

**MINUTES OF THE CHEBSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2020 at 7 pm
IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHEBSEY**

Present: Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair
Councillor Richard Hopley, Vice Chair
Councillor John Green
Councillor Bob Jones
Councillor Julie Lawson

In attendance: Liz Harrington-Jones (Clerk)
3 members of the public

Apologies: Councillor David Davis
Councillor Peter Jones, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Councillors Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

1064 Welcome and Public Participation

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillors observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect and in memory of Councillor David Williams who had passed away suddenly the previous week.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council, and in particular the Chairman, for the outstanding help and support that had been given to residents since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Two members of the public spoke in favour of the clearing of The Brickle, an important landscape feature in the village of Chebsey, linking Searchlight Lane and School Lane. Councillors agreed to bring forward discussion of item 8.ii on the agenda. The Chair reported that letters and emails had been received from four other residents, also in favour of reopening The Brickle. A representative of Amey, working under contract for the SCC, had confirmed earlier in the day that The Brickle is a Green Lane and should be maintained by SCC. It was unlikely that funds would be available for the clearance, but once cleared, SCC would be obliged to keep The Brickle maintained and inspected annually. One quote (£475 plus VAT) had been obtained for the clearance, and it was agreed that other quotes should be sought. Friends of Norton Bridge had formally agreed to pay one half of the cost; funds of £200 were available from monies raised by the Christmas Afternoon Tea. Concerns were expressed that if cleared the site could be used by fly tippers. After discussion it was agreed to seek additional quotes for the work and to obtain confirmation from Amey/SCC in writing that once cleared, future maintenance of The Brickle would be carried out by them. **Action: Clerk**

The Chair closed the public session of the meeting.

1065 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Jones had not yet received any feedback from SBC on the planning issues raised at the last meeting.

1066 Declarations of Interest Cllr Hopley declared an interest in any items relating to Network Rail; Cllr Ainsworth-Hickman declared an interest in agenda item 8.iii relating to flooding in the Parish.

1067 Apologies were accepted from Cllr Davis, and from Cllr Jones (SBC) and Cllr Pert (SCC).

1068 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 August 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 August 2020 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

1069 Matters Arising,

The Clerk would remind SCC Rights of Way Team that secure handrails were still required at the entrance to Footpath 11. The correspondence would be copied to The Ramblers Association. **Action: Clerk**

Improved access to All Saints' Church - the Clerk would send information on applying for dropped kerbs to Cllr Green to assist with the church's application. **Action: Clerk**

The Chair displayed the cards that had been received from residents, thanking her for all the support that had been given since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, which reflected the need there had been in the community for support.

There had been no feedback from SBC on the consultation on the Local Plan for Stafford, and no further communication about the children's home on the B5026.

Footpath 18 – the landowner had not taken all the required actions; the Clerk would contact SCC Rights of Way and The Ramblers. **Action: Clerk**

1070 Planning

1070.i Planning decisions, Planning Appeals, and to consider any Planning Applications made

No planning decisions had been received since the previous meeting.

The following Planning application had been received –

20/33001/HOU The Mount, School Lane, Chebsey

Proposed oak frame, clay tile carport built off existing retaining wall

RESOLVED That Councillors had no objection in principle, but were concerned that, as the application was for work within the curtilage of a listed building, any additional restrictions had been complied with.

(7.40 pm, all members of the public left the meeting.)

1070.ii Response to government proposals for changes to the current planning system

Councillors agreed to send any comments to the Clerk and to attend an Extraordinary Meeting if necessary.

1070.iii Letter from Stone Parish Council Group to SBC Planning

After discussion Councillors agreed that Chebsey's name should be added to the list of signatories.

Cllr Jones SBC was following up a number of issues on enforcement that Chebsey PC had raised.

Councillors were concerned that extensive work had been carried out at the rear of Barncroft, Scannel Lane, and agreed the Clerk should check on the planning situation.

Up to seven cars at a time were being parked on the grass verge on the B5026, where work was continuing on the proposed children's home, and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the PCSO to report the hazard. **Action: Clerk**

1071 Finance

1071.i Expenditure for September 2020

Clerk's salary (August) and expenses	168.81
HMRC, PAYE/NI (July-Sept)	118.20
DM Payroll Services (half year)	30.00
Total expenditure	£317.01

NatWest current account (25 August 2020) 6,619.96

less unrepresented cheques 62.50

6,557.46

Less monthly expenditure 317.01

6, 238.45 balance

1071.ii Replacement pads for Norton Bridge defibrillator; Cold Norton defibrillator

Councillors approved the purchase of replacement pads for the defibrillator at Norton Bridge. **Action: Clerk**

There had been problems with the defibrillator at Cold Norton and it had been arranged for a representative of the supplier to attend the installation and report.

1072 Highway and Footpath Matters

1072.i Footpath 18, obstruction – update on progress to resolve

This had been covered during 1069, Matters Arising.

1072. ii The Brickle Footpath

This item had been covered during the public session of the meeting.

1072.iii Recent flooding in the Parish

Two residents had their property flooded following recent heavy rain. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to SCC Highways as the problems were caused by problems with the camber of the road at one site, and following work by Network Rail in the vicinity of the other site.

Action: Clerk

1072.iv Consideration of registration of footpaths in the Parish

After discussion Councillors agreed that where they received a request for a specific former footpath, they would consider its registration sympathetically; the closing date for registrations was 2025. A number of former footpaths had now completely disappeared, or the surviving remnants did not follow a recognisable route to a destination, and

concerns were expressed about future maintenance costs. Councillors agreed that a representative of The Ramblers Association should be invited to a future meeting. **Action: Clerk**

1072.v Great British Clean Up 11-27 September 2020

This event had been confirmed; litter picking would continue in the Parish and tidying up would take place in Norton Bridge and Shallowford.

Gulley cleaning and road sweeping had been requested for the roads in the Parish, although there were still problems with gullies in Parsons Bank, Chebsey.

A dangerous road sign had been reported in Park Lane, Chebsey. The Clerk would contact Highways. **Action: Clerk**

1073 Norton Bridge Recreation Area

Cllr Green had removed the damaged picnic table. The Clerk would circulate draft wording and quotes for the notice board to Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

1074 HS2/Network Rail update

There have been no further details provided of the annual meeting to be held by Zoom between HS2 and Parish Councils along the route of the rail line.

1075 To confirm and adopt Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Accessibility Statement for Chebsey Parish Council

RESOLVED That Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, the Code of Conduct, and the Accessibility Statement for Chebsey Parish Council should be confirmed and adopted.

1076 Correspondence received The Clerk reported the receipt of items of routine correspondence during lockdown; email correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors. A letter had been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, asking for nominations for individuals and organisations to receive a card thanking them for their work to support communities during the coronavirus pandemic; Councillors proposed the Chairman, and a resident who had baked cakes for residents who were self isolating.

1077 Items for the next Parish Council meeting should be forwarded to the Clerk.

1078 Date of Next Meeting Councillors were asked by the Chairman to forward any comments on the government’s proposals for changes to the planning system to the Clerk. The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 12 October 2020 in All Saints Church, Chebsey, at 7 pm. The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Date.....Chair