

**MINUTES OF THE CHEBSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019 at 7 pm
IN ST LUKE'S CHURCH HALL, NORTON BRIDGE**

Present: Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair, Chebsey Parish Council (CPC)
Councillor John Green
Councillor Richard Hopley
Councillor Simon Hudson
Councillor David Williams
Councillor Mark Wilson

In attendance: Liz Harrington-Jones (Clerk)
10 residents
Councillor Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Apologies: Councillor David Davis, Chebsey Parish Council (CPC)
Councillor Simon Hudson, CPC
Councillor Peter Jones, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

868 Welcome and Public Participation

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Residents raised concerns over the number of potholes on the B5026 from the roundabout with the junction with Station Road, Norton Bridge, extending over the railway bridge. The Clerk reported that 19 potholes in total were listed, and in view of their concentration in a short stretch of road it was hoped that their repair would be escalated.

Pedestrians using Footpath 18 were trespassing on Izaak Walton Fisheries land by not following the recognised route. It was not possible to fence the land as access to the correct route was impeded by a neighbour's fence. The Parish Council would contact the County Footpaths Officer and ask for his assistance in reinstating the footpath to its correct line. Help could also be sought from the Ramblers' Association. **Action: Clerk**

The Chebsey History Society would be holding an exhibition of the documents in its collection on 6 and 7 April; as part of a longer term project they are working with a researcher from Birmingham University on 'WWI and Beyond', to reflect the impact of war on the Parish and involve the local community.

The recent damage caused to the railway bridge on Worston Lane had caused considerable inconvenience to residents, following the closure of the road; the latest report was that the bridge would not be fully repaired and the road reopened until 14 May 2019. All agreed that an urgent update was needed from SCC Highways; despite diversion signs HGVs were continuing to travel through Chebsey and Norton Bridge with diversion signs being ignored, making life intolerable for residents and causing damage to fragile verges on rural lanes. In the past a traffic lights system had been requested; a resident proposed that whilst the bridge was closed for repairs a request should be made to SCC Highways for ducting to be put in place across the bridge which would significantly reduce the cost of installing any traffic lights system in the future. The Clerk would liaise with Seighford & Gt Bridgeford Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

Residents reported a number of potholes on Station Road, Norton Bridge;

A litter pick had been carried out on the previous Saturday.

The Chairman reported that the Chebsey History Society had received a number of documents from 1944 when the WI had written about the state of the roads and the need for a 30 mph speed limit; it was depressing that progress was so slow.

The Chairman welcomed Sarah Mallen, SCC HS2 Liaison Officer. Ms Mallen explained her role in leading the SCC response to HS2 proposals for the county and assisting responses to AP2 (Additional Provisions to the HS2 proposals) in petitioning to the Parliamentary Select Committee. The Bill would be enacted around December 2019, when HS2 would apply to SCC and SBC for planning consents. SCC has limited influence and control over the HS2 proposals. Permission would be needed to allow more than 24 HGV vehicle movements per day on routes.

A resident reported that many traffic issues with Network Rail had been due to the number of staff vehicles using routes, and feared this would happen while the access from the M6 to the railhead was being constructed. SCC would have no powers to affect that issue.

Ms Mallen reported that hopefully Yarnfield Lane would be re-aligned by then and 6.8m wide. Residents were concerned that traffic from the 600 houses being constructed on Stone Road (B5026) to form a large residential area, and the future construction of a garden village at Cold Meece, would be worsened by the impact of HS2. Residents were asked to put their concerns in writing and the Clerk would submit them to Ms Mallen, who would ask her colleague, a Senior Transport Planner, to investigate. **Action: Clerk**

SCC would strive for the best mitigation of HS2s proposals. Once contractors have been appointed, SCC and local stakeholders would have the opportunity to feed into detailed plans.

Residents reported many problems with the dangerous state of local roads during the Network Rail construction works; also traffic lights installed during the work had not functioned efficiently. Ms Mallen stated that the Code of Construction Practice should cover this, as it would be a contractual obligation, not a set of guidelines.

Cllr Pert stressed the need for frequent bilateral meetings between Parish Councils and HS2, in addition to the annual meeting with Parish Councils which had been proposed by HS2.

Ms Mallen stated that there would be a legal obligation for HS2 to notify SCC of any changes to work affecting highways, so Parish Councils should be advised; she looked forward to developing a good working relationship with them with regular bi-weekly or monthly meetings.

Ms Mallen stated that Norton Bridge residents who would be affected by train movements to the railhead could petition against the HS2 AP2 proposals as they would be 'directly and specifically affected'. Residents believed the single train line would be augmented with another line. Following recent damage to the rail bridge on Worston Lane, trains had been waiting in Norton Bridge for up to half an hour before they could proceed, and a similar situation was envisaged for when the railhead was in place. A petition from SCC was still under discussion, but SCC might be able to provide a letter of support if Chebsey Parish Council decided to submit a petition. All expenses incurred by SCC in relation by the HS2 project were funded by HS2.

Another resident confirmed that the majority of problems were expected to be around HGVs and construction, with the remainder of problems concerned with noise, air quality, and footpaths.

The Chairman thanked Ms Mallen for attending the meeting and for the information and advice she had provided.

869 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Pert had raised safety concerns following the damage to the bridge on Worston Lane, and would update SCC Highways and contact Sir William Cash MP for help with addressing the problems caused by the volume of traffic utilising country lanes in the Parish; Councillors reported that 100 vehicles had been observed passing through Chebsey village in 50 minutes.

Cllr Pert reported that SCC had signed off the budget for the next financial year; he had no further information on the progress of the 30 mph limit for Norton Bridge.

The Conversation Event held at Yarnfield Park had been well attended, and he paid tribute to Chebsey's Chair who had reported on the successes achieved by a small Parish.

A resident asked what consultation had taken place prior to the loss of the bus service; an average of two passengers per day had been recorded which was not viable. Other types of community transport were being investigated.

It was confirmed that there were no plans for any additional housing in Chebsey or Norton Bridge included in the Local Plan for Stafford.

870 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hopley declared an interest in items relating to Network Rail.

871 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 February 2019 and any Matters Arising

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 February 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

859 - The Clerk had reported the potholes on the B5026 Stone Road near the railway bridge; SCC Highways were looking to escalate the repairs as 19 reports on a number of potholes in a short stretch of road had been received. The Clerk was continuing to investigate the ownership of the damaged lamp post on the roundabout, and would report back.

859 - Cllr Wilson reported that Dawkes had completed one item at the recreation area, but the notice board was still outstanding.

Cllr Green confirmed that the bench on Parsons Bank was scheduled for repair.

Household refuse had been dumped prior to the recent visit of the Civic Amenity vehicle; Councillors agreed that the notice of future visits should include a reminder that refuse was to be handed to the vehicle operator. **Action: Clerk**

865 – Two further letters had been received from Sir William Cash MP, which provided further information on broadband provision for Chebsey and The Heamies; it was hoped this would be by the end of June this year. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to thank him for his assistance. **Action: Clerk**

872 Planning

The following planning applications had been received and were considered –

19/30014/COU Soapsuds Cottage, School Lane, Chebsey
Change of use from holiday let to ancillary aged relative accommodation

RESOLVED That Councillors had no comment to make on the above application.

19/29859/PAGR Land to the North West Stone Road, Norton Bridge
Prior Approval, Proposed agricultural building

RESOLVED That Councillors were concerned that the size of the proposed building was out of proportion with the area of the plot of land; the size of the land was given as 10.3 hectares when the actual size is over 10 acres; the building was in a prominent position; there was no provision for an access road, or for hard standing.

The following planning decisions by SBC had been reported since the last meeting:

18/29797/LBC ALLOWED

Park Cottages, Park Lane, Chebsey

Replacement windows to north and east elevation from metal to flush timber

19/29859/PAGR PRIOR APPROVAL - GRANTED

Land to the North West Stone Road, Norton Bridge

Prior Approval – Proposed agricultural building

Councillors were unhappy that a decision had been made before their comments were considered. The Clerk would make SBC Planning aware of Councillors' concerns. **Action: Clerk**

An Appeal has been submitted under the Householder Appeals Service in respect of 18/29346/HOU – Swift Barn, Lower Heamies Farm, Lower Heamies Lane. There was no opportunity to submit further comments; any representations already made could be withdrawn if necessary. Councillors agreed to take no further action.

873. Finance

861.i Expenditure for February/March

Clerk salary and expenses to 4 March 2019	168.81
HMRC, PAYE/NI to year end	118.20
Dawkes, payment of withheld amount	2,465.20
Hire of meeting room	45.00
Total monthly expenditure	<u>£2,797.21</u>

RESOLVED That the payments for February/March were approved.

873.ii Request from the Friends of Norton Bridge for a bin box cover

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact Dawkes to resolve the issue of the outstanding item for the play area. The Friends of Norton Bridge proposed to purchase a wooden cover for the litter bin at the recreation area, at a cost of £150; after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay half (£75) in the next year's accounts.

RESOLVED That Chebsey Parish Council would contribute £75 towards the cost of a litter bin cover in April 2019.

874. Highway Matters

874.i Routine clearance of gullies

The Clerk would bring information on the clearance of gullies at Scannel Lane, the far side of Hilcote Lane, Parsons Bank, and the crossroads off the B5026, to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

Councillors hoped that the 30 mph speed limit in Norton Bridge would be achieved soon.

The latest date for the completion of repairs to the bridge on Worston Lane was 14 May 2019.

875. Footpath between Shallowford and Chebsey

A notice had been placed in the church magazine asking for suggestions for a name for the new footpath. The new kissing gates would be installed shortly.

Cllr Green reported that the seat for the bench at the top of Parsons Bank would be repaired shortly.

After discussion Councillors agreed that the width of the footpath should be checked again; the Land Agent and Network Rail should be asked to confirm the measurements included in the sale details and official information.

876. Former BT Telephone box, Chebsey

Cllr Wilson reported that he had inspected the former telephone box and confirmed there was a lot of work to be carried out. The woodwork would need to be stripped and filled; the structure would need to be cleaned and prepared for painting; undercoat would need to be applied; top coat would need to be applied. Councillors agreed

that when the weather improved villagers, the Parish Council, and members of the wider community should be approached and asked to volunteer to help. As a priority, the structure needed to be weather proofed.

877. HS2/Network Rail

Chebsey Parish Council had previously petitioned with the Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) against HS2 proposals. After discussion Councillors agreed that SRCG should be asked to represent their interests again with regard to AP2, and to ensure that the issues raised were fully included in their Petition. Concerns had been raised over disruption by construction traffic on through routes and the rail movements of shunting trains awaiting access to the railhead. Individual residents were preparing to petition the Select Committee, and agreed to copy their Petitions to Cllr Pert. Funding from the Community Business Fund would not be available until Parliamentary approval had been granted to the project.

878. Graffiti in Cold Norton and Norton Bridge

Graffiti had been reported in the above areas, and at Shallowford. A resident was willing to remove it in Norton Bridge; the Clerk would check what methods were employed by SBC Streetscene and kits that were available to carry out cleaning and report back to the April meeting. **Action: Clerk**

879 Correspondence

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members’ Digest No 252; letter from Sir William Cash MP with information on broadband provision for Chebsey and The Heamies; Stone Town Council, Charity Pig Race on Friday 15 March; Stone Town Council, invitation to Civic Dinner on 27 April; Sovereign, catalogue of play equipment; BHIB Insurance, reminder to check on trees if the Parish Council’s responsibility; Mike Deegan Consulting offering help with applications for funding; SPCA letter re next year’s subscription due 27 April, £176; advance notice of overnight closure of M6 between J13 and J14 on 23/24 March for work at Burton Bank.

Cllr Wilson informed the meeting that he would not be standing as a Parish Councillor at the next election in May; the Chairman appreciated his decision and stated that he would be a great loss, and personally thanked him for his support which would be sadly missed.

Nomination papers for the forthcoming Parish Council elections were distributed; Councillors were urged to complete them in good time and the Clerk would if requested deliver them to SBC Elections Office to avoid the situation which arose at the last election.

880 Items for the next Parish Council Meeting

Refurbishment of the telephone box, Chebsey; adoption of the bus shelter at Norton Bridge, which is used by schoolchildren; maintenance of the recreation area at Norton Bridge. Councillors were asked to forward any other items for the next meeting to the Clerk.

881. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 1 April 2019 at St Luke’s Church Hall, Norton Bridge, at 7 pm. There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.

..... DateCouncillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman ,Chair