

## **EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the East Chinnock Annual Parish Meeting that was held on Monday 3rd April, 2017 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Present: Chairman Cllr Paul Taylor  
Councillors: Mike Bussell, Dr John Cox, Helen Early, Dave Tuck, Doug Reeve and Daniel Turner-Davidson  
Officer: Maureen Randell  
District Councillor: Mr R Pallister

There were 7 residents present plus one observer. PC Purcell and PCSO Haines were also present for part of the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence:** none

**2. Minutes of the last meeting:** the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th April, 2016, that had previously been circulated to members were approved as a true record and then signed by the chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Bussell.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes:** none

**4. Police Report:** PC Purcell introduced himself and said that the village was very fortunate to have a very low crime rate. There is a Rural Crime Team who deal with issues such as rustling and any information can be sent to them by texting 07492 888109. He said that anything suspicious and any crimes or attempted crimes need to be reported using the 101 phone line to enable the force to utilise their resources where they are most needed. He said that he had recently been issued with a body camera which should assist with evidence gathering etc. He asked for questions and one of the residents about parking on the pavements in the village. He said he was aware that this was an issue as he had received reports recently of the problem. He said if the vehicle was wilfully blocking the pavement it should be reported to the 101 line with details of the registration, make and model and, resources permitting someone would be sent to deal with it. Persistent offenders were likely to be ticketed but he reminded residents that if called to the area they would have to ticket every vehicle.

PCSO Michelle Haines took over and said that she had a particular interest in domestic violence. This is often a hidden problem and there is now a drop in centre in Yeovil where victims can get help and advice. This is one of the areas where the police are involved in a multi-agency initiative which includes the fire service, housing, social services etc. This sharing of intelligence should help to prevent crime and help the victims with the aftermath of a crime. She said that she will continue to pop into the occasional coffee morning and is happy to answer questions there or give a presentation of crime prevention or security if required.

**5. Chairman's Report:** The following report was read out by the chairman at the meeting and is reproduced here for those who were unable to attend:-

Over the past twelve months the members of your Parish Council have once again freely given of their time and energy on your behalf, to ensure the smooth running of matters within the Parish. The Parish council accepted the resignation from Cllr I Stephen the previous chairman and welcomed two new councillors; Cllr D Reeve (Highways) Co-opted in September 2016 and Cllr D Turner-Davidson Co-opted in February 2017, all of the positions on the council are now filled.

At the last Parish meeting a resident asked if the 40mph speed limit could be extended to cover the accident blackspot between Cod lane and Foxwell lane, this has been done with appropriate signage now or soon to be in place.

This year the parish council were asked to nominate a member of the community to receive the Chairman of Somerset County Council award for work carried out that is beneficial to the community. This year we chose to nominate Marianne Marchant and our thanks have to go to the clerk who wrote and sent in the citation, which if you didn't already know was successful and on the 20th October Marianne received her award at a ceremony held at Taunton rugby club.

DRAFT

Our thanks must once again go to the volunteers of Entertainments committee who continue to organise successful annual events in the village, rent out and erect the marquee and gazebos and this year they have agreed to spend £1000 of the profits to replace the seat at the view point and also add a new picnic table in the same area.

This year the Chinnock chimes will get a new editor as Alix James has stepped down after 4 years producing the six editions a year that we get. Julie Kneafsey has stepped into the breach and I'm sure that she will put her own stamp on the publication over the coming years.

The council still has a shortage of funds and as a legal requirement we should have at least 3 months running costs in reserve hopefully this year we will manage to achieve that but the cost of the basic services that we have to maintain continues to rise and at the same time the government grant that we receive will continue to diminish until it no longer exists. Despite this the parish council have decided that it's time for the play area to be revamped and to that end we have set up a steering group headed by Cllr Early. The vast majority of the funding will have to come from grants and donations. If anyone would like to be involved in this project please contact any member of the parish council.

We continue to be grateful to Mr. R. Pallister, our District Cllr for being most conscientious in attending our meetings and providing reports from the District Council, however County Cllr and Yeovil MP Mr M Fysh is consistently conspicuous by his absence although we do still receive periodic reports. Special thanks must also go to the Parish clerk Maureen Randell who keeps all of the parish councillors well informed and continues provide a most efficient service.

Finally my thanks must go to all the villagers who continue to work tirelessly and on a voluntary basis to maintain The Chinnock Chimes, the website, the monthly lunches, cutting the playing field grass, clearing fallen trees, and the coffee morning to name but a few excellent endeavours, and all the other organisations who contribute to the wellbeing of our community. Without their sterling work the Council Tax would be higher as we would have to pay external agencies to provide these activities.

Finally thank you all for your continued support.

**5. Public Question Time:** i) The council were asked if they had any information regarding The Portman Arms. Cllr Taylor said that apart from the announcement earlier in the year that it would be re-opening on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, nothing further had been heard. ii) A resident asked about the council finances and was told that the budget for 2017/18 would be posted on the website in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Taylor said that the main element of the precept increase was to cover any costs (legal, materials, signage etc.) associated with the proposed Permissive Pathway linking the village with Broad Lane. In addition the Government Rate Support Grant had been decreased from £160 to £40 and this was being phased out entirely by 2020. Cllr. Taylor said that the council is legally required to hold adequate financial reserves to cover unexpected expenses in addition to those reserves earmarked for specific purposes.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm there being no other business.

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

Copies of these minutes can be found on the village website at [www.EastChinnock.com](http://www.EastChinnock.com)

M Randell Parish Clerk – April 2017.