

EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Public Question Time: There were two residents in attendance but they did not have any questions.

141/19 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Tuck was on holiday

142/19 **Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none

143/19 **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Reeve proposed and Cllr Bussell seconded the motion that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the September meeting.

144/19 **Matters arising:** i) The clerk said that, despite reminders, she was still awaiting a response from the agent regarding the Play Area lease. She also said that she had been told that the Annual Inspection of the play equipment would take place in the next few days. ii) The clerk said that she had received a copy of the agreement that Highways would need to be signed for a Speed Indication Device (SID), together with a list of Frequently Asked Questions. She had circulated these with a summary of the points that needed addressing. The main concern was that written permission from the County was required each time the device was moved which was impractical. Only a County approved SID could be used and those with Smiley Faces or Thankyou were not allowed. Permission was unlikely to be given for a permanent SID and there were restrictions on moveable ones: they could only be installed for two weeks and then not again in that location for a month so, as the village currently had two approved locations, it would need to have a further two to get the maximum value for money. These could only be installed by the County and no costs for this had been given. Cllr Keating was asked if he could get an indication of these costs. He said that the highway was controlled by the Department of Transport and there were regulations for safety reasons about what could be installed and the working conditions; the Agreement had been drawn up to ensure that these were complied with. He agreed that some of the requirements were impractical and were more applicable to a permanently installed device. He suggested that the clerk write outlining the problem areas in the Agreement so that the Highways Department would know what needed reconsidering. Cllr Bussell said that the £300 to £500 quoted for training an installer was very expensive and assumed that this was for full Chapter 8 road safety requirements. He asked if a short course could be made available to just cover the SID rather than having to be trained for all eventualities. One of the members of the public who was from the Speedwatch Group said that in a recent session, when a police officer had attended, he had said that the Police and Crime Commissioner was very interested in road safety and there may be some funding available from the Police. The clerk agreed to make enquiries. Whilst the councillors appreciated the need for some form of agreement and control for safety purposes they were concerned that the contract put forward by the County was unworkable. It was agreed that the purchase would be deferred until all concerns had been addressed. iii) A number of people had been approached to fill the Casual Vacancy but without success so far. Further efforts would be made.

145/19 **District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Vaughan had sent his apologies.

146/19 **County Councillor's Report:** Points of interest from Cllr Keating's written Reports were as follows:- i) Parents were urged to ensure that their children were up to date with their MMR vaccinations. ii) The Application process for September 2020 school places was now live. Further information was available at www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/apply-to-start-school iii) Over 7,000 children visited Somerset libraries over the school summer holiday to take part in the many activities organised. iv) Costa Coffee would be holding Fostering Events over the next few weeks. For further information visit www.fosteringinsomerset.gov.uk. v) Parish Councils were asked to let SCC know by the end of October if their grit bins needed topping up. vi) Following a change in the law Opposite Sex Civil Partnerships will be available from next year. Bookings should be made via www.somersetregistrations@somerset.gov.uk

- 147/19 Planning Applications:** i) The clerk said that following the refusal of Application No. 18/04034/FUL for a new dwelling in Orchardleigh the applicant had appealed. ii) Application No 19/01325/LBC for the erection of an agricultural building at Bridge Farm was considered and Cllr Bussell proposed with Cllr Reeve seconding that this be supported and the clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department accordingly.
- 148/19 Clerk's Report:** i) The clerk said that she had been reviewing the sums insured as the Insurer now included tents up to the value of £10,000 under the standard cover. Many of the items owned by the council such as the grit bins, wooden planters, etc. were below the excess amount so could not be insured. Most of the items above this value came under the Street Furniture Section with the bus shelter and the Millenium Seat being the main ones. Following the problems with tracking down the vehicle that damaged the Jubilee Planter it was agreed that these be continued to be covered. The mower was currently insured for £2107 and this was considered to be adequate. Cover had been discontinued on the play equipment a couple of years ago as it was decided that there was very little risk of it being damaged by an insured peril and it was expected that it would be replaced very soon. It was agreed that there was no need to cover this. The clerk said that the policy had a section for fencing and gates and suggested that the councillors consider adding the play area fence under this section. It was agreed to insure this for the sum of £2000. The Asset Register included the Dial at the Lookout Point and the Pump at Barrows Hill but there was no value attached to these. It was agreed that these did not need to be added. Cllr Cox proposed with Cllr Debbie Taylor seconding that the clerk write to the insurers regarding the changes discussed. ii) As agreed at the last meeting the Emergency Plan had been updated and Cllr Debbie Taylor proposed that it be approved with Cllr Cox seconding. iii) The clerk said that she had completed the paperwork for the Improving Lives Grant Scheme and this was passed to Cllr Keating. It was hoped that the council would be awarded £500 towards the cost of an item of adult outdoor gym equipment. iv) Following the news that the SSDC Print Room were no longer undertaking outside print work the editor of The Chimes had approached her employer who said that they would print an 8 page run for £120. Cllr Paul Taylor said that he had spoken to his employer and it seemed likely that they could provide the printing for just the cost of the paper and ink which would be considerably cheaper. He was awaiting confirmation of this and agreed to let the clerk know as soon as he heard. v) The clerk said that the Bank had stopped sending out regular statements for the Reserves Account. She had been into the branch to ask if they could reinstate the quarterly statements but was told that they could not speak to her about the account as she was not authorised and they suggested that she should be added to the mandate. Cllr Cox proposed with Cllr Debbie Taylor seconding that the clerk be added and a Mandate Form was signed for submission to the bank. vi) A letter had been received from the Community Land Trust saying that they were thinking of winding up in the New Year as it seemed unlikely that any land would become available. vii) The clerk said that she had been contacted by someone interested in taking over the village website. She had passed their details onto Julie Jewell who replied that she was currently not well enough to provide much assistance. Cllr Cox proposed that the council could pay for a training course if that would help and this was seconded by Cllr Debbie Taylor. The clerk said that she would write to the volunteer accordingly. viii) The Somerset Rivers Authority had sent out their Annual Report and this had been circulated and uploaded onto the council website Notices page ix) The clerk said that she had been asked who would be attending the annual Town and Parish Meeting on 9th October and Cllr Paul and Debbie Taylor agreed to represent the council. x) The Speedwatch Group had resumed their sessions following reassurance from the Police. The results for September were broadly in line with previous months. The fastest vehicles were two at 46mph and one of these had been recorded at 50mph twice in the previous month. This driver has been visited by the Police and given 'Words of Advice'.
- 149/19 Finance:** i) The councillors noted that the VAT refund of £541.45 had been received. ii) The actual v budget spreadsheet for the half year to 30th September had been circulated. It was agreed that a Budget Sub-committee would meet at 7.30pm on 13th November to put together a draft budget for discussion at the December council meeting.
- 150/19 Payments:** the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr Reeve proposing and Cllr Cox seconding the motion: - i) Village Hall £97.50 for Post Office outreach. ii) Clerks home office allowance £8.00 iii) A. Gliddon £1200.00 for bonfire fireworks iv) A. Hallett £720 for bonfire

float. v) Society of Local Council Clerks £76.00 for annual subscription. vi) Village Hall £12.00 for Entertainments Committee meetings. vii) Village Hall £10.00 for hire of tables for summer event. viii) M Randell £59.99 reimbursement for Norton Security Renewal. An invoice for £111.30 from Nick Weber for mower fuel had been received after the agenda was prepared but as it was for a budgeted item it was added to the list.

- 151/19 Entertainments Committee:** i) Cllr Paul Taylor said that there would be a short meeting on the following night for last minute discussion of the bonfire event. This would be taking place on Tuesday 5th November. The gates would open at 5.30pm when the food and bar would be open with the fire being lit at 6.00pm and the fireworks starting at 6.30pm. As usual there would be no charge for entry but there would be buckets at the gate for donations.
- 152/19 Parish Ranger Report:** Cllr Cox said that he and Cllr Tuck had cleared the fence line and bank at the play area. The Ranger was due on 22nd October and he asked that councillors let him know if there was anything to add to the usual list. He would ask if the stream edge down Westways could be cleared.
- 153/19 Highways:** i) Cllr Reeve said that the new application for a further five properties at Orchard Farm would mean a significant increase in the vehicle traffic on Weston Street. He had therefore asked the Highways Department to reconsider changing the speed limit to 20mph, especially as there was no footpath. ii) He had also spoken to Highways about the parking too close to the corner of Weston Street and the A30 which was causing problems for those turning left into Weston Street and reducing visibility for those exiting Weston Street. iii) He said that there were problems with The Hollow road surface with erosion and further potholes. Cllr Bussell said that it really needed resurfacing but Cllr Reeve said that Highways had told him that there was no money in the budget for this. It was estimated that at least 4000 vehicles a day used The Hollow and Cllr Bussell said that it was probably more than that as a traffic survey about 12 years previously had recorded over 4000 vehicles and the volume of traffic had increased since then. iv) Cllr Reeve said that whilst some of the white lines in the village had been repainted he was still chasing Highways for the Slow signs at either end of the village to be done.
- 154/19 Play Area Report:** i) Cllr Debbie Taylor said that one of the gate posts was quite rotten and needed replacing. There was a volunteer willing to do this if the council would pay for the materials. Cllr Cox proposed that this be approved with Cllr Bussell seconding. ii) She said that the wooden seat was in poor condition and Cllr Paul Taylor said that he would ask the Entertainments Committee if they would fund the cost of a plastic one. It was suggested that a picnic table similar to the one at the Lookout Point would be more useful. Cllr. Paul Taylor said that the Entertainments Committee had also talked about buying some adult gym equipment for the play area. iii) She said that there were some splits in the matting by the swings and the clerk said that she thought that Nick Weber had some of the granules that could be used to repair the matting. The clerk said she would check with him. iv) Cllr Debbie Taylor said that the play equipment was looking shabby and if it was not going to be replaced imminently then it would benefit from a coat of paint. She suggested a working party be organised for the spring.
- 155/19 Rights of Way Report:** i) Cllr Bussell said that someone had cleared the overgrowth around the council bench at Conyger which had revealed the bench to be in poor condition. As he considered it unsafe he had purchased some wood at a cost of £14.40 and repaired it. He was asked to give the receipt for to the clerk for reimbursement at the next meeting. ii) He said that he had cleared out as much as he could from around the sleeper diverter by the Lookout Point and the pipe just below. Cllr Cox said the pipe was not wide enough for the flow. He had been told that the ranger might be able to jet the pipe and said that he would ask. iii) There had been a small fallen tree up Cleeves Track which he had cleared. iv) He said that he would start cutting the brambles back as soon as the blackberry season was over.
- 156/19 Items of Report:** Cllr Cox said that the Village Hall would supply the electricity for the Christmas Tree lights and asked if the council were prepared to fund the cost of the tree. Cllr Debbie Taylor proposed that this be approved with Cllr Bussell seconding.
- 157/19 Next Meeting:** will be on 4th November, 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.ecparishcouncil.net