Clerk was requested to ask the case officer for an extension to the consultation period so that there was sufficient time to consider this matter.

Staffordshire County and Stafford Borough Councillor Mark Winnington reported that the planning application for change of use from domestic curtilage (C3) to private land for storage (B8) at land adjacent to 7 Goosemoor, Goosemoor Lane (22/36122/COU) was to be decided at the next planning committee meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. The Parish Council had unanimously objected to this proposal as it was considered that the site was not suitable for such a change of use given the current inadequate infra structure and rural setting.

The Chairman had contacted the telecommunications company who were recently granted planning consent to install a telephone mast on the verge near to the Woollaston Lane turn off on the Lapley Road, to enquire as to when this work might commence. In response the company stated that the installation team had been asked for an update and that they had confirmed that they are revising the technology proposed at this base station to allow local users to access more network services. They did not however have any timescales for the site going live.

**HIGHWAYS:** The Chairman is to contact County Highways to request the creation of passing places or appropriate signage along the section of road from King's Street to the Marston Brook Bridge which is basically a narrow single track. While the verges are very wide in this section they are also very soft with stranded or stuck vehicles becoming a regular occurrence.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dodd reported that the Chairman had attended to the broken bridge railings on Birchmoor Lane.

Councillor Lloyd commented on the recent unannounced road closure outside the Old Rectory. It was not clear whether this had been for emergency works or more routine matters. The Clerk reported she had not received any prior notification of this.

The Community Speed Watch setting up costs were discussed in more detail and depending on whether equipment was being loaned or purchased more financial support was pledged. The Clerk was to contact the Institute to request that the training session hall hire invoice o be addressed to the Parish Council.

**FINANCE:** There were two outstanding invoices in relation to defibrillator matters that the Chairman had paid. The Clerk was to confirm with him the amount paid.

Replacement defibrillator pads were discussed as the defibrillator supplier Welmedical's costs had risen significantly. The Chairman was to investigate other alternatives. This was proposed for action by Councillor Gibbs, seconded by Councillor Massie. All were in favour.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** All items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived including more information regarding the forthcoming Mayoral Antique Valuation evening on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 202.

The Clerk had received an email from PCSO Pat Wright who, as he was unable to attend the meeting, had provided a police report for the last month's incidents in the Church Eaton area. There had been nine incidents of varying significance with one burglary and one vehicle theft with investigations in hand for both. Most other incidents were related to farm burglaries. The police requested that it was important to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious incident to them.

The Parish Council were to undertake some advance publicity in relation to the national change to how voting is to be administered which will be in place for the elections on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. This will mean in order to vote at a polling station voters will need to bring photo identification with them. This change will apply to Local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, UK parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions and from October 2023 also to UK General elections. For those without accepted photo ID, a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate, can be obtained from the Electoral Commission. The deadline being 5pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

There had been no update from Nigel Bickley who was kindly looking at repairing the village notice board. There had been a request from a local parishioner to refresh the notices on the notice board and to add the minutes. Councillor Lloyd offered to carry this out. Discussion ensued on what other information might be added such as Councillor contact information.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.