

**MINUTES OF THE CHEBSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 7 pm  
IN ST LUKE'S CHURCH HALL, NORTON BRIDGE**

- Present:** Councillor Richard Hopley, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Davis  
Councillor John Green  
Councillor Bob Jones  
Councillor Julie Lawson
- In attendance:** Liz Harrington-Jones (Clerk)  
13 residents  
Councillor Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
- Apologies:** Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair  
Councillor David Williams  
Councillor Peter Jones, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

**949 Welcome and Public Participation**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was reported that the next meeting of the Friends of Norton Bridge would be on 13 September 2019.

A representative of the History Group outlined the programme of events for 2019 that had been drawn up using Heritage Lottery funding, and showed posters. All events would be free of charge except for the coach trip to RAF Coningsby. One of the events would be the official opening of Tommy's Trail Footpath at Shallowford. Chebsey Parish Council was thanked for its support of the History Group.

An outbreak of fly tipping of old furniture was reported in the public area at the end of Railway Cottages, Norton Bridge. Other instances of fly tipping in the Parish were also reported.

Residents reported that the speed of traffic through Norton Bridge was beginning to rise, despite the 30 mph limit. Cllr Pert had worked with the Friends of Norton Bridge for the installation of the speed limit, and suggested a Community Speedwatch Group might help to combat the problem. Cllr Pert would also ask the safety van to attend again.

A resident of Cold Norton reported difficulties in accessing the public footpath to Yarnfield – the gate at the start was locked and chained and several trees were overhanging the footpath making progress difficult. Councillors agreed to ascertain the ownership of the trees and Cllr Jones would check on the footpath. **Action: Cllr Jones**

A resident asked about the footpath from Stone Common to Norton Bridge and was referred to the Stone Circles route around Stone and the Ramblers Association for further information.

Problems with visibility at the junction of Searchlight Lane and the Norton Bridge road were reported due to the growth on trees and hedges. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors were asked if any covenants applied to the land recently sold by Network Rail, and agreed to monitor the situation where a large building was being constructed on land off the new Eccleshall Road. Concerns had been expressed by Councillors when the planning application was submitted.

A resident of Hilcote Gardens reported the difficulties experienced by drivers attempting to turn into or exit the road due to the poor visibility and speed of traffic along the B5026. Cllr Pert suggested Parish Councillor walk the section of the road to assess the problems, and discuss the matter at the next meeting and this was agreed. **Action: CPC Cllrs**

Cllr Davis reported that legs on the new bench installed at Norton Bridge had been damaged by the grass cutting machine. The Clerk would contact Streetscene to advise them of the siting of the bench. **Action: Clerk**

A resident confirmed that she would attempt to remove graffiti in Norton Bridge and the Parish Council agreed to supply equipment. **Action: Clerk**

The Chair closed the public session of the meeting.

**950 Reports from Borough and County Councillors** Cllr Pert reported that it had been confirmed at a recent meeting of SCC that all transport and highways concerns relating to HS2 could be forwarded to SCC who would act as a conduit. SCC was not in favour of HS2 but sought to maximise any benefits from the project and were committed to delivering relevant and necessary road schemes.

Cllr Pert has called in the most recent planning applications relating to Park View, Chebsey.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Pert for his contribution.

**951 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Hopley declared an interest in any items relating to Network Rail.

**952 Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Monday 1 July and Monday 12 August 2019**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 1 July and 12 August 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

**953 Matters Arising,**

**953.i Telephone Box, Chebsey** It was confirmed that volunteers had started work on the telephone box at Chebsey and would keep a note of any expenditure incurred.

**953.ii** The Clerk would circulate posters asking for volunteers for a Community Speedwatch Group.

**954 Planning**

**Planning Applications 19/30923/LBC and 19/30922/HOU Park View, Park Lane, Chebsey (amendment)**

These applications have now been called in. Councillors considered the further amendments that had been added that day were significant, and agreed to reiterate the comments already made referring to the earlier proposals.

*(7.40 pm, Cllr Pert left the meeting.)*

**19/31041/ANX, Barncroft, Scamnel Lane, Chebsey** – Residential Annex, erection of a log cabin to be used as ancillary living accommodation serving Barncroft

**RESOLVED** That Councillors did not object to this particular application, but were concerned that it might set a precedent for similar developments in the future.

**19/31066 HOU, Croft House, School Lane, Chebsey** – Proposed summerhouse

**RESOLVED** That Councillors were concerned at the height of the proposed summerhouse, making it appear out of proportion to nearby buildings given its situation in the Conservation Area.

**955 Finance**

**955.i Expenditure for August and September**

Clerk salary and expenses	168.81, plus postage	170.03
Oak Tree Farm, grass cutting		45.00
Mazars, external audit fee		<u>240.00</u>
Total expenditure		£455.03

**RESOLVED** That the payments for August and September were approved.

The annual (external) audit had been completed by Mazars; the full report would be circulated to Councillors and relevant information posted on notice boards and on the Parish Council website.

**956 SBC Parish Rural Survey and SBC Review of Polling Stations and arrangements**

SBC has circulated a survey they are carrying out of rural areas; it was agreed that much of the information should be available from local tax and planning records.

Councillors agreed that the feedback on the recent change of the Parish Polling Station from Chebsey to St Luke's, Norton Bridge, had been very positive.

**957 Highway matters**

**957.i Removal of hedges in Hilcote Lane** The removal of significant lengths of hedging had been noted in Hilcote Lane. This has been reported to the SBC Arboricultural Officer, who is investigating.

**957.ii** Concerns were expressed over the state of the pull in opposite the driving range on the B5026 at Cold Norton. The Clerk would report the fly tipping that had been reported. **Action: Clerk**

**958 Formal opening of Tommy's Trail footpath** Details were still to be finalised for the event planned for 11 am on 9 November 2019; Messrs Stan West and Mark Wilson were being asked to perform the formal opening. Councillors agreed to provide the refreshments (tea, coffee, etc) at St Luke's, Norton Bridge, and were asked to suggest people to include in the invitations. The metal 'Tommy' outline will be placed at the Shallowford end of the Trail.

**959 Roles of individual Councillors** It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

**960 HS2/Network Rail update** A Review of the HS2 project was underway and would report in the autumn. Residents had been advised that there would be overnight working by Network Rail in the area, but it was unclear exactly where or when the work would be carried out.

**961 Correspondence received** The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC, Members' Digest ; Stone Town Council, invitation to attend Mayor's Trafalgar Dinner on Friday 18 October 2019; Stone Town Council, invitation to attend Mayor's Charity Quiz Night on Friday 25 October 2019. The Clerk confirmed that no further anonymous letters had been received.

**962 Items for the next Parish Council meeting:** Roles of individual Councillors

**963. Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 7 October 2019 at St Luke's Church Hall, Norton Bridge, at 7 pm. Cllr Lawson gave her apologies. **Action: Clerk**  
There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.

Date.....Chair