

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 5TH NOVEMBER 2024
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Mrs S. Dodd, Messrs, A. Brown, J.Gibbs (Vice Chairman), A Lloyd, S. Moore (Chairman) D. Massie, Stafford Borough Councillor J. Rose, Staffs County Councillor, M.Winnington, Mr Chris Archer and Mr Chris Knight from the County Council Flood Team, twenty three members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: Were received from Parish Councillor P.Bailey.

The Chairman Councillor S. Moore opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone in attendance and outlined when the public were welcome to participate. He also introduced Mr Chris Archer and Mr Chris Knight from the County Council Flood Team.

MINUTES: Following some slight amendments, the minutes from the previous meeting held on the 1st October 2024 were proposed for approval by Councillor A. Lloyd, seconded by Councillor S. Dodd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

LATE ITEMS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR: Under late items Councillor D.Massie confirmed that the recent Civic Amenity visit had gone well and with no problems. Following queries raised at the last meeting, the Clerk had looked into finding legislation pertaining specifically to Oak Trees but has concluded that there was none.

CASUAL VACANCY: Councillor P.Bailey had indicated his intention to resign from the Parish Council as he was in the near future moving away from the Parish. The Clerk had accordingly notified the elections office who would in due course issue a casual vacancy notice. Councillor Bailey had not yet confirmed a resignation date but would do so once his move was finalised.

OPEN FORUM: The Chairman, during his Open Forum introduction welcomed the two members from Staffordshire County Council's Flood Team, Mr Chris Archer and Mr Chris Knight. Their attendance was in relation to the recent news that Church Eaton had been prioritised to receive some funding from the Environment Agency Flood Resilience Fund, to help alleviate flooding issues in the Parish. Mr Knight stated that the Flood Team had already started collating information from individual residents affected by flooding within the Parish and that there had also been some initial talks with landowners. Mr Knight however requested that during Open Forum the residents in attendance should take the opportunity to report their own experiences and concerns about flooding issues which they did in a very clear and informative manner.

While it was acknowledged that there was more wet weather due to climate change, the meeting heard many accounts of continual flooding issues over many years affecting householders and road users and many accounts of poor maintenance of water courses, drainage to both road and land. Areas such as Smithy Croft, the Woollaston Lane area notably by Laurel Cottage, High Street, Church Eaton, Ashley Croft, and Apeton were all reported by residents to have flooding issues.

Despite that there had already been several discussions between the Flood Team, local landowners and householders but it was hoped that organisations such as County Highways, the Canal and River Trust, The Sow and Penkrige Drainage Board, Severn Trent Water could also play a part in improving flooding matters.

Plans were being formulated to look at increasing the drainage and capacity of the brook to the south and south east of the village as well as improving both general road and ditch drainage. The Flood Team were continuing to collate information concerning flooding and would be updating the Parish Council with definitive plans to combat flooding.

The Parish Council were asked whether there had been any progress with the installation of signage at Apeton Manor Care Home. Komplex Care who had originally agreed to this now were stating that it was down to the individual tenant to arrange. Following concerns raised by local residents over whether the care home being ran by Komplex Care at Apeton Manor Farm required planning permission, Stafford Borough Councillor Jack Rose was still working on this with the Borough Planning Department but had no updates.

C.E.V PLAYGROUND: Councillor D.Massie reported that he had undertaken the weekly playground inspections completing the new inspection form. Everything was in order but the condition of the Oak Tree at the top of the park was discussed as to whether it needed inspecting by a tree surgeon. It was agreed that a tree surgeon would be consulted and an inspection undertaken. The Chairman was next on the rota to undertake the next inspection.

The Chairman had, since the last meeting contacted Sportsafe,, the playground safety auditors about the basketball hoop remaining in situ and which they had agreed to.

PLANNING: Two new planning applications had been received since the last meeting which included:

- 24/39077/HOU New detached triple garage at High Onn Manor, High Onn, Church Eaton
- 24/39591/HOU To replace Existing Link Room at Parlour Barn, Little Onn.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor J.Gibbs whose application for his property Parlour Barn declared an interest in the application and temporarily left the meeting while it was discussed. The Chairman S.Moore being a neighbour also declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. There were no objections made to these applications.

HIGHWAYS: The Chairman reported that there was to be a site meeting on the 15th November with Community Highways Engagement Officer Diane Firkins from Staffordshire County Council's Highways Department to discuss various and ongoing road issues including roadside drainage issues at Apeton and the recent damage to the road between the ford and Apeton.

FINANCE:

The following invoices were due for payment or had been paid as agreed by the Clerk.

- JWH Playground Grass Cutting £110
- Trough Planting Marston (paid by Mrs J Moore) £18

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

CORRESPONDENCE: All recent general correspondence had been forwarded to members of the Council. Updating the parish web site address to that of a .Gov domain was discussed and it was agreed that the current address was adequate. The Sakura Cherry Tree project was discussed but it was agreed to add this to the next agenda as the Council required more information. The Clerk had received the usual Tax Base information for the forthcoming precept setting which was due to be finalised in January 2025. The Clerk was to inform James Bellingham the accountant of financial planning at Stafford Borough Council of when this was to be decided.

The Parish Council expressed thanks to the residents of Marston who had been responsible for replanting the troughs and especially Mr Peter Harriman who had repaired the broken planter.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Jon Gibbs expressed thanks to Mr Graham Bone for his continued work updating the plan for St Editha's churchyard which was published on the web site for Church Eaton.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 3rd December 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.