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

**HELD ON MONDAY 3rd July 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

* No members of the public attended.
* Items raised by Parishioners since the last meeting
  + Cllr Cox had been approached by a parishioner regarding the dilapidated state of the Yew Farm building adjacent to the A30 opposite the Village Hall. The parishioner felt it was listed and wondered if the PC could compel the owner to address its state of disrepair. The Council has no more power that any member of the public regarding this and it is beyond its remit to seek a redress. The parishioner could contact the owner directly.

**Present**

Cllr Duncan Goodes (Chair), Cllr Jaime Wetherell, Cllr Dave Tuck, Cllr Doug Reeeve, Cllr Debbie Taylor, Cllr John Cox, Cllr Kevin Rixon.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

PC Clerk Nancy Chapman

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

None

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th June 2023 (Previously Circulated)**

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

1. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

* The external Audit is complete. Immense thanks goes to Lee and Clare Selfe (FLC Accountancy) for once again doing this free of charge.
* The publicising of minutes and agendas was raised by a parishioner at the last meeting: these are now on the East Chinnock Website, on the notice board and will be placed on Facebook from July. A short piece about the Parish Council has been published in the Round Robin noting that members of the public can attend to ask questions before the meeting comes to order.

1. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

No County Councillor attended.

1. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
   1. There were no planning applications received.
2. **FINANCE**

* Resolutions were passed to pay the following:
  + £300 for the rent of the Glebe land (Portman Park) Proposed: Cllr Cox Seconded: Cllr Rixon
  + £15 and £25 for training provided by SALC Proposed: Cllr Cox . Seconded: Cllr Reeves
  + £26.26 to D Cox for petrol for lawn mowing. Proposed: Cllr Wetherall Seconded: Cllr Taylor

1. **PORTMAN COMMUNITY PARK**

Cllr Taylor delivered her report:

* + The Post installation inspection is complete and grants can now be sought. Cllr Goodes to contact PC Clerk Nancy Chapman to ascertain the current situation regarding grant applications.
  + It was noted that there has been no further dog fouling noted or reported this month. Responsible dog owners are thanked for their consideration of others.
  + The application for a ‘Gardening Licence’ has been approved by Somerset Council and the Gardening Club are at liberty to manage the verge / Bank between the Portman Park Fencing and Weston St subject to the terms of the licence.

1. **PARISH ISSUES**
   1. Church Clock repair.

The quote from ‘Timsbury Clocks’ who examined the clock last month has been received. It totals £5800 for a total refurbishment which the Timsbury Clock representative felt was entirely necessary given the clocks condition after over 100 years of operation. The first quote from Gillett and Johnston was for £900 but was very open ended – i.e. other items would be added as work progressed / as found necessary. Cllr Goodes to write to G&J to elicit a firmer quote (i.e. what would the worst case scenario be cost wise).

1. **ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE**

Cllr Tuck delivered his report:

* The music night is being held on 22nd July.
* A cheque for £1000 (agreed at the last meeting) to cover initial costs was handed to Cllr Tuck to pass to Pat Lock.
* £150 has been received as income for the tent over the last year. This is a lower sum than is typical but it has not been much used for events other than those supported by the Parish Council.

1. **PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

Cllr Cox delivered his report:

* The clearing of the silt trap is still outstanding
* A list of other jobs to be done has been prepared for the Ranger who is due to attend this month.
* The Ranger should attend every other month but some confusion seems to has arisen: Cllr Cox to make clear the commitment for which the PC is prepared to pay.

1. **HIGHWAYS REPORT**

Cllr Reeve delivered his report:

* The Shuttle-bus timetable is now available. It will operate free of charge for residents on the route between Yeovil and Crewkerne via the A30 for the entire period of the closure. Buses will operate West Coker to and from Yeovil and West Coker to and from Crewkerne – there will be no single through passage. It was agreed this should be publicised on Facebook, in the Round Robin and in the bus shelter. Action: Cllr Goodes.
* The issue of Back Lane remains unresolved and is likely to remain so for a considerable period of time: this is still a highway and resources at ‘County’ to declassify it are limited. Vehicles therefore have a right to use it.
* Two new bollards have been installed at the Western end of the village on the A30.
* Significant potholes have been given some attention but others remain.
* The application for the grant for the SID has been submitted – the outcome may be known in September / October or possibly later. £2800 has been requested with the PC meeting the other £1000 costs from funds raised and / or generously donated.
* Cllr Wetherall raised the issue of helping those who may find it difficult to access the Surgery Dispensary for repeat prescriptions or getting shopping etc whilst the A30 is closed. A list of helpers is to be prepared and the mechanism whereby those needing help can access it is to be identified and publicised. The village agent also to be contacted to see what support they can offer. Action: Cllr Wetherall.
* The issue of the caravan resident living in the lay-by leading the West Coker Fen was raised. It is thought he is on farmers land rather than highway’s. It was noted that the land owner might be deemed culpable for misuse of the land. Cllr Goodes to discuss with the land owner.

1. **RIGHTS OF WAY**

Mike Bussell presented his report:

* One of the signs recently placed on the entrance to the Green lane Track has been stolen. This has been reported to the police.
* The bridleway leading to the Sewage treatment works has been walked over and inspected and it is felt that it is likely to be deemed fit for purpose as a bridleway. The PC can do no more and should the Farmer who needs to use the track feel it is unsuitable following works by the water company he will have to take this up directly with them himself.
* A ‘No Parking’ sign near the bench on path Y8/27 (path to the lookout) has been removed by persons unknown. Cllr Goodes has passed a spare sign that might serve as a replacement to Mike Bussell.
* Vegetation is growing across the path from the area that was formerly the Portman Arms Garden. This is forcing pedestrians in to the road. Mr Richards to be asked if he would kindly trim it back. Action: Cllr Goodes

1. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

* ‘Public Engagement’ portfolio for one or more councillors (Cllrs Wetherall and Rixon)
* Finances spreadsheet.

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

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 4th September 2023, at 7.30pm in at the Village Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend to ask questions before the meeting comes to order and to witness proceedings.

Apologies given: Cllr Tuck and Cllr Wetherall.