

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

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Mrs S. Dodd (Vice Chair), Messrs P. Bailey, A. Brown, J. Gibbs, A. Lloyd, D. Massie, S. Moore (Chairman), Stafford Borough Ray Sutherland and four members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: These were received from PCSO Pat Wright.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February 2023 were proposed for approval by the Vice Chairman Councillor Dodd, and seconded by Councillor Gibbs. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: Any matters arising were to be taken as they appeared under the relevant agenda items.

LATE ITEMS: The Chairman reported on obtaining and replacing defibrillator pads that were approaching their April expiry dates. The viability of rotating new spare pads was to be discussed with Adrian from Gnosall First Responders.

OPEN FORUM: Mr Bob Giles, who was in attendance during Open Forum, queried who was responsible for the defibrillator that had been installed at Marston by the late Mr Tony Lendon. The Chairman confirmed that, with permission of the new property owner who was very kindly supplying an electrical supply, the Parish Council had taken over responsibility for the maintenance and care of the defibrillator. Mr Giles also discussed briefly the positive outcome of the planning application for Rose Cottage.

Fly tipping was briefly discussed.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME: Chris and Bee Byford had reported, by email, that the familiarisation / training session run by Michelle Shaker from Community Speed Watch had taken place on the 7th March 2023 at the Village Institute. Mr Byford confirmed that Church Eaton CSW now had eight volunteers who had all been briefed. The Group had also been supplied with a speed device and ancillary equipment. During the training the procedures and relevant documentation had been explained and suitable safe sites on the High Street for the use by volunteers had been identified. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to both Chris and Bee Byford and the volunteers who had attended.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: Councillor Lloyd reported that the playground continued to be in good condition but again there was some minor littering. There had been some mole activity and the grass was starting to grow. The Chairman reported that he had added a new “No Dogs” sign to the playground following recent complains over dogs being exercised there. The Chairman thanked Councillor Lloyd for continuing the weekly inspections of the playground.

HIGHWAYS: The Chairman reported that County Highways had responded negatively to the request for signage to warn motorists that the verges along the section of road from King's Street to the Marston Brook Bridge are very soft and are likely to result in vehicles becoming stuck. The Chairman was to create a log of such occurrences both historic and future.

Councillor Lloyd expressed concerns over a pot hole adjacent to a drain in the High Street which was to be reported to Highways

PLANNING: The Clerk reported that planning application (22/36692/FUL) for Manor Farm, Marston had been amended. The Parish Council were to respond with the reiteration of their previous comments.

New applications since the last meeting:

16 The Oaklands, Church Eaton (22/36837/HOU) – single storey extensions to the front and rear. The Parish Council had no objections to this proposal but were concerned about the amount of available car parking which was not clear from the plans.

Land east of The Oaklands, Lapley Road - proposed change of use of land from paddock/grazing to domestic curtilage and the erection of a timber single storey two bed dwelling lodge (22/36871/FUL). The Clerk was asked to inform the Borough Council that the Parish Council objected to this proposal on the grounds that they considered it inappropriate development outside the Borough Development plan and do not consider there is justification for a dwelling to be required on the site.

The sports ground, High Street Church Eaton - retention of increase from two to three lane cricket practice nets (22/36899/FUL). The majority of members were in favour of this application.

4 Wood Eaton Road – a two storey side extension (22/36710/HOU). The majority of members were in favour of this application.

CIVIC AMENITY VISIT: The Clerk had filled in the risk assessment form to send to the Borough Council ahead of the first Civic Amenity visit for 2023 on the 18th March. The Clerk requested that a nominated Councillor's contact details be added to the form in case there was an issue during the visit. Councillor Gibbs kindly offered to be a point of contact during the visit.

FINANCE: There were three invoices due:

- Hiring the Village Institute for the January to March Council Meetings - £66.00
- Hiring the Village Institute for the CWS training session - £66.00
- Contribution towards the cost of the Institute Christmas Tree - £25.00

A cheque to settle the two outstanding invoices in relation to defibrillator matters that the Chairman had paid of £201.71 was raised.

The Clerk's annual expenses were also due amounting to £103.24

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

The Clerk was to ascertain for the next meeting the cost of renewing the Staffordshire Parish Council Association subscription.

The Clerk also informed the Council that she was compiling a VAT claim from the HMRC.

Councillor Brown discussed his budgetary forecasting findings. The Clerk had forwarded to Councillor Brown the predicted half yearly precept payment which was due at the beginning of April 2023. The Clerk is to forward a copy of the remittance slip to Councillor Brown when this was received.

CORRESPONDENCE: All items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council and the annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.55pm.