

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

- Present:** Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair, Chebsey Parish Council (CPC)  
Councillor David Davis  
Councillor John Green  
Councillor Richard Hopley  
Councillor Simon Hudson  
Councillor David Williams  
Councillor Mark Wilson
- In attendance:** Liz Harrington-Jones (Clerk)  
3 residents  
Councillor Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
- Apologies:** Councillor Peter Jones, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

**843 Welcome and Public Participation**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and wished them a Happy New Year.

Cllr Davis had been asked about the 30mph speed limit for Norton Bridge. It was confirmed that it was still on schedule for January 2019.

Cllr Hudson reported confusion due to the lack of signage for Norton Bridge which made it difficult to find the village when approaching from Eccleshall. SCC Highways would be asked for an additional sign on the new roundabout.

**Action: Clerk**

A member of the public raised concerns over the reported cessation of the bus service through Norton Bridge on 31 March 2019; he proposed that the bus company should be asked to re-route the No 14 service through Norton Bridge at least twice a day, adding 6 or 7 minutes to the route, but with the potential of bringing in additional fare paying passengers. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact D & G and SCC, and also that they would discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

The Clerk had contacted A P Webb who had confirmed that the repairs and roadworks on Station Road, Norton Bridge, which were commenced before Christmas and were still in situ, were instigated by Network Rail. The Clerk would pursue the matter with them, and also report that electrical wires from previous traffic lights were now exposed at the end of Chebsey Lane.

**Action: Clerk**

**844. Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr Jones (SBC) had sent his apologies.

Cllr Pert wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reported that he was offering to match funding from Parish Councils up to £1,000 per Parish, for gully emptying in his Ward. The Chair commented that some gullies in the Parish had never been emptied for at least three years and residents felt let down. She had checked three gullies in Chebsey that each had 32" to 39" debris. Cllr Pert agreed this was a persistent long-running problem and he was encouraging Parish Councils to be proactive. All agreed that rural lanes were affected by a lot of vegetation and mud. Gully emptying was scheduled to be carried out on the B5026 from 7 – 12 January. Councillors commented that there was a problem with water reaching the gullies and that SCC should be asked to clear the sidings out; this would be discussed under Highways (Minute 849 refers). The Clerk would be asked to check which gullies were scheduled to be emptied during the next 12 months.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Wilson requested a permanent speed camera sign for Norton Bridge so that the driver of the speed van did not have to put one out on each visit. The speed van had caught at least 10 visitors on each visit and there had been one prosecution in the last 12 months, and a number of letters sent to offenders.

A member of the public reported that rubbish had been deposited in the lay-by near the farm at Shallowford, the lay-by near Worston Mill, and that HGVs were parking overnight regularly in the lay-by opposite the driving range at Cold Norton causing a significant litter problem. Local lanes were also affected by fly tipping. The meeting felt that the problem was exacerbated by the imposition of charges at the municipal tip. Cllr Pert confirmed that Streetscene would clear litter quickly when they had been notified of the problem.

Cllr Pert had arranged a meeting with Parish Councillors on Thursday 21 February at 6.30 pm in Yarnfield Conference Centre as an opportunity for a broad conversation, and a chance for Parish Councillors to network. Formal invitations would be sent out shortly, and he urged Councillors to attend.

## 845 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Hopley and Hudson declared an interest in items relating to Network Rail.

## 846 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 December 2018 and any Matters Arising

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 December 2018 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Hudson had not been able to attend the meeting between Stone Town Council, Stone Rural Council, Stone Railhead Crisis Group and HS2 representatives on 11 December 2018 (Minute 838).

The potholes on the B5026 had still not been repaired; the lights on the old roundabout had been damaged and were still not repaired. The Clerk would chase up both items and the covenant conditions on the new Shallowford to Chebsey footpath. **Action: Clerk**

Dawkes had been contacted about the two outstanding items remaining from the refurbishment of the recreation area. Cllr Wilson would also contact Dawkes to clear items preventing the completion of the project.

**Action: Cllr Wilson, Clerk**

After discussion it was agreed that the Chair would speak to the landowners about the cutting of the hedges on Scamnel Lane. The Chair would also visit the landowner of the hedge on Parsons Bank.

Councillors thanked Cllr Green for ensuring that the defibrillator light was now functioning properly.

## 847 Planning

No planning decisions by SBC had been reported since the last meeting. One planning application had been received:

### 18/29507/FUL (Amendment)

Drumble House, School Lane, Chebsey

A member of the public had sent copies of his letter and objections to the proposals submitted to SBC, and requested CPC's support; these were noted. Cllr Pert reported that there were no grounds on which to call in this planning application. After discussion it was

**RESOLVED** That Councillors had no comments to make on the above planning application.

Councillors discussed the revised Stafford Borough Council SHELAA, which listed three sites in the Parish – the former Railway Inn, Norton Bridge; land at Park Lane, Chebsey; Baden Hall Farm, Cold Meece.

## 848. Finance

### 848.i Expenditure for December/January

Clerk salary and expenses to 7 January 2019	168.81
All Saints', Chebsey PCC, hall hire	45.00
Mazars, audit fee (formerly on hold for negotiation)	360.00
Total monthly expenditure	£573.81

**RESOLVED** That the payments for December/January were approved.

### 848.ii Precept requirements for 2019/2020

Councillors discussed the precept requirements for the Parish for 2019/2020. The precept for each of the last two years had been increased by 15%. After discussion, and with one abstention, Councillors

**RESOLVED** That the precept for Chebsey Parish Council should be increased by 10% for 2019/2020.

### 848.iii Civic Amenity Vehicle visits 2019/2020

SBC had contacted the Parish Council for confirmation of their requirements for visits by the Civic Amenity Vehicle during 2019/2020. After discussion it was agreed that visits of one hour's duration should be arranged for each month except December, February and August, preferably for the third Saturday in each month. **Action: Clerk**

## 849. Highway Matters

### 849.i Routine clearance of gullies

Councillors discussed Cllr Pert's offer of match funding for the clearance of gullies (Minute 844). After discussion it was agreed to allocate £200 toward gully clearing for approximately 9 gullies. The Clerk would check if any gullies in Chebsey Parish were due to be cleared in the next three year schedule and priorities would be established; some gullies would require clearing more frequently than others, and some would require jetting. **Action: Clerk**

**849.ii Other Highway matters**

The grit had been distributed by Cllr Wilson to bins at the bottom of Shallowford Bank and at the crossroads before Christmas. Approximately one third of the grit was left. Councillors thanked Cllr Wilson for distributing the grit and agreed to discuss at the next meeting whether further supplies were required.

The outline of a ‘Tommy’ had been at the Shallowford crossroads for 8 weeks and was due to be moved. His final site would be near the War Memorial in the churchyard of All Saints’ Church, Chebsey. After discussion it was agreed to consult with parishioners via the church magazine to see if he should be placed in other sites in the Parish beforehand. The outlines of ‘Tommies’ that had been placed in All Saints’, Chebsey, had been distributed around the benefice as part of the schools’ curriculum.

**850. Report on measures to address dog fouling in the Parish**

Residents had reported considerable improvement in the situation in Norton Bridge. After the December meeting the Parish Council had adopted a proactive approach following further complaints about the situation, and most households in the area had received a letter and leaflet asking for residents’ co-operation in keeping pavements in Norton Bridge free of dog mess. The SBC Enforcement Officer had visited the area and written to some residents; Stafford Rural Homes had been asked to contact their tenants regarding the noise nuisance, and Councillors had approached individual dog owners and asked for their co-operation. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to the SBC Enforcement Officer with a report on the current situation. **Action: Clerk**

**851. Footpath between Shallowford and Chebsey**

Cllr Wilson had received a quote to supply and install fencing for £1,100 more than the original quote to supply, and it was hoped that the work would be carried out in February. The Clerk would chase up details of the covenant affecting the footpath.

**Action: Cllr Wilson, Clerk**

**852. HS2/Network Rail**

The Clerk would forward to Councillors information received by email that day from the HS2 team who had attended the meeting on 3 December – their record of the meeting and answers to questions raised, and list technical data which had been received by post. The Clerk would chase up information on funding for local communities that was due to be sent. **Action: Clerk**

**853. Correspondence**

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members’ Digest No 249 issued 7 December 2018, a letter from SBC detailing arrangements for Civic Amenity vehicle visits 2019/2020, an email from a resident enclosing a copy of correspondence concerning planning application 18/29507/FUL and asking for support to oppose the application, a further email about progress on refurbishing the adopted telephone box in Chebsey which now housed the defibrillator.

Councillors discussed the refurbishment of the telephone box; Councillors agreed that it was the wrong time of year to carry out any work on the telephone box; the original volunteer was now unable to progress the project through illness; Councillors had understood that Chebsey Village Trust would refurbish the telephone box so that it was in a satisfactory condition to hand over for the Parish Council to maintain for the future. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to Chebsey Village Trust confirming that the Council fully supported the telephone box being used to house the defibrillator and asking the Trust to renovate the telephone box to a satisfactory standard so that it could be handed over to the Parish Council to maintain for the future.

**854 Items for the next Parish Council Meeting**

Refurbishment of the telephone box, Chebsey; cessation of the bus service to Norton Bridge; Councillors were asked to forward any other items for the next meeting to the Clerk.

**855. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 4 February 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.

..... Date .....Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman ,Chair