**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY 4TH JULY 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak:**

New County Councillor, Mike Hewitson was introduced to members of the PC.

A parishioner said that something needs to be done to address the issue of the constantly overflowing bin next to the bus-stop. Ideally it requires regular emptying on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The Clerk said that she has received several complaints relating to this and would contact SSDC to follow this up.

A parishioner reported that one of the wooden planters outside the village hall wall was falling apart. They suggested that a replacement stone planter to complement the one nearby would be nice. This could include a plaque to commemorate the Queen’s jubilee. Cllrs Taylor and Reeves agreed to investigate.

A parishioner said that the family who dedicated the recently-removed broken bench from the community park, were willing to provide a replacement. The parishioner wondered if other locations for the bench could be considered. Other locations were discussed and it was agreed to give this further consideration.

A parishioner reported that there is someone camping in West Coker Fen on a regular basis. Cllr Goodes agreed to contact the landowner.

A parishioner reported that a Section 215 enforcement notice has been served relating to the Woodentop Inn (as given in district councillor’s report December 2020-21, 21/000256/ENF).

**Present**

Doug Reeve, John Cox, Debbie Taylor, Dave Tuck, Duncan Goodes and Mike Hewitson (County Councillor).

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman (Clerk) and 2 Members of the Public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Oliver Patrick (District/County Councillor)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Duncan Goodes was elected as Chairman (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Taylor). Cllr Goodes then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Cox was elected as Vice Chairman (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Reeves).

1. **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**

There are currently two councillor vacancies.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th JUNE 2022 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting (Proposer: Cllr Goodes, Seconder: Cllr Taylor).

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DPI DISPENSATIONS**

None.

1. **MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**
   1. Cllr Taylor has agreed to join FEOFFEES as PC representative (in addition to parish representatives, Cllr Cox and Shirley Condon).
   2. The Clerk has agreed to obtain a quote for the laptop keyboard repair.
2. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

A combined report was received from County Cllrs Patrick and Hewitson and was previously circulated. Cllr Hewitson introduced himself and outlined his role in the council. He gave a brief update on the unitary council structure and current funding issues. He also gave updates of several current highways issues, including Chinnock Hollow. The recent survey covering the entire length of the Hollow is expected to be submitted to SCC by the end of the week. The possibility of the barrier preventing access at the top end of the Hollow being moved to allow access to a landowner, but also to enable users to access the bridleway path was discussed. Difficulties for vehicles arriving at the barrier with regards to turning round may make this impractical.

The previously scheduled A30 closure, for resurfacing work at West Coker, has been postponed until next year as the contractor is unable to source the required materials.

1. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no applications received after publication of the agenda.

1. **FINANCE**
   1. A resolution was passed to approve the following payments (Proposer: Cllr Reeves, Seconder: Cllr Taylor):
      * The Somerset Association of Local Councils Limited – Cllr Goodes training course £25.00
      * N Chapman – Apr-June Salary + expenses £938.07
      * East Chinnock Village Hall – post office outreach Jul-Sept £97.50
2. **COMMUNITY PARK**
   1. Cllr Taylor reported the following:

i) There has been some minor graffiti to the wooden benches.

ii) Cllr Taylor is researching options for adding to the planters. The Clerk agreed to contact SSDC horticulture for suggestions.

iii) Mike Bussell has found a suitable fascia board that could be used to replace the deteriorating Rocket seat, at a cost of £77 plus VAT (for 3.6 metres). A resolution was passed to approve this payment, should Mike be in a position to follow this up (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Reeves).

* 1. The SSDC Community grant of £5769.92 to update the children’s play area, has been awarded. The Clerk is obtaining updated quotes for the proposed work, with a view to reviewing quotes and making decisions at the next meeting.
  2. An updated quote for replacement swing seats (2 x cradle seats + 2 x flat seats) has been received from Wicksteed (£376.28 plus VAT). However it was decided that the existing swings seats are currently in good condition and just require a clean. A resolution was passed to not renew the seats at this time (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Tuck).
  3. A resolution was passed to not renew the annual Somerset Playing Fields’ Association (SPFA) subscription payment, as it was viewed that the PC do not receive any benefit of membership. (Proposer: Cllr Tuck, Seconder: Cllr Cox).

1. **PARISH ISSUES**
   1. The Parish Council have received a letter and questionnaire from SSDC concerning actions in the event of the death of a national senior figure. The PC already have a protocol in place for this. It was agreed that Cllr Goodes would liaise with St Mary’s PCC regarding this and also complete the questionnaire. The Clerk agreed to research suitable ‘book of condolence’ prices.
2. **ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE**
   1. The village quiz was reported to be a successful evening.
   2. Although an outline budget plan for the village music night (Saturday 30th July) was not received, due to the limited timescale, a resolution was passed to approve a cheque for £1000 for Pat Lock for music night expenses (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Taylor).
3. **PARISH RANGER SCHEME**
   1. The Ranger’s next visit is the 18th July. Cllr Cox agreed to send an updated list of tasks to SSDC.
4. **HIGHWAYS REPORT**
   1. Cllr Reeves had no additional items to report, that hadn’t already been covered.
   2. The PC have received notice of a temporary closure of Weston Street from the junction with Fordhay north-westwards for 192 metres to enable BT Openreach to lay ducting - 28th July 09:30 - 15:30.
   3. Cllr Reeves is looking into funding options for a SID and enquired as to the current funding available in PC reserves. There is currently £1100 set aside.
5. **RIGHTS OF WAY**
   1. Mike Bussell has said he is happy to continue as Rights of Way representative for the PC and a resolution was passed to approve this (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Taylor). The Chairman read Mike’s report for the month. This included the vandalism of a footpath gate behind the sewerage farm (in addition to several other reports of vandalism in the village).
   2. The PC have received notice of a temporary closure of Bridleway Y18/8 from junction with Fordhay and running in an easterly direction for 120 metres (4th July 2022 for 21 days to allow Wessex Water to install new equipment required to meet the lowering phosphorus limits).
6. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

a) Cllr Goodes summarised details of the SALC email relating to their new initiative to support and encourage councils to prepare for LGR by engaging with their communities, in the form of a community plan. However it was viewed that this would take more resources than the PC currently have available and would not be pursued at this time.

1. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 5th September 2022 at 7.30pm in at the Village Hall.