

# Butterton Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 7pm

1. **Apologies** – None. All present

### **Public Comments, Questions or Representations**

Welcome to Jonathan Kempster and Mike Jones from The Repair Cafe

2. **Minutes of meeting** held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025 agreed by all present and signed as correct.

3. **Matters arising...**

\* Damage at the wall at the Ford. The haulage company have admitted responsibility for damaging the wall. **A letter to Pete Griffin to be sent so that he can supply contact details etc. Cllr Land to chase up Philip Bestwick for a quote for repair.**

### **Business Items**

4. **Repair Cafe**- Mike Jones, Chairperson of Moorlands Climate Action attended to discuss proposals to use the Village Hall as a venue for a Repair Cafe. The date chosen is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 10am - 2pm. There is an invitation to all to bring items to the Cafe in the hope they can be fixed by a team of repairers. There is no charge for this but donations are welcomed. Advertising will be on all boards, in all newsletters, Facebook and website nearer the time.

5. **Gritting in the Parish**- Cllr Jonathan Kempster awaits a response from Angela Dickinson.

6. **Swainsley Bank/Manifold Track**- The state of the road from Waste Lane down towards Swainsley Tunnel is in a very bad state due to rotting vegetation, fallen walls, an unprotected drop and a general build up of mud and debris. **The PC will attempt to ascertain who it is who 'champions' the Manifold Trail.** The weather is improving which will bring more visitors and their vehicles to the area. Parking on the roadside at Wetton Mill will bring its own problems of litter etc.

7. **Funding** - Cllr Kempster suggested the Councillor Community Initiative Fund as a source of funding on a small scale.

8. **Finance** a. **Payments received**- None b. **Payments requested**- Village Hall hire fee for 2024- £192:: Steve Billings Lengthsman- £357.00 c. **Account balances** given.

### **Correspondence**

9. **PDNPA- General**- Nothing to report **Planning**- No planning requests

10. **Severn Trent**- Nothing to report

11. **Highways** – Nothing further to report apart from outstanding job numbers and Reportonline requests.

12. **Staffordshire Moorlands District Council** -Nothing to report. Aware of ongoing repair issues

13. **Staffordshire County Council** – Andy Owen has assured the PC that a new sign at the top of Butterton Moor Bank will be sorted in due course. The present sign has been damaged on two occasions.

14. **Staffordshire Parish Councils Association**- Nothing to report

15. **Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly**- Nothing to report

**Other Correspondence**- All emails have been sent to Councillors as and when received by the Clerk.

16. **AOB**- \* A letter has been received from a parishioner who is concerned that Butterton Wood is not being used to its best advantage ie open to all.....**A reply will be sent** detailing the PC reasons for not opening up the area as a picnic site/similar due to the fact that it is a Health and Safety hazard. It was previously the village tip and metal and glass items still make their way to the surface, the terrain is all wrong and the area does not lend itself to creating pathways and seating areas etc. It is an area dedicated purely to wildlife.. There are plans for more bird/bat/owl/hedgehog boxes and possibly beehives and more planting of bulbs.

\* Councillor Stone asked Cllr Kempster for his thoughts on the proposed merger of Staffs Moorlands into the Stoke on Trent urban area. Cllr Kempster replied that by 2028 SCC would not exist in its present form and thus SMDC would no longer exist. The number of councillors would be vastly reduced and possibly very few would be available to deal with Leek Rural business in the future. Sadly, IT IS ON THE CARDS that this will come to pass despite all requests from the community for it not to.

[The next meeting is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 at 7pm.](#)

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