

**MINUTES OF THE CHEBSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2020 at 7 pm
IN ST LUKE'S CHURCH HALL, NORTON BRIDGE**

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

1006 Welcome and Public Participation

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Several residents had been concerned as peacocks had strayed from the Fishery into Chebsey village on several occasions recently. The owners asked for residents help in making the birds unwelcome there, and to contact the owners if the birds were a nuisance and they would encourage the peacocks to stay in the immediate vicinity of the Fishery.

Residents raised concerns over a planning application for Land Off Searchlight Lane (19/31474/FUL, Minute 1011 refers). Residents had not been notified about the planning application; the field had a drop of 5 to 6 metres which had not been allowed for; the planned hard standing was not adequate for the number and size of vehicles using the site and would necessitate using the lane which was narrow; the site was close to the Conservation Area. Concerns were also raised over the number of calves to be housed (up to 90); the quantity of feedstuffs, hay and straw all to be transported to the site; the waste from the calves – manure to be stored in heaps in the field and the likelihood of run-off following heavy rain going in to the ditch and eventually into the River Sow and possibly also the nearby Fishery; a 24/7 operation being conducted on the site with little or no provision of facilities for staff; the possibility of light and noise pollution. Residents were further concerned over the amount of hedge to be removed which was felt to be excessive, and urged that trees should be planted for screening particularly for Drumble Cottage. Councillors noted the concerns raised, and recommended residents to forward their comments to the planning authority.

Residents raised a number of questions over the application for a children's' home at The Scannel, Chebsey, for which a Local Development Certificate for Proposed Development (LDC) had been granted. No notice of the decision had been given to residents or the Parish Council and very little detailed information was available. The application had been made by a company, suggesting it was to be run as a business from the premises, and staff would be employed 24/7. Concerns were expressed over the safety of the children as the property is on a busy main road; the situation is isolated with no local facilities, against Ofsted guidelines; there is limited parking for staff and visitors, with the likelihood of police, social services etc having to reverse on to the B5026. The Clerk and Councillors would make further enquiries and seek advice, and a letter would be sent to the MP; there were concerns over the lack of information or any consultation.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the next Police Surgery would be held at the Drop In at Norton Bridge on 16 January.

1007 Reports from Borough and County Councillors There were no reports from Cllr Jones SBC or Cllr Pert SCC as both had sent their apologies. The Chair closed the public session of the meeting.

1008 Declarations of Interest Cllr Hopley declared an interest in any items relating to Network Rail.

1009 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 December 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 December 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

1010 Matters Arising,

The lanes around Chebsey had all been swept. The Clerk would remind SCC Highways to arrange for the gullies to be cleared, and request the attendance of the road sweeper in Shallowford and Norton Bridge. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Pert had sent information regarding the clearing of ditches. All agreed that a definitive answer was needed with regard to responsibility for the ditch in Hilcote Lane, and the ditch at the rear of the telephone kiosk in Chebsey. The Clerk would write to Cllr Pert. **Action: Clerk**

The defibrillator pads had been replaced in Chebsey and Norton Bridge. Cllr Jones was thanked for installing the sign showing the location of the defibrillator in Cold Norton.

The Clerk would send a reminder requesting 'No fly tipping' signs for the lay-by on the B5026.

The Environmental Health Officer had attended properties neighbouring The Old Mill Farmhouse but could take no action over the rats sighted in the churchyard as she could not ascertain where the rats were living (983.iii).

Outreach were still working in Chebsey on the installation of broadband.

The Clerk would contact SBC Enforcement to request the reinstatement of four lengths of hedge that had been removed, Select Care Homes to reinforce the request for the removal of vegetation at the roadside, and contact Cllr Pert to request further information on the accident statistics for Hilcote at the Hilcote junction on the B5026. She would also ask Cllr Pert for information on the organisation of a seminar on planning matters (986.i). **Action: Clerk**

1011 Planning The following planning application had been received – 19/31474/FUL

Land adjacent to Searchlight Lane, Chebsey

Erect a Steel Portal Frame Execution Class 2 agricultural Building, and to extend the current access which will in turn require 7 metres of hedge to be removed

Councillors had no objection in principle to the proposals in the planning application, but were concerned over the possible setting of a precedent by the proposed business operation. No local residents appeared to have been asked to comment. Concerns were raised over the restriction on access to feeding by siting the hay storage in the centre of the main building; the use of boarding on the inside of the building, which would be vulnerable to destruction by the older calves; the lack of provision of facilities for the 1.3 staff members and the hours to be worked on site.

Environmental issues, including possible seepage from the storage of heaps of manure in heaps into the River Sow (via the ditch in The Brittle Lane) and possibly affecting the nearby Izaak Walton Fishery were noted, plus possible noise and light pollution. Screening, especially towards Drumble Cottage, was considered inadequate. There are already concerns over the drainage from Searchlight Lane. The field is on a slope with a drop of between 5 and 6 metres, and may require a topographical survey. Councillors questioned whether so much hedging needed to be removed and lost, given that a number of hedges have been lost in the village recently, and suggested more hard standing could be provided to enable turning of vehicles on the site rather than increasing the risk of large vehicles blocking a narrow lane.

Local Development Certificate for Proposed Development, The Scannel, Eccleshall Road, Chebsey (LDC)

Proposed change of use from residential (C3) to care accommodation (C3b)

Councillors agreed that clarification should be sought from SBC Planning on the staffing of the proposed children's residential home, as this would affect the classification. The running of a business from the premises was understood to represent a change of use and this would be investigated further. A number of concerns were raised over the suitability of the premises and the location on a busy main road.

SBC Planning had confirmed that LDCs can apply to Conservation Areas.

No planning decisions have been received from Stafford Borough Council since the meeting on 2 December 2019.

1012 Finance

1012.i Expenditure for December

Clerk salary and expenses	170.03	
4 shovels for Grit Bins	12.96	
Defibrillator pads	<u>74.28</u>	257.27
HMRC, PAYE/NI		<u>118.40</u>
Total expenditure		£375.67

RESOLVED That the payments for December were approved.

A contribution of £200.32 had been received from the Chebsey Christmas Afternoon Tea Party.

1012.ii Consideration of precept requirements for 2020-2021

After discussion it was agreed unanimously that the precept should be increased by 5% for 2020-2021 to cover additional expenses and the continued withdrawal of central government funding.

RESOLVED That the precept requirements should be increased by 5% for 2020-2021.

1013 Highways Matters

The grit bins were believed to be full, but the contents would be checked when the new shovels were installed.

Councillors agreed that Cllr Pert should be contacted for progress on seeking compensation for damage caused to local roads by traffic diverted from the motorway. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors commented on the hedge debris that had been left in Scannel Lane, and dog fouling bags left in the lane.

The Clerk would obtain further supplies of posters and signs. **Action: Clerk**

The diversion signs at the end of Scannel Lane with the junction of the B5026 regularly obscured drivers' vision when turning right.

Following a recent meeting between the Chair and John Hannah, the Network Rail Project Manager, the Clerk would request a copy of the Land Environmental Management Plan, as SCC Highways were in discussion to take on the maintenance of some verges. **Action: Clerk**

1014 Speedwatch Group, Norton Bridge

It was agreed to register Norton Bridge's Speedwatch Group for the next training date. **Action: Clerk**

1015 HS2/Network Rail update A Review of the HS2 project was underway and a report was expected in February 2020. Yarnfield Parish Council was negotiating with HS2 for a meeting to discuss their Petition to the House of Lords.

1016 Correspondence receivedThe Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members' Digest No 262, SBC invitation from Cllr Peter Jones to visit the Mayor's Parlour.

1017 Items for the next Parish Council meeting: Speedwatch group; working party for Norton Bridge play area

1018 Date of Next Meeting The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 3 February 2020 at St Luke's Church Hall, Norton Bridge, at 7 pm.

Date.....Chair