

EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Annual Parish Meeting that was held on Monday 4th April, 2016 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Present: Chairman Cllr Ian Stephen
Councillors: Mike Bussell, Dr John Cox, Paul Taylor and Dave Tuck
Officer: Maureen Randell
District Councillor: Mr R Pallister

There were 18 residents present plus Mick Clark the Chairman of Barwick and Stoford Parish Council

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Early and Maggs

2. Minutes of the last meeting: the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th April, 2015, that had previously been circulated to members were approved as a true record and then signed by the chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Bussell.

3. Matters arising from the minutes: none

4. Chairman's Report: Council members have worked hard on behalf of the Parish throughout the year. With four Cllrs standing down in May 2015 (Mrs Merchant, Mrs Carter, Mr Murdoch and Mr Weber), Cllr Stephen (chair) welcomed Cllr Bussell (Parish Paths Liaison officer/ Parish Plan liaison & vice chair), Cllr Early (Playing Field) and Cllr Cox (Ranger / ECCLT) at the start of the new term; they were joined by Cllr Taylor (Entertainments Committee / ECCLT) in June, Cllr Tuck (Entertainments Committee) was co-opted in September, and finally we welcomed Cllr Maggs in February 2016. At least one more Cllr will be needed in 2016-17 as the current chair is standing down.

East Chinnock is very well served by our ward member Ric Pallister, leader of the SSDC, perhaps less so by our County Cllr, Yeovil MP Marcus Fysh, who does not attend Parish Council meetings and forwards only occasional reports. Special thanks are also due to our Parish Clerk Maureen Randell whose administrative efficiency and initiative serves the village well.

Registering the Portman Arms as a community asset ultimately did not stop it being sold to a private buyer rather than the ECCLT, but the new owners appear to be honouring their promise to keep the pub open. The ECCLT continue to look for other viable projects. There are active private initiatives in the village to increase the supply of affordable homes. Meanwhile the Parish Council continues to receive and, more often than not, supports a regular stream of planning applications for housing developments (extensions and some new builds)

The Parish Plan, a useful document to assist future land use planning in the village, was finally published in March 2016; our thanks to Scott Grinter for persevering against the odds to finish the report. Sadly the CSW group were unable to find a new co-ordinator and stopped operating. Evidence of speeding, inappropriate overtaking and near misses, but thankfully no fatal accidents, abound despite the SID devices which appear along the A30 for four weeks in the year as the SCC Highways recognises that speeding remains a problem. Apart from the annual round of road surface patching of potholes, more and larger vehicles on our narrow lanes result in occasional instances of inconsiderate parking (ignoring advisory white lines, and blocking drive entrances/exits) for which there is no answer other than more awareness and understanding to be shown by some drivers.

Although your council is constrained by a shortage of funds, it has managed to repair and raise the fence at the west end of the Playing field (thanks to Roy Early), secure the services of the SSDC Ranger service bimonthly to keep the village tidy and assist with ditch clearance, and get a new bridge over the Chinnock Brook. A successful bid for an AED defibrillator will considerably increase community resilience; installation of the machine and training in its use will start soon under the direction of Cllrs Cox, Maggs and Taylor. A new village noticeboard is also planned.

The village is active and thriving; you have a productive Village Hall Committee maximising the use of the Village Hall organising fortnightly coffee mornings which also help 'digital inclusion', and monthly lunches. A vibrant Entertainments Committee hosts the annual Bonfire night extravaganza together with music events

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and race nights; the Kurling and Golf croquet clubs remain popular as does the Gardening & Countryside club, with its range of speaker meetings and visits. The website and the Chinnock Chimes are very useful sources of news, whilst the church community works hard to maintain the fabric of the building and build its outreach, which hopefully will be assisted by the appointment of a new rector.

Thank you all for all your continuing hard work and support; if you would like to get more involved, contact any parish councillor.

5. Public Question Time: i) A resident complained about the increase in the precept and the fact that very little of the money was spent outside of the central part of the village. Cllr Stephen asked what she thought needed doing for the Barrow's Hill area and she replied that a crossing would be useful for the school children and bus passengers. She was also concerned about the speed of traffic and the spate of accidents and asked if the 40mph speed limit could be extended. Cllr Pallister said that this, and the installation of accident blackspot signs, had been raised both by the district council and the parish councils in the area on numerous occasions, but the county council had not been inclined to implement these suggestions and the police were not supportive. Cllr Stephen agreed to write to the Highways Department and the Police informing them of the continued concerns of the residents.

ii) The council were asked if there was any obligation for the county councillor to attend the Parish meetings and was told that the only requirement was that he attended at least one county council meeting every six months.

iii) A question was asked about the grass cuttings left on the playing field and Cllr Pallister said that he had had to leave them there after he cut the field until Nick Weber could come and move the bags with his tractor.

iv) A request was made for a dog fouling notice be put on the grass opposite Barrows Court and Cllr Stephen agreed that the council would ask the Environmental Officer to do this on his next visit.

v) It was pointed out that the litter bins in the layby were overflowing and Cllr. Pallister agreed to deal with this. Also the drain opposite the layby needed attention and Cllr Stephen agreed to liaise with Highways about this.

vi) A resident introduced himself and his wife and said that they were interested in building a house in the garden of their residence in Forge Lane to accommodate their expanding family. Cllr Stephen advised them to speak with Cllr Pallister who would give them the planning officer contact for pre-application advice.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm there being no other business.

Signed.....(Chair) Date.....

Copies of these minutes can be found on the village website at www.EastChinnock.com

M Randell Parish Clerk – April 2015.