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EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd September, 2019 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

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

- 125/19** **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Cox was on holiday
- 126/19** **Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none
- 127/19** **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Reeve proposed and Cllr Debbie Taylor seconded the motion that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the July meeting.
- 128/19** **Matters arising:** i) The clerk said that, despite reminders, she was still awaiting a response from the agent regarding the Play Area lease. ii) An email from the Lopen clerk had been received about the 'imposition' of a retrospective agreement between themselves and the County Council with regard to deployment, management and use of the Speed Indication Device (SID) which contained some quite far-reaching terms including SCC having the right to give 3 months-notice to remove the SID with costs charged back to the village for its removal. The clerk had emailed Cllr Keating for his comments and he had replied that as the SID was installed next to the highway there were safety rules that needed to be adhered to. Cllr Bussell said that he had attended a meeting a couple of years ago when the withdrawal of the county support for SIDs was first announced which had been quite fractious. The feeling then had been that SCC wanted to maintain control but make the parishes pay. It was agreed that the project would have to be put on hold until details of the agreement terms were known. The clerk was asked to keep the people who had donated informed of the situation. iii) A number of people had been approached to fill the Casual Vacancy but without success so far. Further efforts would be made.
- 129/19** **District Councillor's Report:** i) Cllr Vaughan said that there had not been a full council meeting in August so he had little to report that concerned the village apart from the fact that the parking charges in the town were to be increased for the first time since 2012. ii) He said that the council were still looking at ways to maximise their income to make up for the loss of central government funding and had recently purchased the factory that made the Monopoly game as this would give them a return of 7% per annum. iii) He was asked why the SSDC print room had decided to stop offering an outside print service if maximising income was a priority. As a result, a new printer would need to be found for The Chinnock Chimes. Cllr Vaughan agreed to make enquiries.
- 130/19** **County Councillor's Report:** Points of interest from Cllr Keating's written Reports were as follows:- i) The County were now operating their own low emission school bus fleet. ii) Fifty apprentices would be taken on by the County this autumn, including Social Work Degree Apprentices. iii) The County had launched a Stand Up for Care Petition calling for cross party discussions on how to address the national social care funding shortfall. This could be found by visiting www.petition.parliament.uk and searching 'Somerset'. iv) Shared Lives South West (www.sharedlivesw.org.uk) was a charity that arranged 'adult fostering' for people with disabilities. SCC had agreed to transfer its Shared Lives Service to the charity as they offered assistance for a greater range of needs.
Cllr Keating arrived at this point and the councillors told him that they were concerned about the agreement with the County that they had heard would have to be signed controlling the operation of any SID that the Parish bought. He said that as the SID would be installed on the highway there were procedures that had to be followed to ensure safety. He was asked if he had obtained a copy of the agreement and suggested that the clerk wrote directly to Nick Cowling who was the officer in charge of SIDs. He was asked about the devices that were permanently installed like those in West Coker and said that these were known as Vehicle Activated Signs and there were different criteria for their installation. He said he would make enquiries and let the clerk know
- 131/19** **Planning Applications:** i) The clerk said that the paperwork for Application No. 19/01864/FUL

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for 5 bungalows for Nick Weber at Westways had been taken to the last coffee morning and then circulated round the neighbours to the proposed development. Nick Weber had sent his apologies; he could not attend to answer any questions as he was on holiday. Cllr Taylor said that small scale development such as this was acceptable. The Housing Survey for the Village Plan a few years ago had highlighted a need for smaller bungalows for downsizers. Cllr Reeve said that the roof line would be the same as the existing buildings so would not be any more intrusive. Cllr Bussell said that there were no legitimate grounds to object. The only real concern was that the internal configuration might be amended later to make the two bedroomed properties into three bedroomed as had happened with the previous development on the other end of the site. ii) Application No 19/01325/LBC for the installation of replacement windows at Peace Lea, College was discussed by the councillors and they agreed to support it. Cllr Bussell proposed with Cllr Reeve seconding that the clerk write supporting both applications with the proviso about the possibility of later amendments to the internal layout for the bungalow development.

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Clerk's Report: i) The clerk said that the Jubilee stone planter on the pavement outside the village hall had been repaired and the insurers had been informed that there would not be a claim as the £140 cost was below the excess amount. Despite efforts by both the clerk and the PCSO the vehicle which caused the damage has not been traced. ii) Earlier in the summer there were complaints about vehicles blocking the pavement outside the pub. The PCSO had visited and 'had words of advice' and the pavement had been kept clear since. iii) Ric Pallister and Tom Wicks had been taken off the Emergency Plan as they were no longer councillors. As Ric Pallister was on the Emergency Management Team a replacement was needed and Cllr Tuck agreed to take his place. The clerk said she would update the plan and bring it to next month's meeting for ratification. iv) Marianne Merchant had cleared the stream down Westways so that the children could paddle in it. She had asked if the Parish Council could add it to the Ranger's list so that it can be kept clear. The clerk was asked to email Cllr Cox. v) An email had been received requesting that the Parish write to St Margaret's Hospice asking them to reconsider the closure of the Yeovil site. Cllr Bussell said that whilst the councillors could write as private individuals, he felt that it was not the council's place to tell a private company how to run their business. The other councillors agreed with him. vi) During Speedwatch sessions members had been abused and they were under the impression that if ever a situation escalated an emergency call from them would be ensured of a speedy response. At a recent meeting of all the Speedwatch groups the local co-ordinators were told that they were not on the Police Priority Response List. Discussions were being held to get them included but in the meantime the sessions had been suspended. The Group would meet shortly to decide if they were prepared to continue. vii) The Speedwatch Report for July showed a small decrease in vehicles travelling above 30mph with only 0.38% in excess of the prosecutable speed limit. In view of the small number of sessions carried out in August a full report had not been prepared but the results of the sessions carried out were broadly in line with previous months. viii) Confirmation was awaited from the Churchwarden that the Memorial Clock was included under the Church's insurance policy. If not it could be included under the council policy but a sum insured would need to be agreed. ix) Julie Jewell had emailed to say that she was no longer able to update the village website. However, if the council were prepared to continue to pay the website hosting and domain fees the historical content could remain available, together with the What's On section which Roger Jewell was happy to keep updated. Cllr Reeve proposed that the council continued to fund the website and this was seconded by Cllr Tuck. x) The clerk said that she had received an email and a phone call about the bank and hedge at the bottom of the Play Area which were both overgrown. Cllr Tuck said that he would try and get the bank cut and would have a look at the hedge. xi) A letter had been received from a company that installed electric vehicle charging stations. They had recently installed one for Milborne Port Parish Council. It was agreed that as the council did not have any car park areas it was not of any interest. xii) The clerk said that each County Councillor had an allocation of £2000 under the Improving Lives Grant Scheme, which had just opened for applications. They were looking to support projects such as those for combatting loneliness and promoting fitness. It was suggested that an application could be made for an item of adult fitness equipment for the play area. The clerk was asked to find a suitable item and send the details to Cllr Keating. xiii) The clerk said that fly tipping continued to be a

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problem and she had recently reported some rubbish on the Odcombe Road. The SSDC website (www.southsomerset.gov.uk) had a section for reporting fly tipping.

- 133/19 Finance:** The councillors noted that the annual VAT refund paperwork had been submitted and the reclaim amount of £541.45 should be received shortly.
- 134/19 Payments:** the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr Reeve proposing and Cllr Tuck seconding the motion: - i) SSDC £72.19 for the printing of The Chinnock Chimes ii) M Randell £1050.26 for her quarterly salary, holiday pay and home office allowance. iii) M.Randell £140 for reimbursement of the payment for the Jubilee Planter repairs.
The direct debit to Cox & Co for £24 for the payroll service was noted. It was also noted that £250 had been received for hire of the tents and £140 for Chimes adverts.
- 135/19 Entertainments Committee:** i) Cllr Paul Taylor said that the Music Night had been very successful with a profit of £433.06 being made. Having had the same band for the last two years it had been agreed at the August meeting that a different band would be booked for next year. It had been suggested at the meeting that buckets could be used for donations on the gate but Cllr Taylor said that he was not keen on this as the event usually made a profit, especially as people seemed to have observed the request to buy their drinks from the bar rather than bring their own. The committee wished to purchase some bain-maries, additional extension cables and replace the orange fencing used to keep the public safe at the bonfire. Cllr Bussell proposed that this be approved with Cllr Reeve seconding. ii) The bonfire budget had been circulated. The format would be the same as in previous years with burgers, hot dogs, a bar and glo sticks for the children. The budget for the fireworks had been increased slightly to allow for rising costs. Cllr Reeve proposed with Cllr Bussell seconding that the budget be approved. Cheques for the float and fireworks would be issued at the October meeting.
- 136/19 Parish Ranger Report:** There was no report as Cllr Cox was away
- 137/19 Highways:** i) Cllr Reeve said that he had little to report. He had spoken to Highways about the sunken drain outside the old post office and it appeared that this was being repaired as traffic lights had been set up. ii) He said he was talking to Highways about some sort of lines on the main road end corners of Weston Street to prevent vehicles parking too close to the junction as this could be dangerous.
- 138/19 Play Area Report:** Cllr Debbie Taylor said that she had inspected the play equipment and it was all fine. The rota for the grass cutting was working well.
- 139/19 Rights of Way Report:** i) Cllr Bussell said that he had been undertaking his usual round of cutting back the overgrowth. ii) He had reported that the stile at the other end of the pathway from East Chinnock Hill was broken and said that this had been lashed together rather than being replaced. iii) He said that path that went from by Westways Farm to the bridge by the main road had a sign on it saying 'Bull Beef – keep out'. The pathway was not well used and whilst it was fine to display a warning notice, it was illegal to put a 'keep out' sign up, as there was a legal right of way across the field.
- 140/19 Items of Report:** no-one had anything additional to report.
- 141/19 Next Meeting:** will be on 7th October, 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