**EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st July, 2019 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Present** Chairman Cllr. Paul Taylor

Councillors Mike Bussell, John Cox, Dave Tuck, Debbie Taylor and Doug Reeve

Officer Maureen Randell

Ward Councillors Anthony Vaughan (part of meeting)

**Public Question Time:** There were no residents in attendance.

**108/19 Apologies for absence:** none.

**109/19 Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none

**110/19 Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Reeve proposed and Cllr Cox seconded the motion that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the June meeting.

**111/19 Matters arising:** i) The clerk said that, as agreed last month, she had written to Greenslade Taylor Hunt setting out the Council’s necessities for a new lease that would fulfil the requirements of grant funders. There had been no response yet but she assumed that was because the matter would have to be referred to the Diocese. ii) Cllr Paul Taylor said that about half the amount needed for the Speed Indication Device and cameras had been pledged and that he was continuing to approach local businesses. He would also ask Cllr Keating if there were any funds available from the County Council. iii) A number of people had been approached to fill the Casual Vacancy but without success so far. Further efforts would be made.

**112/19 District Councillor’s Report:** i) Whilst recycling would continue to be collected weekly, it was proposed to move to 3 weekly collections of grey bins. ii) Drop in sessions giving details of the South Somerset Plan review had been arranged at The Henhayes Centre in Crewkerne on 23rd July from 4.00pm to 7.00pm and The Council Offices in Brympton Way in Yeovil on 1st August from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. Cllr Vaughan said that this would set the agenda for the long term in the district and urged people to have their say.

**113/19 County Councillor’s Report:** Cllr Keating had sent his apologies. Points of interest from his written Reports were as follows:- i) The Panorama programmes ‘Crisis in Care’ highlighted the incredible work by Adult Social Care staff based in Somerset. ii) It was National Volunteers Week in June which highlighted the many opportunities for those wishing to give their time. Full details of volunteering openings were available at [www.volunteeringsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.volunteeringsomerset.gov.uk). iii) The council had agreed additional funding for the Small Improvement Scheme. iv) Volunteers were needed between 13th July and 7th September in Libraries which were running a Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge. More information was available at [www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/srcvolunteering](http://www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/srcvolunteering). v) The latest Talking Café had opened at Musgrove Park Hospital offering advice and support to patients and carers. Further information on the project and other venues can be found at https://somersetrcc.rg.uk/our\_work/supporting-individuals/somersetvillage-agents-project/ vi) The Western Corridor Scheme had been completed on time and on budget. vi) Foster Carers were still needed and SCC had launched a reward scheme whereby anyone submitting a recommendation that lead to approval of new Foster Parents would receive a £150 thank you payment and £100 would go into a fund to fund activities for children. For more information ring the Fostering Team on 0800 587 9900.

**114/19 Planning Applications:**  There had been further amendments to Planning Application No. 18/00192/FUL for the formation of a vehicular access and off road parking at 412/413 New Buildings. The councillors were happy to support this and the clerk was asked to write accordingly.

**115/19 Clerk’s Report:** i) The clerk said that the Jubilee stone planter on the pavement outside the village hall had been damaged on 20th June. It was thought that the damage had been caused by a red Clio seen at the site. She said that she had not been contacted by the owner with their Insurance details and she understood that failure to provide details where damage had occurred was classed as a Road Traffic Offence. The incident had been reported to the Insurers and the Police. PCSO Michelle Haimes had suggested that the local paper be approached to see if they would print a picture and appeal for witnesses to the damage. The councillors agreed that the clerk should do this. The insurers had asked for the value of the planter and when it was built. The clerk said that she could not find any record of the costs of the planter apart from £130 paid for the stone inscribed ‘ER 11’. At least 2 quotations are were required by the Insurer and the council would have to pay the first £250 as this was the policy excess. It was suggested that she ask Mrs Merchant who would probably know who built it and approach them for a quotation.

ii) An email from the Fire Service regarding their Public Consultation on proposed changes to the service had been circulated. There were a possible 6 options, 5 of which included the removal of the third fire engine at Yeovil. They said that the changes were to better reflect the usage of the assets as fire prevention work had meant that there were fewer callouts. The clerk said that full details could be found under the ‘Safer Together’ tab on their website at www.dsfire.gov.uk. and the consultation would run until the end of August. There would be drop in sessions during that time. The councillors agreed that rationalisation of the service was probably necessary and felt that the area would still be adequately covered. iii) An email from SSDC about their consultation on ‘The Preferred Options’ following their review of the Local Plan (2006-2028) until 18th September had been circulated and the review had been mentioned in the District Councillor’s Report. There was little in the report that would impact upon the village so the councillors decided not to send any official comments. For those who wished to make a personal representations, full details can be found on the SSDC website: http://consult.southsomerset.gov.uk/consult.ti/PreferredOptionsConsultation/consultationHome

iv) An SSDC email giving details of their plans for an Environment Strategy had been circulated. The councillors felt that the village did what it could to mitigate environmental damage v) The clerk said that she had received a complaint about overgrowth onto the pavement in the village and had emailed the owner asking him to deal with it. He had responded to say that he would attend to it. vi) An email had been received from the Volunteering Co-ordinator at Spark asking the council to promote the opportunities and benefits of volunteering. This has been forwarded to Julie Kneafsey for inclusion in the Chinnock Chimes and to Roger Jewell for his Round Robin.

vii) The clerk said that she had attended a Fundraising Course at Woolavington Village Hall on 18th June. The speaker was an experienced fundraiser and she had picked up some interesting tips for when the Play Area lease had been agreed. viii) An invitation to the Chair of the County Council’s Annual Civic Service at St John’s Evangelist Church at Tatworth at 1.00pm on Saturday 28th September had been received. Unfortunately no-one was free to attend. ix) The clerk reported that Cllr Debbie Taylor and Lia Wicks had completed the Data Protection Forms for the Civil Contingencies Unit so that their details could be held as part of the Emergency Plan Management Team for the village. Previously Ric Pallister was also on the team and she said that she had emailed him to ask if he wished to remain. x) The Speedwatch Report had been circulated and showed that, although there was a slight increase in the number of vehicles passing, there had been a slight decrease in those recorded in excess of 40mph. The group were appealing for more volunteers as some of the existing team had dropped out. xi) Trees for Somerset had emailed with details of an event they were holding on Friday 2nd August at Walton Village Hall from 10.00am to 3.30pm. Cllr Paul Taylor has expressed an interest in attending and the clerk was asked to book him a place. xii) The clerk asked if anyone had any information about the Memorial Clock at the church as it was not included in the Insurance Schedule. Cllr Bussell said that he thought it had been installed about 1920 as a World War 1 memorial and he assumed that it was covered under the church’s policy. He suggested the clerk contact David Bakewell. xiii) The clerk said that she had been given details of a gas fired paella pan that the Entertainments Committee wished to purchase at a cost of £216.66 + VAT and delivery charges of £16.45 (total £276.44). She had been told that it could be hired out to recover the cost. Cllr Bussell said that he was concerned about the health and safety implications of gas equipment, especially if it was hired out. He had some experience of the requirements because of his involvement with the scouts. There would need to be a risk assessment, detailed instructions and a hirer’s agreement prepared. The council’s insurers would also have to be consulted. Cllr Cox said that previously the committee had put forward a business case for expenditure. He agreed that the risks involved in renting it out needed to be assessed and asked if it wasn’t rented out would the committee get sufficient use out of it. He said it wasn’t necessary to justify it purely on financial terms; if the committee felt that it would make life easier that would be fine but he would like them to give further consideration as to its usefulness and the health and safety aspects. It was agreed that the matter be referred back to the Entertainments Committee. xiv) The clerk reminded the councillors that Julie Jewell would be stepping down from running the village website soon and as yet no-one had come forward to replace her. She said it would be a shame to lose this asset.

**116/19 Finance:** The Risk Assessment had been updated and circulated. Cllr Reeve proposed with Cllr Bussell seconding that this be approved.

**117/19 Payments:** the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr Cox proposing and Cllr Tuck seconding the motion: - i) M Randell £34.10 for home office allowance and travel expenses. ii) East Chinnock Village Hall £97.50 for hire charges for the Post Office Outreach service. iii) East Chinnock Village Hall £132.00 for hire charges for the Council monthly meetings. iv) Somerset Association for Local Councils £25.00 for the New Councillor Course attended by Cllr Debbie Taylor v) Greenslade Taylor Hunt £30 for the Play Area rent.

It was noted that £500 had been received for hire of the tents.

**118/19 Entertainments Committee:** Cllr Paul Taylor said that the gates would open for the Music Night event at 6.00pm with the music starting at 7.00pm. There would be the usual bar and BBQ and attendees were asked to refrain from bringing their own supplies, unless they were prepared to pay a corkage charge. Cllr Taylor said that the marquee and tents would be erected in the morning and volunteers were very welcome from about 9.00am to help set up.

**119/19 Parish Ranger Report:** Cllr Coxsaid that the Ranger would be in the village again on 13th August. Cllr Bussell said could strimming at the Lookout Point be added to the list. The Clerk said that she had received a complaint about the bank at the bottom of the Play Area field on Forge Lane being overgrown. This had been on the Ranger’s list for June but they have obviously ran out of time. Cllr Tuck said that he intended to strim round the Play Area in the next few days and would include the bank.

**120/19 Highways:** i)Cllr Reeve said that a larger bin had been installed in the layby but it was not that big and he was concerned that there would still be an overspill of rubbish. He would monitor it over the summer. ii) Following the introduction of the numerous traffic lights on the Western Corridor there had been a large increase in traffic using The Hollow. Previous attempts to get some sort of Priority Traffic safety measures installed had been unsuccessful but he said he would be pressing the case again in view of the increased volume of traffic. iii) He said that cars parking on the pavement or over the white lines in Western Street had been causing problems recently so he would monitor the situation and ask the Police to intervene if the problem persisted.

**121/19 Play Area Report:** Cllr Debbie Taylor said that she had inspected the play equipment and it was all fine. She said that the grass had been cut in June by Cllr Tuck and Cllr Paul Taylor would be cutting the grass in July.

**122/19 Rights of Way Report:** i) Cllr Bussell said that he struggled to keep the pathways clear at this time of year because he couldn’t get round the six miles of pathways quick enough. ii) He said he had reported the broken stile at the end of the path starting on East Chinnock Hill. Iii) He was particularly concerned at the increase in irresponsible dog owners who did not pick up their dog’s excrement. The clerk was asked to see if a reminder to owners could be put in the next edition of The Chinnock Chimes. Cllr Debbie Taylor said that she had noticed a number of dog walkers arriving in cars so feared that the message would not reach all the owners.

**123/19 Items of Report:** Cllr Paul Taylor said that he had witnessed the bus driver urinating in the bus shelter but had been unable to get across the road before he continued his journey. He had phone the bus company who said that they would discipline the driver. He asked if they could send someone to clean out the shelter but they said that would probably not be possible. A letter had been sent to the bus company owners suggesting that they might like to make a contribution to the SID by way of an apology and their response was awaited.

**124/19 Next Meeting:** will be on 2nd September, 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Signed ………………………............… (Chair) Date…………………

Copies of these minutes can be found on the village website at [http://EastChinnock.net](http://eastchinnock.net) and the Parish website at www.ecparishcouncil.net