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

**HELD ON MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

A parishioner spoke regarding the broken Church clock. The clock was installed as a memorial following the First World War. It was paid for by local donations and is therefore the property of the Parish and not the church. Possible options for funding the repairs were discussed.

A parishioner circulated a report giving details of the gardening clubs ideas for improving Portman Park. They have suggested the entrance could be improved by laying gravel. They have ideas for planting the raised beds, and suggested the soil should be improved. They have also proposed several wildflower areas and more hedging. The Chairman responded that the PC would be keen to see some of these improvements implemented. Gravelling the park entrance may not be straightforward as some of it belongs to the Church and the also the gravel would need to be prevented from slipping onto the road. He would like to see a plan view of the proposed wildflower areas and hedging.

**Present**

Duncan Goodes (Chairman), Debbie Taylor, Doug Reeve and Dave Tuck.

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman (Clerk) and 5 Members of the Public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

John Cox (Vice chairman), Oliver Patrick (District/County Councillor) and Mike Hewitson (County Councillor).

1. **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**
   1. Jaime Wetherell was co-opted to fill one of the Councilor vacancies (Proposer: Cllr Goodes, Seconder: Cllr Taylor). Cllr Wetherell then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2023 (Already Circulated)**

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

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

None.

1. **MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**
   1. The Chairman has submitted an email stating that East Chinnock PC would prefer to be in the Yeovil LCN rather than the proposed Crewkerne/Ilminster one, and gave details of the justification for this. West Coker PC have also submitted a proposal, stating that they feel several local villages (East Chinnock, Hardington, Closworth, Martock), should be included in the Yeovil LCN as they are all closely linked to West Coker and East Coker. The Clerk has submitted an email supporting West Coker PC’s proposal.
2. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

Cllr Patrick’s and Cllr Hewitson’s combined report was previously circulated.

1. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
   1. There were no applications received after publication of the agenda.
2. **FINANCE**
   1. £2830.25 has been received from the entertainments committee. This includes the combined Music night and Bonfire night event float and meat costs (£2235.80). The remainder is the profit from the events (£594.45). The Clerk is still waiting to receive the VAT invoices and income/expenditure summary in order to complete the PC accounts ready for audit in April.
   2. The Clerk has asked that Cllr Goodes and Cllr Taylor complete the necessary forms to obtain online access to the Lloyds bank accounts.
   3. A resolution was passed to approve the following payments (Proposer: Cllr Goodes, Seconder: Cllr Taylor):
      * Clerks Salary & Expenses Jan-Mar 2023 £1113.47
      * SSDC Ranger Scheme 23/01/23 (£160.06 + VAT £32.01) £192.07
      * East Chinnock Village Hall Post Office Outreach rental April-June £97.50
      * Roy Early -Portman Park gate post repair £210.00
      * Star Rubber Environ. Ltd –Tigermulch plus log steppers (£6490.60+ VAT£1298.12) £7788.72
      * Gillett & Johnston (Croydon) Ltd -Church clock fault diagnosis (£250.00+VAT£50.00) £300.00
3. **COMMUNITY PARK**
   1. There are already some funds set aside for planting the raised beds, and the PC would be happy for the gardening club to take over the maintenance of these.
   2. The new memorial bench has been delivered. It is hoped this can be assembled and installed sometime in the next month.
   3. The Tiger-Mulch re-surfacing and log-stepper installation has been completed. The post-installation inspection will take place in April, after which the SSDC grant money can be claimed.
   4. It was agreed a working party would be organized to power-wash the play equipment surfacing (where necessary) and also the baby-swings.
   5. The Play Inspection Company have increased their cost for the Annual Inspection from £72.95 to £82.50. A resolution was passed to approve this (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Tuck).
4. **PARISH ISSUES**
   1. The church clock repair company have investigated the clock fault and provided an estimate for the repair work, which involves stripping and cleaning the seized motionworks. The estimate is £935. Scaffolding would also be required (the Clerk agreed to get an estimate for this). It also does not include parts and may require additional repairs if damaged parts are found. It was agreed that the PC would like the clock to be repaired and that they could contribute something towards the repair cost from the precept. It was also agreed grant funding should be investigated and fund-raising should be considered.
   2. The task of investigating possible options for a commemorative hamstone planter for the village hall is ongoing.
   3. Parish Councilors are keen to support a picnic-in-the-park style event for the King Charles III coronation weekend, but unfortunately none of them are in a position to organise the event.
   4. The Clerk hopes to fix the broken website links, introduced as a result of the Wix upgrade to the Vista site, sometime in the next month.
   5. It was agreed that an ebay offer of £225 on the broken Rido-on mower should be accepted.
5. **ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE**

The Clerk received a cheque for £193 from the Entertainments committee. This is the proceeds from the February quiz night and is to be put towards the SID cost.

The music night is being held on 22nd July.

1. **PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

a) The Ranger visited the village again in February (having also visited in December and January). The Clerk agreed to write to SSDC to remind them that the agreement is for the Ranger to do one day bi-monthly and not every month. SSDC have said they hope the contractor will be clearing the silt trap with the digger sometime this week.

1. **HIGHWAYS REPORT**
   1. Cllr Reeve reported the SCC are keeping up-to-date with potholes repairs. SCC have been veryquiet about the planned A30 road closure this Summer.
   2. Cllr Reeve circulated a report summarizing the information he has collected and his findings regarding the purchase of a SID. The approximate total cost will be in the region of £3500. He is keen that the PC should apply to the Avon & Somerset Constabulary for a grant towards the cost (including the solar unit system, mounting posts and training). Prior to this the PC must have a MOU in place with SCC Highways. The SCC traffic engineer that needs to approve the locations is on leave until 23/03/2023. Once he has approved the system. The grant application can be made.
   3. SCC have stated they will send a technician to assess the potential cost of an additional street light on the lower corner of Weston Street.
   4. A van has been parking on the pavement alongside the A30 causing an obstruction and potential hazard. Cllr Tuck agreed to follow this up.
2. **RIGHTS OF WAY**

Mike Bussell reported a collapsed bridge on footpath Y8/25 . He has informed SCC Rights of Way and hopes that they will address this soon, as it could be dangerous to users.

1. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk reminded councilors that the Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place prior to next month’s PC meeting.

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

The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 3rd April 2023, in at the Village Hall, immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish.