

## DRAFT

### EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

<b>Present</b>	Chairman Cllr. Paul Taylor
Councillors	Mike Bussell, John Cox, Dave Tuck, Debbie Taylor and Doug Reeve
Officer	Maureen Randell
Ward Councillors	None in attendance

**Public Question Time:** There were three residents in attendance. Sharon Smith had come to introduce herself as the person who had volunteered to take over the running of the village website.

**158/19 Apologies for absence:** all councillors were present.

**159/19 Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** Disclosure of a Pecuniary Interest Dispensation Forms were on record for all councillors. These were needed so that the budget could be discussed.

**160/19 Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Bussell seconded the motion that the minutes of the EGM on 16<sup>th</sup> October be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting. Cllr Debbie Taylor proposed with Cllr Cox seconding that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October as a true record of that meeting.

**161/19 Matters arising:** i) The clerk said that an email had been received from Greenslade Taylor Hunt, asking for information previously supplied regarding the length of the lease required etc. and also asking for a plan and details of the new equipment. She had replied confirming the information already sent and stating that grant funding and plans for the new equipment could not proceed until the lease was in place. ii) The standard County Council Agreement that the council would need to sign before purchasing a Speed Indication Device (SID) referred to permanently installed Vehicle Activated Speed signs rather than SIDs. The clerk said that she had altered this to reflect the council's situation and this had been sent to the County Councillor for discussions with the County Legal Department. The Speedwatch Co-ordinator had sent information about funding which may be available from The Police and Crime Commissioner for SIDs. Cllr Cox proposed with Cllr Reeve seconding that the clerk complete an application for funding towards the SID. iii) Casual Vacancy – despite continued efforts the council were still one councillor short. iv) The grant application for the Improving Lives fund was successful and the £500 towards a piece of adult gym equipment had been received. There was also a £500 donation in the reserves from the Golf Croquet Club which they had suggested could be used for the same purpose so two items could be bought at very little cost to the council. Cllr Paul Taylor said that the Entertainments Committee could be asked to contribute for additional pieces so that a good selection could be installed. The clerk said that the equipment could be installed on the current lease arrangement (providing the Diocese did not object). The only reason for pursuing a lease was because larger grant funding for a major refit of the children's equipment was only available with security of tenure. The decision on which pieces to buy and where to site them would be made in the new year. In the meantime the clerk would keep an eye out for winter offers from manufacturers who may wish to boost their quiet season.

**162/19 District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Vaughan was not in attendance and no report had been sent.

**163/19 County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Keating had sent his apologies.

**164/19 Planning Applications:** i) The clerk said that she had written in support of Application No 19/01325/LBC for the erection of an agricultural building at Bridge Farm as agreed at the last meeting.

**165/19 Clerk's Report:** i) The clerk said that as everyone was no doubt aware there had been various emails, meetings etc. following a complaint from a local farmer about the distress caused to his animals by the fireworks. The manufacturer of the fireworks had assured the council that all the fireworks purchased complied with the 97 decibel limit recommended by the RSPCA and the launch site had been moved further away. It was hoped that these measures would alleviate the situation. The insurance company had been consulted and were satisfied that all reasonable precautions had been taken and that the event complied with their policy conditions. ii) Shaon Smith had come forward to take over the running of a village website as Julie Jewell wished to

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step down. It had been agreed that the council would fund some training for her and she had found a short course at Bridgwater College starting in February that would be suitable. This would cost £77 and Cllr Cox proposed with Cllr Reeve seconding that the council would fund this. Sharon Smith was asked to liaise with the clerk about the payment. iii) The Speedwatch Group results for October were broadly in line with previous months. The fastest vehicle was one at 65mph and this driver has been visited by the Police and given 'Words of Advice'. The co-ordinator reported that the new PCSO had joined their sessions and had given advice and support. iv) The clerk said that she had been asked to highlight the interactive map reporting tool for reporting any Public Rights of Way issues at <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map>. Using this web based tool ensured any complaint/issue was lodged on the same system County Officers use day to day and was the quickest way to ensure any Public Right of Way complaints were resolved. v) The District Council were once again operating the Christmas tree recycling service and Cllr Cox confirmed that the Village Hall were happy for the car park to be used for this as in previous years.

- 166/19 Finance:** i) The clerk said that the budget meeting would be held at Cllr. Cox's house at 7.00pm on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Paperwork would be circulated and councillors who could not attend were asked to let the clerk or the chairman know if they have any suggestions or comments.
- 167/19 Payments:** the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr Reeve proposing and Cllr Cox seconding the motion: - i) St Mary's PCC £430 contribution towards cemetery maintenance. ii) M Randell £21.66 for home office allowance, ink and stamps. iii) SSDC £301.92 for half yearly ranger bill iv) M Bussell £14.40 for replacement wood for bench repair v) EC Village Hall £6.00 for Entertainments Committee meeting vi) Play Inspection Company £78.00 for annual play equipment inspection. An invoice for £10 for wood to repair the play area gate post had been received after the agenda was prepared but as it had been previously approved it was added to the list.
- 168/19 Entertainments Committee:** i) Cllr Paul Taylor said that everything was in place for the following night's Bonfire Event and hoped that the weather would be good.
- 169/19 Parish Ranger Report:** i) Cllr Cox said that he didn't think the scheduled visit from the Ranger had taken place in October. He had emailed the new person in charge at the District Council but had not received any reply. ii) Mrs Merchant said that the Ranger made a good job of clearing the wall at the front of the village hall but unfortunately the debris made a mess of the flower planters. She asked if he could be instructed to cover them before he brushed the wall down.
- 170/19 Highways:** i) Cllr Reeve said that there was a lot of mud on the highways from the farm vehicles and the council needed to decide what action they would take. He had slipped on some mud down Westways and had spoken to the local farmer who had sent someone down to clear the road. He said that there had recently been an accident in the village when a motorcyclist had come off his bike due to the muddy road. He said that farmers had a legal obligation to clean the road under Section 148 of the Highways Act of 1980. Unfortunately, it wasn't always clear which farmer was responsible as there were a number using fields in the village. As it was a criminal offence it was suggested that the local police be asked to visit the farmers and remind them of their legal obligations and the clerk was asked to write to him accordingly. ii) Cllr Reeve said that he had received a response from the Highways Department about his request for a 20mph zone in Weston Street. They had indicated that the Parish Council would be expected to pay for the work involved in this. With the new signage and illumination for the signs this would be many thousands of pounds. He said he was very unhappy with this response and wished to write back asking them what they would do to protect the many residents who used a busy narrow road without any pavements. With the new properties on Westways, the delivery traffic, and those using the play area, pre-school and village hall, there was now a considerable amount of traffic. The pedestrians at risk included many vulnerable people such as the elderly, disabled and children and it was the Highways responsibility to minimise the risks to them. All councillors agreed that it was important to follow this up. In the meantime Cllr Reeve would ask the editor of the Chimes to highlight the need for drivers to exercise caution when travelling on narrow country lanes. iii) Cllr Bushell said that he had checked and raked all the grit bins which were fine apart from the one at the top of Broad Lane which was completely empty. He had emailed the County Council who would replenish it.
- 171/19 Play Area Report:** i) Cllr Debbie Taylor said the Annual Inspection Report had been received.

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There were some minor points which were all classed as very low risk or low risk. They had remarked on the length of the grass and Cllr Tuck said that he would be able to cut it the following morning.

**172/19** **Rights of Way Report:** i) Cllr Bussell said that there were some large branches fallen just above the silt trap. The path was passable on foot but not on horseback. The branches were too big for his equipment and he was concerned that getting them out would result in more slippage from the bank. Technically it was the landowners responsibility but he was unsure who owned the adjoining fields. Cllr Tuck said that he would take his chainsaw up and see if he could cut it up and clear the path.

**173/19** **Items of Report:** i) The clerk said that she had circulated some correspondence received regarding the change in the May Day Bank holiday. This had been moved from the Monday to the Friday to facilitate VE day celebrations and it was hoped that local councils would take a lead in organising events. She suggested that the summer event organised by the Entertainments Committee could be held on that day. Cllr Bussell suggested a forties themed evening as the steam railway he was involved with had organised a forties event which had been very well supported by all age groups. Cllr Paul Taylor said that he would put this on the agenda for the next meeting of the Entertainments Committee. ii) Cllr Reeve asked if the printing had been organised for the next edition of The Chinnock Chimes now the District Council had stopped doing this. Cllr Paul Taylor said that it had been agreed that the print room at his place of work would print the Chimes from now on. They were happy to accommodate local non-profit groups around their normal work schedule as part of their commitment to the local community. They would be setting up a charitable trust and groups would be asked to pay the costs of the materials into this. Because this was not yet organised the edition due at the end of the month would be printed free of charge. He said that he would contact the editor of The Chimes about submitting the copy. iii) Cllr Reeves said that he had read correspondence circulated by the clerk about Winter Preparations. He said that one of the points covered in this was about the responsibility of landowners to ensure that ditches on or adjoining their land were cleared so that they could flow properly. He agreed to speak to the editor of The Chimes about including a reminder to landowners of their responsibilities. iv) A member of the public present asked if the instructions for the defibrillator could be redone as they were no longer clear and Cllr Cox agreed to look into this. v) Having observed the meeting Sharon Stone was asked if she would consider joining the council. She agreed to stand and Cllr Cox proposed with Cllr Debbie Taylor seconded the motion that she be co-opted. She signed the Acceptance of Office Form and the clerk agreed to send her all the new councillor information before the next meeting where she would take her place on the council.

**174/19** **Next Meeting:** will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

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

Copies of these minutes can be found on the Parish website at [www.eccparishcouncil.net](http://www.eccparishcouncil.net)