

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**HELD ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023**  
**AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors, Mrs S.Dodd, Messrs, P.Bailey, A.Brown, J. Gibbs, A. Lloyd (Vice Chairman),D.Massie, S.Moore (Chairman), Staffs County Councillor Mr M. Winnington, nine members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from PCSO Patrick Wright.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were proposed for approval by Councillor Dodd, seconded by the Councillor Lloyd. All were in favour.

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

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

**OPEN FORUM:** During Open Forum, Mr Pete Cossar read out a statement on behalf of several Marston residents who were opposing the planning application for dog walking paddocks and car park at Marston Gables. The Chairman, who declared an interest in this matter, stated that the ruling on this application was long overdue which was not fair to either the applicant or local residents. Ms Frances Clark, speaking in her capacity as a McKenzie Friend, for the applicant, Ms Kerry Benn reported that a decision on this matter was expected shortly. It was agreed that the Parish Council would chase this matter up and the Chairman was to draft a response for the Clerk to send to Borough Planning.. The Chairman thanked the Marston residents for attending and informed them they they were welcome to stay for the rest of meeting.

Ms Janet Bennett reported ongoing concerns over the footpaths and bridleways gates being left open on her land which had, on three separate occasions, resulted in stock escaping on to the highway at Park Hall. Ms Bennett asked if the Parish Council could request the installation of stiles on the affected footpaths and a hunting wickets on the bridlepath. The Clerk was to contact the County Footpaths and Rights of Way officer to put this forward. The Clerk was asked to report this issue in the forthcoming Parish Magazine and request that gates were closed after using the various rights of way.

A local Marston resident expressed concerns over speeding agricultural vehicles in the Marston area and reported that the police had been notified about this and a discussion had taken place with the landowner.

**COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME (CSW):** Discussions took place as to funding the sign installations which, as reported at the last meeting, was very expensive. Since the last meeting the Clerk had emailed Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Winnington asking whether he might be able to assist with some funding from his Community Fund. Councillor Winnington had checked this out but was unable to use the Community Fund monies for this type of project. However he was now looking into whether there might be some funding available from his Councillor's Divisional Highways Programme. The Chairman expressed

his thanks to Councillor Winnington for his assistance in this matter, and said he looked forward to hearing from him in due course.

The Clerk reported she had emailed Uttoxeter Rural Council, Abbots Bromley and Kingstone Parish Councils following a suggestion from Michelle Shaker, the Police Community Engagement Officer, as they had, or were, undertaking the installation of CSW signs and might be able to offer suggestions as to a suitable approved contactor to carry out the work. Kingstone and Abbots Bromley Councils had already replied and very helpfully offered to send the Clerk further information in due course. The Clerk was asked to retain this item on the next meeting's agenda.

**CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND:** The Vice Chairman, reported that the chicken spring mobile, which had been damaged, had now been repaired. The spring had been broken presumably due to misuse but the Vice Chairman, Councillor Brown and Councillor Gibbs were able to carry out an effective repair.

Thanks were again expressed to the anonymous person who had kindly put some supports in place to prevent the apple tree which, due to the weight of apples, was in danger of snapping.

The Vice Chairman reported that other than the damaged equipment, the playground continued to be in good condition albeit for a small amount of litter and that the grass had been cut regularly.

**PLANNING:** The Clerk reported that she had received a notification from Stafford Borough Council Planning Department stating that planning application reference number 22/36871/FUL described as “the proposed change of use of land from paddock/grazing to domestic curtilage and proposed erection of timber single storey two bedroom lodge dwelling” located east of The Oaklands, Lapley Road, Church Eaton had been withdrawn by the applicant.

**HIGHWAYS:** The Chairman reported that the road drain on Little Onn Road had been located by using a metal detector which had been kindly loaned to the Parish Council by Mr Barry Stamp. Once the wet weather had abated it was planned to dig out the drain and see if it can be unblocked. It was reported that Wood Eaton had some blocked road gullies.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Lloyd, was to chase up with Highways, concerns over the road adjacent to the playground which has severe subsidence.

There had been no progress to date with the pot hole in the ford at Apton.

**FINANCE:**

The following invoice was presented by the Clerk for payment.

- £192 Replacement defibrillator battery from Welmedical Ltd
- £110 JWH Grass cutting September 2023

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

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

The Chairman was to represent the Parish Council at the forthcoming Borough Remembrance Service.

Councillor Gibbs gave a brief update on the recent Civic Amenities visit.

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