

**MINUTES OF THE CHEBSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 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  
Councillor Julie Lawson

**In attendance:** Liz Harrington-Jones (Clerk)

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

**1095 Welcome and Public Participation**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillors observed two minutes silence in tribute to survivors and victims of wars and conflicts, and those who were left behind. Councillors agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Norton Bridge resident who had placed crosses and poppies and arranged a Remembrance display at the entrance to Tommy's Trail footpath; the Chair had represented the Parish Council at an outdoor service at All Saints' Church, Chebsey.

**Action: Clerk**

There were no members of the public in attendance but Councillors had received complaints about a bonfire that had been held in Chebsey and resulted in a number of residents being affected by ash residue. Two bags of rubbish had been collected and removed from the last layby on the left before the A5013; the Clerk would ask the PCSO to monitor the activity that was taking place there.

**Action: Clerk**

Councillors were disappointed that a healthy mature oak tree had been cut down at Izaak Walton Fisheries, despite a request having been made in the summer for a TPO to be applied; the Clerk would write to advise SBC Planning of the removal. Tree work activity had been reported in the ancient woodland at Drumble Wood. The Chair closed the public session of the meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

**1096 Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

There were no reports from Borough or County Councillors. The Clerk would request written reports for future meetings if Borough and County Councillors were unable to attend, and request an update from Cllr Jones on progress with concerns over enforcement issues.

**Action: Clerk**

**1097 Apologies** had been submitted by SBC Cllr Jones (SBC) and Cllr Pert (SCC).

**1098 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Hopley declared an interest in any items relating to Network Rail or HS2.

**1099 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2020**

The repairs to the defibrillator had been made to the equipment at **Cold Norton**, and subject to that correction it was **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 October 2020 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

**1100 Matters Arising, from the meeting held on 12 October 2020 and not discussed as agenda items**

The Clerk would remind SCC Highways that no further work had been carried out at St Luke's Close, Norton Bridge, since the resurfacing in the summer, where loose chippings were still creating a hazard.

**Action: Clerk**

Updated Information about CPC and Covid 19 had been sent to the editor of the church magazine; SCC Rights of Way team had been asked to provide handrails at the entrance to Footpath 11, Norton Bridge, and to provide an update on progress with agreed conditions for Footpath 18, Chebsey; the damaged gate at Norton Bridge would be discussed under Finance (Minute 1102 refers); information on how to apply for a dropped kerb had been forwarded to Cllr Green; SCC Highways had been reminded about the overhanging tree near Hilcote Bridge and would be reminded about two instances of flooding on the Eccleshall Road near the junction with Scamnel Lane.

**Action: Clerk**

The tree roots affecting the road surface opposite St Luke's Church, Norton Bridge, had been reported. The speed safety camera van had been asked to attend at Norton Bridge and also at Shallowford during commuter travel times.

## 1101 Planning

### 10101.i Planning decisions, Planning Appeals, and to consider any Planning Applications made

The following planning decision had been received since the previous meeting: 20/32527/FUL ALLOWED  
Motorway Service Area, Stafford Services M6 Northbound, Stone ST15 0EU  
Formation of 18 dedicated electric vehicle charging parking spaces

Councillors had been invited to a site meeting at the former equestrian centre on the Eccleshall Road but did not think this would be beneficial as their concerns were over the number of vehicles that could be using the site and the increased volume of turning traffic on a busy road.

No Planning applications had been received since the October meeting. A letter had been sent with comments on the recent government consultation on proposed changes to the planning system.

## 1102 Finance

### 1071.i Expenditure for November 2020

Clerk's salary (November) and expenses	168.81	
including parts for Cold Norton defibrillator	<u>126.00</u>	294.81
Hire of All Saints Church, Chebsey, as meeting venue		75.00
Playground Inspection Company (annual inspection, Norton Bridge)		<u>90.00</u>
		<b>£459.81</b>

**RESOLVED** That the expenditure for October 2020 of £459.81 was approved.

NatWest current account (23 October 2020)*	9,599.10
less unpresented cheques	<u>316.00</u>
	9,283.10
Less monthly expenditure (November)	<u>459.81</u>
	Balance <b>£8,823.29</b>

Cllr Davis reported that expenditure on petrol and parts for the lawnmower during the year amounted to £60; Councillors agreed the payment and thanked Cllr Davis for maintaining the lawnmower, keeping the verges mown, and Norton Bridge looking its best during 2020.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Davis should be reimbursed for expenditure of £60 on parts and petrol for the lawnmower.

The Chair reported that there had been problems with the defibrillator in Chebsey recently, possibly due to the imminent failure of the battery. Councillors agreed to the purchase of replacement batteries, pads, or parts without delay, should that be advised, and expressed their thanks to the three volunteers who monitored each defibrillator weekly.

**RESOLVED** That spare parts, batteries, pads etc for defibrillators should be purchased as soon as required.

## 1103 Highway and Footpath Matters

### 1103.i Footpath 18, obstruction – update on progress to resolve

SCC Rights of Way officers had been asked for an update on compliance with the agreed conditions.

### 1103. ii The Brickle (also known as The Brittle) Footpath

Action agreed at the previous meeting had been placed on hold as SCC had been in contact to discuss a community day of action at The Brickle/Brittle, working with the community to clear as much of the Green Lane as possible. It was hoped this would take place in December. The Clerk would thank the resident who had already removed one large branch from The Brickle/Brittle. **Action: Clerk**

### 1103.iii Proposal for joint application for funding with Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC for flashing speed signs

Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC had contacted the Chair at very short notice to ask if Chebsey PC would join with their application for funding for flashing speed signs for Norton Bridge, for which a commitment to contribute £200 would be required. Friends of Norton Bridge had been approached and agreed to fund the application.

**1103.iv Damaged gate, Norton Bridge** Mr Challoner had submitted a quotation of £320 to repair and reconstruct the damaged gateway at the south entrance to Norton Bridge. The Parish Council must pay the first £150 of any insurance claim, and after discussion it was agreed that Chebsey PC would fund the entire cost without involving the insurers.

**1103.v Safety of Footpath users** The Clerk would research possible liability for injury on public footpaths and the advisability of displaying cautionary signs. A number of public footpaths had become extremely muddy and slippery following recent wet weather.

**1104 Norton Bridge Recreation Area**

Visign Stafford had quoted £120 for the design and manufacture of a sign to fix on to the gazebo, plus £60 installation. The Clerk would circulate draft wording to Councillors for consultation. **Action: Clerk**

**1105 HS2/Network Rail update**

Councillors were concerned at the tone and content of a letter that had been sent to Lord Hope, the Chairman of the House of Lords Committee, by Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC without any consultation with Stone Town Council or CPC, the other two Petitioners. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write formally to Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC stating that they expected to be fully consulted in future prior to any agreed action; Cllr Jones would observe future meetings of SRCG/Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC and report back to Councillors.

**1106 Procedure for recruitment of Parish Clerk**

Advertisements have been placed on the website, notice boards, SPCA weekly bulletin, and SLCC Facebook. No applications had been received to date; a number of Parish Councils were also currently seeking replacement Clerks.

**1107 Procedure to follow should the co-option process be approved by SBC for filling the vacancy on Chebsey Parish Council**

SBC had reported that there had been no call from residents to hold an election, and the Parish Council should now follow the co-option process. Two applications had been received and it was agreed to interview both applicants before the next meeting and notify both of the decision the following day; the new Councillor would be co-opted at the January meeting.

**1108 Correspondence received** The Clerk reported the receipt of items of routine correspondence during lockdown; email correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors.

**1109 Items for the next Parish Council meeting** should be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible. It was hoped to begin the process for appointing a new Clerk; co-option to fill vacancy on Chebsey Parish Council; projects for 2021/2022 and precept required for 2021/22; clearing of Tommy's Trail footpath.

**1110 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 14 December 2020 in All Saints Church, Chebsey, at 7 pm. The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Date.....Chair