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

**HELD ON MONDAY 3RD APRIL 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

A parishioner commented that they thought it should be publicised that the new post collection times from the village post box are Monday-Friday 9am and Saturday 7am.

**Present**

John Cox (Vice chairman), Doug Reeve, J’aime Wetherell, Dave Tuck and Mike Hewitson (County Councillor).

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman (Clerk) and 3 Members of the Public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Duncan Goodes, Debbie Taylor, Oliver Patrick (District/County Councillor)

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th MARCH 2023 (Already Circulated)**

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

**2a. COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

Kevin Rixon was co-opted to fill the remaining Councilor vacancy (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Tuck). Cllr Rixon then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

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

None.

1. **MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**
   1. The PC have received confirmation that they have been moved into the Yeovil LCN (instead of the previously proposed Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN.
2. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

Cllr Patrick’s and Cllr Hewitson’s combined report was previously circulated. Cllr Hewitson stated that they are still waiting for the report re Chinnock Hollow. Plans for the A30 Summer road closure (for resurfacing work and traffic light improvements) would be circulated in the near future.

1. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
   1. There were no planning applications received after publication of the agenda.
2. **FINANCE**
   1. £130.81 has been received from the entertainments committee. The Clerk has now also received the income/expenditure summary and invoices for the Music night and Bonfire night events.
   2. £300 has been received from Mr N Webber from the sale of the ride-on mower. The Clerk agreed to write a letter of thanks.
   3. Mr L Selfe has kindly agreed to carry out the internal audit for another year.
   4. Following the failure of the Clerk’s laptop, options for a replacement are being investigated. A resolution to approve expenditure in the region of £350 was passed (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Reeve).
   5. The updated asset register was discussed. A correction to the number of gazebos held was required.
   6. A resolution was passed to approve the following payments (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Reeve):
      * SSDC Ranger Scheme 23/02/23 (£160.06 + VAT £32.01) £192.07
      * David Cox – Mower servicing and rust proofing £282.00
3. **COMMUNITY PARK**
   1. The gardening club are holding a ‘Beautify Our Park’ community event on 10th April to tidy up the park.
   2. The new memorial bench is being assembled and installed next week.
   3. It was agreed a working party would be organized to power-wash the older play equipment surfacing and also the baby-swings.
4. **PARISH ISSUES**
   1. The Clerk reported that scaffolding for the church clock is likely to be in the region of £700-£800 (external only). It was reported that a cherry picker had been used for a previous repair and agreed that this option should be investigated. Cllr Reeve presented a cheque for £200 from the Crewkerne Rotary Club to contribute towards the cost of the repairs. The Parish Council thanked the Rotary Club for this generous donation.
   2. The task of investigating possible options for a commemorative hamstone planter for the village hall is ongoing.
   3. It was agreed the PC should take up SSDC Locality team’s offer for a bin review.
5. **ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE**

The music night is being held on 22nd July.

1. **PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

a) The Ranger visited the village again in March. The Clerk agreed to write to SSDC once again to remind them that the agreement is for the Ranger to do one day bi-monthly (and not every month), and that the PC will not pay for the next visit if it happens again. The Clerk also agreed to chase-up progress re the silt trap that has still not been cleared.

1. **HIGHWAYS REPORT**
   1. Cllr Reeve reported the SCC are slowly repairing potholes. The missing A30 bollard has been reported.
   2. Cllr Reeve reported that the SCC traffic engineer is not available to assess the proposed SID locations until the end of April.
2. **RIGHTS OF WAY**
   1. Following complaints of unauthorized vehicles driving on several restricted byways within the village, Mike Bussell has had an on-site meeting with the SCC Rights Of Way Officer to discuss this. Installing bollards would be problematic due to the need to allow legitimate vehicles to use the paths. The Rights of Way Officer proposed installing signs to the five entrances of the Restricted byways concerned (at no cost to the PC). This would make it clear to offenders that they are breaking the law. Mike also commented that it is important that parishioners report any offenders to the police so that crime numbers can be obtained and evidence collected should further measures be required. A resolution was proposed to approve the addition of signs (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Reeve).
3. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None.

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

The meeting closed at 8.35pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023, at 7.30pm in at the Village Hall.