

EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Annual Parish Meeting that was held on Monday 1st April, 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Present: Chairman Cllr Paul Taylor
Councillors: Mike Bussell, Dr John Cox, Dave Tuck, Doug Reeve and Debbie Taylor
Officer: Maureen Randell

There were 10 residents present together with District Councillor Pallister and Anthony Vaughan, the prospective Liberal Democrat candidate for the District Council who was attending as an observer.

1. Apologies: Cllr Wicks had sent his apologies. County Councillor Keating had also said he would be unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April, 2018, that had previously been circulated 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. 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 their time and energy on your behalf, to ensure the smooth running of matters within the Parish. Sadly the Parish council accepted the resignation from Cllr Helen Early in September due to work commitments, Helen had been a Cllr since 2015 and we wish Helen all the very best for the future. Happily we welcome a new volunteer councillor; Cllr D Taylor who was Co-opted at the November 2018 meeting, all of the positions on the council are now filled.

Our thanks once again go to the Entertainments committee who continue to organise the successful annual events in the village, rent out and erect the marquee and gazebos, they do all of this in their own time and for the benefit of all in the village. Last years events were again well attended, especially the music night where Bertie's Big Band was very well received, whilst bonfire night also attracted a large crowd in and once again both events returned very healthy profits.

As per last year the council still has a shortage of funds. We should have at least 3 months running costs in reserve and 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 the we received no longer exists which mean that we have to precept to cover this shortfall. As reported last year, the parish council decided that it was time to revamp the play area and that remains the intention, there has been some movement regarding renewal of the lease but we're still some way short of being able to start making grant applications or making any plans, this remains very frustrating for all concerned. The steering group now headed by Cllr Wicks is still in existence but currently in a holding pattern, we still would like more members of the village to be involved in this project as once we do get going I foresee a very busy time ahead. If any-one would like to be involved in this project please contact any member of the parish council.

As you may have noticed the Speed Indicator Device no longer appears in the village, this is due to cuts the highways department. The Parish Council were approached by the community speed watch team to see if we could do something about replacing it. The intention is that we get our own SID, the Parish Council will contribute £1000 towards the cost with the remainder being generated by fundraising events and hopefully donations from local businesses. In the mean-time our thanks go to the community speed watch who have been out in all weathers throughout winter monitoring the traffic through the village, I have witnessed first-hand the abuse and insults that they get from passing motorists, (they have to slow down to do this, so every cloud...), yet they still turn out to continue their good work.

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. We are also grateful to our

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County Councillor, Mark Keating who is equally conscientious in attending our meetings and keeping us informed of the county wide picture. Once again our 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 go to all those villagers who continue to work tirelessly and on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the whole of the village, those who cut the playing field grass, maintain the footpaths, edit and produce the Chinnock Chimes, maintain the Chinnock round robin website, the monthly lunches, the coffee mornings organisers, the gardening club, the WI to name but a few and all the other organisations and people who continue to contribute to the wellbeing of our community. Thank you all for your continued support.

5. Public Question Time:

1) Angela Watson asked if the council had thought of asking residents, especially those on the main road, if they would be prepared to contribute to the costs of a Speed Indication Device (SID). Cllr Taylor said that the council were looking at various sources to fund the device and if there was a shortfall they would approach the residents.

2) Geoff Jackson asked if the council knew what was going on at the pub. It was frequently not open and the site looked a mess. Cllr Taylor said that it was open and serving food on Mothering Sunday and he regularly went in on a Friday evening after bell ringing but he had not seen many of the villagers in there. Ros Weber said that there wasn't a single amenity in the village. She said it had been suggested that someone ask the owner what he intended doing with the site. Cllr Taylor said that it was a private business and the owner would not be obliged to discuss it with anyone. Cllr Pallister said that the owner is currently not breaching any planning regulations. His agent has put forward some plans for the site for pre-planning discussion but has not given permission for these to be disclosed publicly. Mr Jackson asked if the council could find out if there were any covenants on the land which might restrict the activities carried out. The council knew of no restrictions apart from an uplift clause where any increase in value of the site following planning permission had to be shared with the previous owner. This had been in the sale particulars when Marston's sold the pub. The Land Registry entry for the site might have further information and the council agreed to look at the costs for obtaining this.

3) Marion Andrews asked why the precept had increased and was told that it had increased by £500 which would mainly be towards the play area costs. The agent for the Bath and Wells Diocese who owned the land, had indicated that the fees for a new lease would be around £2500 with a rent going forward of between £200 and £500. The current lease had expired and a new lease was required to show security of tenure when applying for grant funding for play equipment. Bruce Murdoch said what about the profits from the events run by the Entertainments Committee. He was told that there may be some contribution from those. The new bench and picnic table at the Lookout Point had been purchased from event profits.

4) Marion Andrews also asked if something could be done to improve the access to the dog bin in Weston Street as the area was very muddy and slippy. The councillors said that they would have a look at it.

5) Angela Watson said she was concerned about the volume of traffic through the village especially the large commercial and agricultural vehicles. She estimated that there were around ten to eleven thousand vehicles per day. She wondered if anyone else on the main road shared her concern and asked if the parish council would consider conducting a survey. Cllr Bussell said that the council have tried in the past to get safety measures installed both on the main road and the Odcombe Road which was very busy as well. Cllr Taylor said that in his previous village they had looked into installing pinch points but this would have cost the parish over £15,000. Cllr Reeve said that he was having trouble getting the Highways to repaint the lines so doubted that they would have the resources to install pinch points or anything similar. Cllr Bussell said that they shared Ms Watson's concern but there was very little that the parish council could do and unfortunately, an 'A' road was always going to be busy. Cllr Taylor said that he hoped that the SID would help slow the traffic down which would reduce the noise level.

6) Marion Andrews said that the 'Keep Clear' white line outside the play area were not helping with the parking situation. Cllr Taylor said that this hadn't been asked for by the council and he was aware that it had just moved the problem parking. Cllr Reeve said that he already spoken to the County

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Council about this.

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.net or the Parish Council website at www.ecparishcouncil.net