

**MINUTES OF THE CHEBSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2020 at 7 pm  
IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHEBSEY**

**Present:** Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair  
Councillor Richard Hopley, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Davis  
Councillor John Green  
Councillor Bob Jones

**In attendance:** Liz Harrington-Jones (Clerk)  
Councillor Peter Jones, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

**Apologies:** Councillor Julie Lawson  
Councillor David Williams  
Councillors Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

**1050 Welcome and Public Participation**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. An email had been received from a resident asking if the footpath known as The Brickle could be reopened. It runs from School Lane to Searchlight Lane for approx 250m and is currently very overgrown. After discussion it was agreed this should be an item on the agenda for the September meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**Footpath 11** Reports had been received about the lack of secure handrails on the access to the footpath from Station Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this to the Rights of Way team again. **Action: Clerk**

Individuals complaining about the lack of adequate hand rails should be encouraged to report the issue to SCC Rights of Way via the website.

**Cold Norton footpath from B5026 to Yarnfield** The stile is broken and dangerous, and this would be reported by the Clerk. The footpath has been heavily used recently. **Action: Clerk**

**Footpath from Norton Bridge to The Scannel** This has been reported as being overgrown; Cllr Williams is investigating and will report back to Councillors.

**Defibrillator, Cold Norton** Problems with the cabinet had been reported; it was understood a local contact had met the Cold Meece volunteer. The Clerk would check on the situation and report back. **Action: Clerk**

**Improved access to All Saints Church** The PCC were investigating an improvement to the access to the church; this would necessitate dropping the kerb, and the Clerk would contact SCC Highways for confirmation and information. **Action: Clerk**

The Chair reported that the community support provided since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic had included 402 requests for help with shopping and the collection of prescriptions; 361 orders for fruit and vegetable deliveries; 89 orders for flour from a local mill, with 426.5 kg flour purchased; a total of 862 requests for help processed. Councillors congratulated the Chair for a phenomenal achievement, and thanked the Clerk for assisting and a local resident for contributing supplies of home made cake for vulnerable residents.

No information had been received on the resumption of the Civic Amenity vehicle service; Councillors agreed this is an important community amenity, the loss of which has contributed to recent increases in fly tipping, and instructed the Clerk to write to SBC asking for it to be re-established as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk**

**1051 Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr Jones reported that Eccleshall Parish Council was working with the Stone Parish Council Group to achieve increased Parish Council representation on planning applications. All agreed that recent plans proposed by the government to change planning laws were worrying.

No feedback had been received on the Local Plan consultations held in February and March.

Chebsey PC had raised a number of concerns with the Enforcement Team over local planning issues and received little feedback; it was agreed that the Clerk would forward a list of issues to Cllr Jones who would take the matter up with SBC Planning. Cllr Jones stressed he was very willing to call in planning applications which were of concern to the Parish Council.

Because of the outbreak of Covid 19 and its effect on the Mayor Making process, Cllr Jones would continue as Deputy Mayor for Stafford Borough until May 2021, when he will have been in the role for four years.

No report had been received from Cllr Pert.

**1052 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Hopley declared an interest in any items relating to Network Rail.

**1053 Apologies** were accepted from Cllrs Lawson and Williams, and Cllr Pert (SCC).

**1054 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2020**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 March 2020 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**1055 Matters Arising,**

Cllr Bob Jones reported the appearance of ‘Decision not available’ on recent planning applications; Cllr Jones SBC agreed to raise this matter with SBC Planning. **Action: Cllr Jones SBC**

Speedwatch training had not yet resumed.

There would be a cost of £40 reported at the September meeting for a Cautionary Notice to be applied to the parking area in Chebsey village. **Action: Clerk**

**1056 Planning**

**1040.i Planning decisions, Planning Appeals, and to consider any Planning Applications made**

Councillors raised a number of issues over the processing of several recent planning applications and an apparent lack of consistency. A recent application for a temporary caravan for use as a holiday let had been accompanied by documentation showing a substantial log cabin; concerns raised over the removal of hedges had not been followed up; concerns over the removal of oak trees had again not been followed up; the change of use of a semi detached dwelling to a children’s home had been approved by means of an LDC when Councillors believed it should be COU. Concerns had been raised over the LDC/COU issue with the Head of Planning and Sir William Cash MP; Sir William’s response had been disappointing, there had been no response or acknowledgment from SBC Planning. The Clerk would forward details of Councillors’ concerns to Cllr Jones SBC, who would raise them with SBC Planning. **Action: Clerk**

The following Planning application had been received –

**20/32746/COU** Land at Eccleshall Road, Norton Bridge

Change of Use from Equestrian Centre to Class B8 (Storage & Distribution) Use and Change of Use from Equestrian Centre to Class B8 (Storage & Distribution) Use and associated works

**RESOLVED** That Councillors were concerned that as the use of the site had originally been for countryside activities, the proposed commercial activities were inappropriate and not in keeping for a Greenfield site. Up to 16 commercial vehicles a day could be accessing the site using an entrance on a bend marked by double white lines and on a 60 mph road. Councillors were further concerned that if approved, the application could lead to the creation of an industrial area.

19/30922/HOU Park View, Park Lane, Chebsey – in line with other planning appeals and applications, extensions had been granted until May 2021 due to the effect of Covid 19.

The following Planning Decision has been made since the meeting held in March 2020:

**20/31815/HOU The Old Estate Office, Stone Road, Eccleshall APPROVED**

The addition of a single storey cube glass room to the rear elevation of the property

**1057 Finance**

**1057.i Expenditure for July and August 2020**

Clerk’s salary and expenses, July	168.81
Clerk’s salary and expenses, August	168.81
John Green Landscapes, grass cutting at play area	168.00
Mrs C Heelis, audit fee	62.50
Cllr D Davis, replacement lawnmower drive cable	<u>28.07</u>
	596.19
NatWest current account (24 July 2020)	7,171.85
less unrepresented cheques	<u>0.00</u>
	7,171.85

Less monthly expenditure 505.62  
£6,666.23 balance

**1057.ii To confirm expenditure for April, May and June 2020**

April	Clerk's salary and expenses	188.76	
	All Saints Chebsey PCC, hire of hall	45.00	233.76
May	Clerk's salary	168.81	168.81
June	Clerk's salary	168.81	
	HMRC, PAYE/NI	118.20	
	BHIB insurance	439.60	
	SCC payment to The Corner Patch	50.00	776.61

**1057.iii To approve the Annual Governance Statement on Annual Governance and Accountability Return for financial year 2019/2020**

**RESOLVED** That the Annual Governance Statement on Annual Governance and Accountability Return for financial year 2019/2020 presented to the Parish Council should be approved.

**1057.iv To approve the Accounting Statements on Annual Governance and Accountability Return for financial year 2019/2020**

**RESOLVED** That the Accounting Statements on Annual Governance and Accountability Return for financial year 2019/2020 presented to the Parish Council should be approved.

**1058 Highway and Footpath Matters**

**1058.i Footpath 18, obstruction – update on progress to resolve**

The time limit agreed between the landowner and SCC Rights of Way team for correcting faults on Footpath 18 should expire on Friday 14 August. Councillors regretted that the Parish Council had not been included in discussions on a footpath that had been regularly used in the Parish, and agreed to monitor progress on the removal of barbed wire and the replacement of inappropriate stiles and report to SCC Rights of Way. It was hoped that the Ramblers Association would continue to police the accessibility of the footpath.

**1058. ii Other Highways and Footpath Matters**

Gulleys - The blocked/damaged gully on Parsons Bank was still flooding the road; STWA had attended on three occasions without success as the problem would seem to be one for Highways to address.

The Clerk would again request clearance of the gulleys in the lanes in the Parish.

**Action: Clerk**

**1059 Norton Bridge Recreation Area**

Councillors thanked Cllr Green for arranging the mowing of the recreation area when Oak Tree Farm were unable to continue their contract, and confirmed that mowing should continue at fortnightly intervals. Councillors also thanked Cllr Green for spraying the paths around the area.

**1059.i Condition of picnic tables**

The Clerk reported that one picnic table was in poor condition and damaged. After discussion Councillors agreed that Cllr Green would remove the damaged table and dispose of it.

**Action: Cllr Green**

**1059.ii Notice – site and model of notice board**

The Parish Council is holding funds from Dawkes & Co for a notice board for the play area. Councillors considered different sites to place a notice board and after discussion agreed the purchase of a notice that could be attached to the gazebo. The Clerk would draft wording and circulate it to Councillors for approval, and obtain quotations.

**Action: Clerk**

**1060 HS2/Network Rail update**

Cllr Jones reported that SRCG were continuing to work to move the site for the railhead from Stone, and would present a Petition to the House of Lords on 16 September 2020. Reports would also be submitted to the House of Commons Accounts and Audit Committee, at the request of the Committee Chairman.

The Court of Appeal has ruled that local councils have the absolute right to decide on planning issues that are impacted by HS2 construction works.

The Annual Meeting between HS2 and those Parish Councils affected by the project would be held virtually, despite the majority of Parish Councils expressing a preference for a face-to-face meeting.

The Chair thanked Cllr Jones for his report and for representing CPC at SRCG meetings.

**1061 Correspondence received** The Clerk reported the receipt of a few items of routine correspondence during lockdown; email correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors.

**1062 Items for the next Parish Council meeting** should be forwarded to the Clerk.

**1063 Date of Next Meeting** Councillors confirmed their satisfaction with the arrangements that had been made for meetings of the Parish Council. The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 14 September 2020 in All Saints Church, Chebsey, at 7 pm. The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Date.....Chair