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EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd June, 2019 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Public Question Time: There were no residents in attendance.

91/19 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Debbie Taylor had sent her apologies.

92/19 **Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none

93/19 **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Tuck proposed and Cllr Cox seconded the motion that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the May meeting.

94/19 **Matters arising:** i) Following the clerk's meeting with Rachael Saltonstall of SSDC where it was established that as the Play Area lease had expired but the Council were still paying the rent, the council now had 'a Periodic Tenancy' which was a rolling tenancy with some renewal rights. The expired lease was 'contracted out' of the renewal provisions of the Landlords and Tenants Protection Act and was for 20 years. The clerk had then asked the Playground Department at SSDC whether or not grant funders would accept a Periodic Tenancy and if not what term of years would they look for. She also asked if a 'contracted out' tenancy would be acceptable. Their response was that they would not issue any grants for either a Periodic Tenancy or a 'contracted out' tenancy. For grants up to £5000 they would require a minimum of a 10 year lease with anything over that amount requiring a minimum lease of 15 years. They also said that generally speaking the longer the lease the better and that copies of the lease would be required at the application stage for funding. The clerk said that this gave the council the information they needed to go back to Greenslade Taylor Hunt and negotiate a lease that fulfilled those criteria. She suggested that a minimum term of 20 years be asked for with a longer term if the Diocese were willing. A decision was also needed on how much the council would 'offer' for the annual rent. The agent had indicated that they had renewed other leases at between £200 and £500 per annum. The councillors felt that even the £200 represented too large an increase on the £50 currently being paid for such a small area and agreed on a figure of £150. The clerk was asked to write to the agent accordingly. ii) Cllr Paul Taylor said that he had received some details of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera that recorded the details of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. He said that the cameras were solar powered and designed to be in place permanently. They cost £295 each and he thought that 2 would be required. They are new and not yet approved by the Police so it would be something to look at after the Speed Indication Device was installed. Cllr Bussell said that any installation would probably need the permission of the Highways Department. Cllr Paul Taylor said that he had nothing further to report on the funding from local businesses as he was waiting for a couple to get back to him. Cllr Reeve asked if he had asked the Entertainments Committee about a contribution to the costs and Cllr Paul Taylor said that he had mentioned it at the last meeting but a number of members were absent so it had been deferred. iii) The clerk said that she had had an enquiry about the Casual Vacancy and had suggested that the enquirer come along to this meeting to meet the councillors and see the council in action. As no-one had turned up she assumed that they had changed their mind. Cllr Reeve said that he had approached someone who might be interested and he agreed to speak to them again.

95/19 **District Councillor's Report:** i) Cllr Vaughan said that he had attended the first full meeting of the new council in May where it was proposed that the District Council declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency. Members of the public attended and had the opportunity to express their views. The motion was unanimously passed which had committed the District Council to becoming Carbon Neutral, either through the reduction of carbon production or offsetting through the use of green energy production. This was an ambitious plan which also required the council to develop a clear plan on how this would be achieved by the Autumn. ii) He said that The Woodland Trust had a scheme that provided free trees to communities. iii) Cllr Vaughan said that

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he had attended a Planning Training Course so had the latest information if there were any queries.

- 96/19 County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Keating had sent his apologies. Following his appointment of Vice Chairman of the County Council he now had additional duties and functions to attend and would not always be able to come to the Parish meetings. However, he would continue to be available by phone and email should the need arise.
- 97/19 Planning Applications:** There were no current applications
- 98/19 Entertainments Committee:** i) The budget for the Music Night was considered and Cllr Cox proposed with Cllr Reeve seconding that this be accepted. ii) Cllr Paul Taylor said that everything was organised for the event and posters and flyers would be distributed shortly. The gates would open at 6.30pm with the band commencing at 7.30pm. There would be burgers, hot dogs and a bar as usual and everyone should purchase their drinks at the bar rather than bring their own to ensure that the event covers its costs.
- 99/19 Clerk's Report:** i) A letter of thanks had been received from St Margaret's Hospice for the recent donation of £50 in lieu of the Internal Auditor's fee. ii) Following the decision by Tom Wicks to stand down from the council his place on the New Councillor Training Course has been cancelled and SALC had agreed not to charge for this. iii) Lia Wicks had agreed to remain on the Emergency Plan Management Team and her Data Consent Form and contact details had been sent to the Somerset Emergency Civil Contingences unit together with those for Cllr Debbie Taylor. Ric Pallister was also listed as a member of the team and the clerk said that she had emailed him asking if he wished to remain but had not received a reply yet but this might have been because it had been sent to his SSDC email address which might not have been forwarded to him following his retirement. Cllr Reeve said that he would be seeing Ric Pallister the next day and would ask him. iv) The clerk asked for completed Register of Interest Forms to be returned to her as soon as possible. v) She also asked if anyone been able to find a replacement for Julie Jewell to run the village website as it would be a shame to lose a valuable resource when she retired. vi) Another enquiry about ancestors who emigrated from the village to New Zealand in the 19th Century had been received recently and as before it had been passed onto the Churchwarden David Bakewell. vii) The Speedwatch Report had been circulated and showed a slight increase in volume of traffic and the numbers speeding. Particularly worrying was the increase from 7 to 17 for those travelling at over 40mph.
- 100/19 Finance:** i) The councillors noted that the Annual Return paperwork had been completed and uploaded to the council website together with the end of year accounts. The clerk said that the Certificate of Exemption from external audit had been submitted to the auditors and the notice regarding the Exercise of Public Rights to view the annual return and accounts paperwork had been posted on the website and the noticeboard. ii) The councillors also noted that the council insurance policy had been renewed.
- 101/19 Payments:** the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr Cox proposing and Cllr Tuck seconding the motion: - i) A Hallett £1,400 for the Summer Event Float. ii) M Randell £848.24 for quarterly salary and home office allowance. iii) Somerset Playing Fields Association £15 for annual subscription. iv) East Chinnock Village Hall £6 for Entertainments Committee meeting. v) SSDC £75.97 for the printing of The Chimes. vi) D. Reeve £27.30 for reimbursement of the cost of the wood for the new planter. The chairman thanked Cllr Reeve for building and installing the new planter and noted that Marianne Merchant had now planted all the containers with summer bedding.
The direct debit for £24 for Cox & Co for payroll services was noted.
- 102/19 Parish Ranger Report:** Cllr Cox reported that the ranger was due this month but unfortunately he was unable to send the list of jobs to the SSDC as his computer was in for repair. The list was passed to the Clerk so that she could email it for him.
- 103/19 Highways:** i) Cllr Reeve said that the potholes in Orchardleigh and at the top of The Hollow had been repaired. He said that he had asked that The Hollow be resurfaced as the condition of the whole road was poor but it appears that the Highways Department are only prepared to patch it. ii) He said that he had heard nothing further regarding the complaint of the noise of the traffic on the A30. iii) He said that he understood that Ric Pallister had organised a large bin to be added in the lay by on the A30 but it didn't appear to have been installed yet. Cllr Bussell said that he thought that another small bin had been put in place. Cllr Reeve said he would check what was

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there.

104/19 Play Area Report: There was nothing further to report.

105/19 Rights of Way Report: Cllr Bussell said that a walker had asked him who was responsible for overhanging branches on the pathway between Orchardleigh and Cleeves Track and he had told her it was the landowner. She had replied that she knew one of the landowners and would speak to them. Cllr Taylor had some signs about picking up dog poo that the previous clerk had got from the NFU and passed onto him. Cllr Bussell said that the landowners permission would be needed to put them up on the pathways but Cllr Cox said that the stiles were the property of the County Council so that the signs could be affixed to them. Cllr Bussell said he would put one up by the entrance to the airfield, up Cleeves Track and the memorial Field as these were all areas where dog poo was being left on the paths. Cllr Taylor said that more signs were available from the Yeovil offices of the NFU.

106/19 Items of Report: No-one had anything to report.

107/19 Next Meeting: will be on 1st July, 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> and the Parish website at www.ecparishcouncil.net