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EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st December 2014 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors I Stephen, B Murdoch, Mrs M Merchant, Mrs R Carter
Officer Mrs M Randell
County Councillor Mr M Fysh (part of meeting)

Public Question Time: One resident was present but had no matters to raise.

141/14 Chairman: Cllr. Stephen proposed and Cllr. Carter seconded the motion that, with regret, the council accept the resignation of Michael Slater. Everyone expressed their gratitude for the hard work he had done over the previous years and it was agreed that Cllr. Stephen would write on the council's behalf accepting his resignation and thanking him for the time he has given to the village.

Cllr. Stephen proposed and Cllr. Carter seconded the motion that Cllr. Merchant continue as chair.

142/14 Apologies for absence: Cllr N. Weber.

143/14 Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation: none

144/14 Minutes of the last meeting: Cllr. Stephen proposed and Cllr. Carter seconded that the minutes, having previously been circulated to all Councillors, were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the November Council meetings.

145/14 Matters arising from the minutes: Cllr Carter and the clerk had met with Gary Warren from the Highways Department. He said that parking was always going to be a problem and there was little that could be done to alleviate it. He said that it might be possible to extend the layby just before Chinnock Hollow and he suggested that the residents without parking approach The Portman Arms. Cllr. Carter had prepared a summary of the meeting and it was agreed to circulate this amongst the residents who had left their details at previous Council meetings.

146/14 District Councillor's Report: nothing to report

County Councillor Mr M Fysh arrived

147/14 County Councillor's Report: i) Cllr. Fysh thanked the council for their Health & Wellbeing grant application and said that this had been put forward.

ii) He said how pleased he was with today's announcement of a major investment in the road network in the South West. He said that it would improve road safety and the local economy. The resident present asked what would happen at Henlade and he agreed to find out.

iii) Cllr. Fysh said he was disappointed to report that SSC Social Services had received a poor rating from Ofsted and assured the council that every effort was being made to improve the situation. One of the criticisms was that the service needed to engage more with poorer families and this was something that had already been recognized and was being worked on. They currently have an interim head of Social Services and were looking to recruit a permanent head shortly and it was hoped that the new head would push forward the necessary reforms.

The resident present asked Cllr. Fysh when the Highways were going to carry out the post construction speed survey that had been promised and he agreed to chase that up. He then left the meeting.

148/14 Planning: Application No. 14/05200/FUL for additional parking places at Ramsdale, College arrived after the agenda was prepared. The councillors asked the clerk to reply that the council's recommendation was that this be approved.

149/14 Parish Plan: Cllr. Weber had sent a report on the last committee meeting. Zoe Harris of SSDC had advised them to start small and build on that so they have decided to start with the play area. They have produced a survey to establish how many use it and what improvements they suggest and are investigating the age demographics of the area. Cllr. Weber felt that they had made a good start but were concentrating on action rather than planning and needed to set out some broader objectives for presentation to the village and then follow this up with action plans. The next meeting is on 11th December and Cllr. Stephen agreed to attend.

150/14 Clerk's report and correspondence: i) The councillors discussed the library consultation and agreed reluctantly, that the village could manage with just one stop and said that this should be outside the pre-school's building for the children's safety. The clerk was asked to write with this response.

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ii) The dates for next year's meetings were agreed as 5th January, 2nd February, 2nd March, 13th April (as first Monday is a bank holiday), 18th May (after the election) and this will also be the date of the Annual Parish Meeting, 1st June, 6th July, no meeting in August, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December.

iii) It was agreed that the books would not be purchased at the moment as the information should be available on line.

151/14 Finance: i) the draft budget expenditure was agreed and the precept would be set in January.

ii) It was agreed to defer any alterations to the Financial Regulations until next year.

152/14 Payments: a) the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr. Stephen proposing and Cllr. Carter seconding the motion to approve:

i) N. Weber £49.14 for Cleaves Track sleeper (£23.16) and mower petrol (£25.98) ii) A. Sinclair £110.60 for Bonfire burgers and sausages. iii) East Chinnock Village Hall £25.00 for hire of tables for Bonfire event. iv) M. Merchant £15.00 for thank you flowers for Bonfire event. v) clerk's salary and expenses £691.98 vi) C. Langford £373.27 for balance of salary and holiday pay. vii) SSDC £59.30 – printing of chimes viii) CAB donation £50.00 ix) Cox & Co Payroll £20 by direct debit.

Payments of £20 for Chinnock Chimes advertisement and VAT repayment of £399.33 were noted.

153/14 Entertainments Committee: Cllr. Murdoch said that the committee should be congratulated on the success of bonfire night and everyone agreed that it had been a very well organized event. The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and the councilors were pleased to note that a new treasurer had been appointed. There was concern expressed that the minutes stated that the committee could obtain re-imburement of monies spent out of the event takings. This is not the case and it was agreed that the Terms of Reference needed to be amended to provide clarification. The committee had discussed additional tentage and Cllr. Merchant as chair of the entertainments committee was asked to get the committee to produce a proposal for consideration by the council with a full costing.

154/14 Community Speed Watch report: the parishioner present who is part of the team stated that the current equipment is not working as well as they would like but they intend to have 5 sessions this month.

155/14 Parish Ranger Report: Cllr. Stephen said that the ranger would be in the village in December and would undertake his usual jobs and also strim and cut down the Forge Lane bank that he was unable to do last time. The resident present asked if the leaves on the main road from the church into the village could be cleared and Cllr. Stephen said this would be done if there was enough time. It was also suggested that some road signs needed cleaning.

156/14 Potholes & General Maintenance Report: i) Cllr. Carter said that she had arranged a meeting with Cllrs. Weber, Stephen and the landowners to discuss the utilisation of the Flood Mitigation monies.

ii) It was agreed to check the hedge in College in the new year to see whether it had been cut.

iii) The drain under the manhole in Forge Lane had been jetted but not the drain which is flooding. The drain by the church is due to be jetted. Cllr. Stephen reported that the second grid in the hollow needed attention. Cllr. Carter will contact SCC.

157/14 Play Area Report: Cllr. Weber had sent a message saying that there was nothing to report.

158/14 Rights of Way Report: Cllr. Murdoch reported that he had cleared brambles from various area including the viewpoint and that a fallen tree that he reported had been dealt with quickly. The councilors thanked him for his efforts.

159/14 Items of Report: i) Cllr Murdoch said that he and a team of volunteers had planted 1000 bulbs in the verge by the Cott Farm turning. The councilors thanked him and asked him to pass their thanks onto the volunteers.

ii) A letter had been received from the agents for the sale of The Portman Arms. They asked if the council was aware of any community led initiative to make an offer on the premises. None of the councilors were aware of any such plans and the clerk was asked to write to them stating this.

160/14 Next Meeting: will be on Monday 5th January, 2015

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Signed (Chair) Date.....

Copies of these minutes can be found on the village website at <http://EastChinnock.com>