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EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th January, 2019 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Public Question Time: There was one resident present and Cllr Taylor welcomed her and wished her a Happy New Year. Marianne Merchant said that she had dug out the information compiled by Jeremy Churchill about the residents of East Chinnock who fought in the wars. She thought it would be nice if the houses that remained, that had lost young men in the war, could be marked at remembrance time. There was a cottage in The Hollow that had lost four sons in the first World War trenches. Cllr Taylor said that he intended to organise some of the silhouettes and the large poppies for the lampposts for the next Remembrance Day. Mrs Merchant also asked if anything could be done about the barrier between the island and the dedicated turn off at the bottom of Hendeford Hill as she considered this to be unsafe. Cllr Pallister agreed with her and said that he had requested a fresh safety audit a couple of months ago. Cllr Keating said he was aware of the issue and would pursue it.

1/19 Apologies for absence: None

2/19 Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:
Declarations of Interest received from all councillors with regard to the Planning Application for Cllr Wicks. There are Declarations of Pecuniary Interest on file for all councillors to cover the Budget discussions.

3/19 Minutes of the last meeting: Cllr Bussell proposed and Cllr Reeve seconded the motion that the minutes, having previously been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the December meeting.

4/19 Matters arising: i) The clerk said that she had written to Greenslade Taylor Hunt to say that the council had a lease document that appeared to show that both parts of the Play Area were covered by the same lease even though the rents were collected under separate Easement References. She said that she had asked if it was possible to extend this lease rather than draw up a new one and had not yet received a reply.

5/19 District Councillor's Report: i) Cllr Pallister said that Transformation had commenced rollout and would be fully operational by March. There would be a dedicated Locality Team for each area who would be the initial point of contact for all queries. ii) He said he had been dealing with a problem caused by a bin left out which caused an obstruction and because it contained food waste, had attracted rats. The bin was on Yarlington owned ground and he had asked them to write to the owner requesting that he remove it and keep within the curtilage of his own property. iii) Cllr Pallister said that he had purchased the Christmas Tree for outside the Village Hall at a cost of £26 and Cllr Cox said that he should send the bill to the Feoffees. As it was less than expected they would pay the whole amount.

6/19 County Councillor's Report: i) Cllr Keating said that the County Council will be on budget for this financial year. ii) Somerset were taking part in a Business Rate Retention trial where the authorities in the area were allowed to retain 100% of the Business Rates raised rather than it going to central government. He said that he was waiting for the details to be released as he expected there to be conditions attached. Cllr Pallister said that the Rates were set by central government and had not been updated to reflect the changes in shopping habits.

7/19 Planning Applications: i) The councillors had looked at the Planning Application No. 18/03794/HOU for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of rear single storey extension at 457, Weston Street for Mr & Mrs Wicks. As the interested party Cllr Wicks could not take part in any discussions. All other councillors had declared their Interest as colleagues of the applicant. They had looked at the plans and were happy to support the application and the clerk was asked to write accordingly to the Planning Officer.

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- 8/19 Clerk's report and correspondence:** i) The clerk said that the District Council had set up a Christmas tree shredding service on the village hall car park. Shredding was scheduled for some time the following week. ii) The clerk had met with the PCSO before Christmas. She said that she would continue to monitor the parking situation and had suggested to the person working in the burger bar that they ask their customers not to park on the footpath. Notices had also been put on a couple of vehicles parking on the pavements. iii) The clerk said that a consultation on school admissions arrangements for children who were due to start, transfer or move schools during the 2020-21 school year was currently taking place. The admission arrangements and details of how to make comments were available at www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions on the School Policy Admissions page or could be accessed by phoning (01823) 356671. The consultation ends on 31st January. iv) The clerk had circulated the SSDC Rural Housing Action Plan 2019/21. This was open for consultation until 25th January. Cllr Cox said that it showed that East Chinnock had not completed a Housing Needs Survey but he was sure that this had been done as part of the Village Plan. The clerk agreed to look into this and contact SSDC with the information v) A Report has been received from Mr. Jackson giving details of the Speedwatch sessions in December, which were fewer due to the light and the holiday period. This has been circulated and results were broadly in line with previous reports. There had been 22 vehicles driving in excess of the prosecutable speed limit and the fastest was a motorbike at 48mph. vi) The clerk had received an email from Julie Jewell saying that she would be giving up running the village website in the near future. The current version of the software would no longer be supported by the developer and this would mean that the website would need to be rebuilt in the newer version. This was a considerable amount of work which she felt unable to undertake. She was also not well enough to take the time to teach someone else. She said that she was happy for someone to take over the existing site but they would need to have sufficient knowledge to take it on unaided. None of the councilors had enough expertise to take the site on. They were aware that there was a young man in the village who built websites for a living and the clerk agreed to find his contact details and approach him for advice. The councilors were sorry to hear that Mrs Jewell was not well enough to continue and asked the clerk to send a letter of thanks to her and her husband for all their sterling work over the years. vii) The clerk said that a letters of thanks has been received from The Citizens Advice Bureau and the local church following the donations made.
- 9/19 Finance:** i) It was noted that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant had been reduced to nil. ii) The councillors had all studied the budget put together at the budget meeting in November. The precept had been increased by £500 and Cllr Cox proposed that the budget be approved with Cllr Debbie Taylor seconding. The number of Band D equivalent properties had increased which meant that the extra cost was spread amongst more households. The increase in Council Tax for the Parish precept will be £0.95 per year per household which is 2.16%. The chairman signed the Precept Form which will be submitted by the clerk. iii) The Actual v Budget figures up to 31.12.18 had been circulated and were noted. Spending was within the budgeted figures but a total of £66.89 has been spent on unbudgeted items. These were a grit bin, backing for the noticeboard and 2 wooden poppies.
- 10/19 Payments:** the following payments were presented and approval was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Reeves:- i) The Village Hall £97.50 for the Post Office outreach service. ii) M Randell £53.99 for Home office allowance, stamps and the renewal costs of the council website.
- 11/19 Entertainment's Committee:** Cllr Taylor said that the Entertainments Committee was meeting on 15th January to discuss the next event. They would be running the Music Evening and Bonfire Night as usual and were considering additional events such as a Bingo Night, possibly to raise funds for a Speed Indication Device (SID) for the village.
- 12/19 Parish Ranger Report:** Cllr Cox said that he was waiting for confirmation of this year's dates. Cllr Taylor said that the silt trap was filling up again and Cllr Cox said that he would check it.

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- 13/19 Highways:** Cllr Reeve reported that a large trench had appeared down the side of East Chinnock Hill following the heavy rains in December. This had been reported and was coned off.
- 14/19 Play Area Report:** Cllr Wicks said that he would be contacting the volunteer grass-cutters from last year to see if they were willing to continue. Cllr Bussell asked if he was considering a spring working party to spruce up the Play Area as had been done last year. Cllr Wicks said that it was not worth painting any of the equipment but a general tidy up would be useful and he agreed to sort a date out and put an appeal for additional volunteers in The Chimes.
- 15/19 Rights of Way Report:** Cllr Bussell said that the village had about 6 miles of pathways most of which were well used. The County classified them from 1 for used daily to 3 for those not used much. Most of the village ones were classified as 1 which meant that if there was a problem reported to the County they would be given priority over less well used paths. He said that the County had a schedule of cutting some paths twice a year but this did not always appear to happen. He said that he had spoken to the contractor responsible for the grass-cutting on the Memorial Field but he was only contracted to cut around the trees, although he did occasionally cut other parts. Cllr Bussell said that he would liaise with him to see if the area around the bench could be kept clear.
- 16/19 Items of Report:** i) Cllr Bussell said that the bin on pavement opposite the pub was still causing problems for pedestrians. The clerk said that she would write to Somerset Waste Partnership again. ii) It was noted that the shop at Cott Farm would no longer be selling eggs etc. but would still be open as a furniture showroom. Dick and Anne Seyfried had served the community for 45yrs and the clerk was asked to write to them thanking them and wishing them well in their retirement. iii) Cllr Taylor had circulated information about possible SID devices for the village. They could be powered by either solar or batteries. The batteries need frequent charging so it was agreed that the solar would be the better option. The cost quoted was £2288. It was suggested that local businesses and those passing through the village or providing services to the residents should be approached for donations towards the costs. Mrs Merchant said that in the past a direct appeal to households had yielded good results. Cllr Taylor said that the Entertainments Committee would look at putting on a specific fundraising event. iv) Cllr Taylor had circulated an email received regarding delivery drivers being directed by their Satellite Navigation devices to access the new development known as Underhayes via Forge Lane. There was currently only one house occupied but this could become a major problem when the others were sold. It was agreed to monitor the situation and consider a sign for the Forge Lane entrance.
- 17/19 Next Meeting:** will be on Monday 4th February, 2019

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 www.EastChinnock.net and the Parish website at www.ecparishcouncil.net