

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON THE 7th NOVEMBER 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, three members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: were received from PCSO Patrick Wright and Stafford Borough Councillor Ms E.Carter.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 3rd October 2023 were proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by the Councillor J. Gibbs. All were in favour.

The Clerk had been contacted by Ms Frances Clark requesting that an amendment be made in the September minutes where her role to Ms Kerry Benn was described as her friend rather than legal adviser. The September minutes had been approved by the Parish Council but it was agreed to acknowledge this request as a correction in the November meeting minutes.

MATTERS ARISING: Both Councillors, A. Brown and S. Dodd expressed their disappointment that none of the newly elected Borough Councillors had yet attended a meeting of Church Eaton Parish Council.

LATE ITEMS: The Chairman reported that Adrian from the Gnosall First Responders had noted that during a routine check the batteries needed replacing in the defibrillator located at The Gables, Marston. These had been replaced.

OPEN FORUM: During Open Forum, Mr Trevor Houghton offered some guidance as to the flooding issue on Little Onn Road and suggested that a concrete gully might be causing the problem and where this might be located.

He also expressed concerns over the poor road surface adjacent to the village playground on the High Onn Road which the Vice Chairman, Councillor Alex Lloyd had previously reported to the Highways Department. It was agreed to chase this matter up again.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME (CSW): Since the last meeting there had been no further progress on funding for the CSW signs, so in order to expedite this matter the Parish Council agreed in the first instance to purchase the signs initially with a budget of £100 and then continue to look at finding the required external funding. This action was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor S.Dodd. The Clerk was asked to retain this item on the next meeting's agenda.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: The Chairman reported that the annual playground safety inspection was to be carried out by Sportsafe on the 30th November. A discussion ensued as to whether the inspection could be carried out in the future to coincide with the school inspection in June. It was not clear as to whether there would be any financial gain as to a reduced charge for visiting the two sites on the same day. The Chairman was to confirm this with Sportsafe.

Prior to the visit, the Vice Chairman Councillor A. Lloyd was to continue to check the equipment and carry out any basic maintenance. The Chairman and Councillor, J.Gibbs had recently greased the spinning mobile and applied some leather treatment to the rocking horse skirt.

PLANNING: One planning application for a detached Oak framed garage store with home office over at The Poplars, Common Lane (Reference: 23/37874/HOU) had been received and was pending.

HIGHWAYS: Following the recent torrential rain, there had been several concerns expressed by parishioners over flooding matters. The Chairman had received reports over flooding in Smithy Croft and the garden at The Old Post Office which had resulted in residents contacting Severn Trent Water as there had been some sewage discharged into the water. It appears that residents were kindly assisted with the unblocking of drains by a local farmer with slurry tank.

The Clerk had received a telephone call from a local resident at Apeton, about a blocked road drain adjacent to his property which he believed was causing flooding in his garden. Councillor Jon Gibbs kindly offered to go and look at this drain and see whether it could be unblocked by just rodding alone. There had been no progress to date with the pot hole in the ford at Apeton.

Following Ms Janet Bennett report at the last meeting over ongoing concerns about footpaths and bridleways gates being left open on her land, the Clerk had contacted the County Footpaths and Rights of Way officer with a request for stiles and or a hunting wicket. A response had been received from Dominic Ward the North Rights of Way Officer for the County with a suggestion that a kissing gate might be a good solution. The Clerk had asked for more information and was to update the landowner about this.

PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS: The Clerk had recently raised a query relating to the current Parish Council standing Orders as to whether they needed updating and revising. As a result, the Chairman had read through these and had made some initial amendments which had been forwarded to all members. This matter was to be discussed again at the December meeting.

FINANCE: The following invoices was presented by the Clerk for payment.

- £28.04 Replacement defibrillator battery from Welmedical Ltd
- £117.62 Borough Uncontested Election Charges

These were proposed for payment by Councillor S. Dodd, seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor A. Lloyd. All were in favour.

Since the last meeting, the Clerk had paid two previously agreed invoices for the following

- £110 JWH Grass cutting October 2023
- £111 Civic Amenity Visit October 2023

The Clerk had received a cheque from Western Power in relation to the annual wayleave payment for the playground amounting to £2.50. This had been banked.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor A. Lloyd had chased up the donation from the school in relation to the recent raffle of Bestival Tickets.

A discussion about the forthcoming precept setting was discussed with Councillor A. Brown laying out how he proposed to approach this for the January meeting when a decision on the 2024/25 precept would be made.

CORRESPONDENCE: All items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived. An invitation to the Borough Gala Pantomime which this year was Beauty and The Beast had been received.

Councillor J. Gibbs reported that the Church Eaton website has an updated plan of St Editha's graveyard, together with a transcription of the legible headstones and burial register extracts going back to 1538. The Parish Council wished to thank Mr Graham Bone for all his efforts collecting, maintaining and documenting this information.

The Clerk reported that she received an email from the Amy Watson, the Clerk of Wheaton Aston Parish Council, who was enquiring whether Church Eaton Parish Council would be interested in getting involved in the creation of a commemoration board for the air field at Little Onn. At this stage it is not clear whether the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT) who organise these boards require an application from a single or joint Parish Council. Amy is to update us later.

The Clerk had received an email from Judy Palmer on behalf of the House of Bread requesting a financial donation and also an offer for their director to attend a meeting and give a talk on the charity. It was agreed that the Parish Council were unable to help financially at this time due to budget constraints. The Clerk was to reply to Judy.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place in the Village Institute on Tuesday 5th December 2023 commencing at 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.