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EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st April, 2019 starting at 7.55pm in the Village Hall.

Present	Chairman Cllr. Paul Taylor
Councillors	Mike Bussell, John Cox, Dave Tuck, Doug Reeve and Debbie Taylor
Officer	Maureen Randell
Ward Councillors	Ric Pallister (part of meeting)

Public Question Time: Some of the residents who had come for the Annual Parish Meeting remained but there were no further questions.

- 52/19** **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Wicks had sent his apologies and County Councillor Mark Keating had also said that he would be unable to attend.
- 53/19** **Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none
- 54/19** **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Tuck proposed and Cllr Bussell seconded the motion that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the March meeting.
- 55/19** **Matters arising:** i) The clerk said that she was waiting for Rachel Saltonstall, the District Council's Property Solicitor to get back to her with a date for a meeting about the play area lease. Cllr Pallister said that Charles Cox, the District Valuer should be asked for a valuation of the play area as this could be useful in the negotiations. ii) Cllr Taylor said that he had obtained another quote for a Speed Indication Device (SID) but this was more expensive. He was writing to local businesses to ask if they would be prepared to make a donation to the cost.
- 56/19** **Planning Applications:** There were no applications or decisions this month.
- 57/19** **County Councillor's Report:** No report had been sent.
- 58/19** **District Councillor's Report:** i) Cllr Pallister said that transformation was still bedding in and was taking a little longer than had been hoped. This was to be expected as it was a major undertaking to save £2.5 million without cutting front line services. He said that the planning department were still struggling as they had several large plans under consideration which were eating into their resources. ii) He said that the telephone system was generally overloaded at this time of year with queries about the Council Tax and the Green Waste Scheme. This year there was additional pressure from Election queries regarding poll cards, postal votes etc. A lot of the information was available on line and he urged those who were able, to use the council website. iii) He said that this would be his last meeting as the village's District Councillor as he was standing down after twenty years. He said that most of his parish councils were apolitical and all had always been polite and he counted it as a privilege to have served them. The councillors thanked him and Cllr Taylor said that he hoped his replacement was as diligent at representing the parish's interests and dealing with the queries as he had been.
- 59/19** **Clerk's Report:** i) The clerk said that a replacement was needed for Helen Early on the Emergency Plan Management Team. Contact details for this team were held by The Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingency Unit and made available to Emergency Services and Public Utilities. In the event of an emergency the team would be contacted to co-ordinate local response, inform the residents and give feedback. The most likely to occur emergency situation for East Chinnock was a major water main burst when a water distribution hub would have to be set up. Debbie Taylor said that she would be happy to be added to the team and the clerk said that she would update the Emergency Plan accordingly. Cllr Pallister said that the most likely occurrence would be the electricity being cut off. He said that in recent years the grid had come close to overload. When the voltage reduces to 220 the grid introduces rolling blackouts. As the village was not on mains gas many residents were totally reliant on electricity with even oil boilers needing electricity to operate. He said that consideration should be given to compiling a register of those properties with vulnerable residents, the elderly, disabled and those with small children for instance, and also properties that were not totally reliant on electricity who might be able to assist in helping residents in need. Cllr Taylor said that he would set up a steering group for this. ii) A Health and Safety Questionnaire had been received for the play area. The council have been asked to complete one previously and the parts that are relevant mainly concern trees. iii) The clerk said that Nomination Forms for those wishing to stand as Parish Councillors in the upcoming election needed to be hand delivered to the District Council Office by 4.00pm on

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Wednesday 3rd April. iv) A questionnaire had been received from the District Council regarding the capacity of the cemetery and the provision of burial plots for non-Christian faith communities. She said that she had forwarded this to the local Churchwarden as the cemetery was the church's responsibility. v) Places had been booked on the New Councillor Training course for Cllrs Debbie Taylor and Tom Wicks at Horton Village Hall on 13th June. The clerk would be attending an Audit Course on 2nd April and a Clerk's Briefing session on 12th April. vi) Confirmation had been received that the litter bin in the layby would be repaired and a larger 120 litre bin would also be installed. It was hoped that this would alleviate the litter problem and the District Council have said that they would continue to monitor the site.

60/19 Finance: The updated Asset Register had been circulated and Cllr Cox proposed with Cllr Reeve seconding that this be approved.

61/19 Payments: the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr Cox proposing and Cllr Debbie Taylor seconding the motion: - i) East Chinnock Village Hall £97.50 for the Post Office Outreach Service rent. ii) M Randell £8.00 for home office allowance iii) SSDC £76.08 for Chimes printing.

It was noted that the direct debit for £35 for the yearly fee to The Information Commissioner's Office for Data Protection registration would be paid on 13th April.

62/19 Entertainment Committee: Cllr Taylor said that as the committee had decided not to run the quiz as there had been little response. They had decided to concentrate on the summer music event and the bonfire which both got good support. The Music Night will be on Saturday 6th July and Bertie's Big Band have been booked again.

63/19 Parish Ranger Report: i) Cllr Cox reported that there was a large tree stump on the Cleaves pathway which needed moving. He was told it was the owner of the adjoining land's responsibility. ii) He said he would ask the ranger what could be done about the surface around the dog bin near to Westways Farm. He said the whole area was very muddy and Cllr Bussell said that he would speak to the County Council as the surfaces were their responsibility.

64/19 Highways: i) Cllr Reeve said that the County Council were not prepared to repair the sign at The Stump Stone and did not consider that the location warranted a replacement sign. Both Cllr Bussell and Marion Andrews said that they walked that way regularly and were frequently asked for directions. Cllr Reeve said that the County were adamant that they would not provide signage for minor roads. Cllr Taylor said that the old cast iron finger posts were of historical value. ii) He said that he was speaking to Highways about the new white line in Weston Street that had been raised in the Parish Meeting. iii) He was pleased to report that the potholes in Westways and Cod Lane that he had reported had been marked for repair. He has reported the holes on the Odcombe Road. iv) He said that he was pursuing the removal of the burnt out caravan on the A356 just prior to the Chiselborough turn off. Although it was outside the parish it did not give a good impression of the area for visitors.

65/19 Play Area Report: i) There was no report as Cllr Wicks was absent. ii) Cllr Taylor said that a youngster from the village had asked him if they could organise something for those who were too old for the play area. Cllr Debbie Taylor said that she would ask the girl what sort of thing would appeal to that age group and how many youngsters there were.

66/19 Rights of Way Report: i) Cllr Bussell said that he had been told that the bridge opposite Andy Gliddons was very slippery. This was an old problem and he had previously asked if he could attach some wire mesh to the wooden bridge to give some grip but had been told that this was not to be done as if it came loose it would be a trip hazard. The County Council's method for dealing with it was to rough up the wood. He had reported it to them as a hazard so hopefully they would deal with it soon. ii) He said that the sign for the Hardington Path had been knocked down, presumably by the hedge cutting contractor. He had reported it to the Park Wardens and it had been replaced within a fortnight which was excellent service. iii) He said that the map of the village Rights Of Way had been laminated and the Village Hall Committee had agreed that it could be displayed in the hall. He has also asked the Editor of The Chimes if an A4 size map could be inserted into the next edition. He hoped that it would encourage people to explore some of the less well used paths. The councillors thanked him for all his hard work in producing such a useful item.

67/19 Clerk's Appraisal Sub-Committee Report: Cllrs Paul and Debbie Taylor had conducted the clerk's appraisal meeting. No issues had been raised and in line with her Contract of Employment, following a satisfactory appraisal, her salary should be increased by one

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incremental point on the LCI scale to LCP23. This was approved with Cllr Cox proposing and Cllr Bussell seconding.

68/19 **Items of Report:** i) The clerk said that her garage had been broken into and a strimmer and chainsaw stolen and she advised everyone to be vigilante. It was suggested that Roger Jewell be asked to inform everyone that there were thieves about in his next Round Robin and the clerk said that she would email him. ii) Cllr Taylor said that no-one had been found to take over the village website from Julie Jewell and he said that if anyone knew of someone who might be interested they should contact the clerk.

69/19 **Next Meeting:** will be on 13th May, 2019 and this will be the AGM

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Signed (Chair) Date.....

Copies of these minutes can be found on the village website at <http://EastChinnock.net> and the Parish website at www.eccparishcouncil.net