

## Draft

### EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

#### Present:

Councillors I Stephen, B Murdoch, Mrs M Merchant.  
Officer Mrs M Randell  
District Councillor Mr. R. Pallister (part of meeting)

**Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.

**161/15 Apologies for absence:** Cllr. N. Weber and Cllr. R. Carter.

**162/15 Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none

**163/15 Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr. Stephen proposed and Cllr. Merchant seconded that the minutes, having previously been circulated to all councillors, were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the December Council meetings.

**164/15 Matters arising from the minutes:** Cllr. Murdoch said that the councilors should be aware of the possibilities of causing conflict if they recommend approval of any contentious planning application. He reminded the councillors that they were only asked for their observations.

**165/15 District Councillor's Report:** i) Cllr. Pallister said that clear recommendations from Parish Council with regard to planning applications helps the District Council make informed decisions. He suggested that one of the councillors take responsibility for planning and he would see if they could be included in the planning training that was likely to take place in June.

ii) The Somerset Rivers Authority has been set up to manage the County's 20 Year Flood Plan. The government have given £1.9m towards the estimated £2.7m cost of the first year. Future funding is subject to a review that has to be completed by July, 2015. DEFRA Flooding Minister Dan Rogerson had met with flood affected residents and had promised to work with the Association of British Insurers to resolve problems with outstanding claims and the inability to obtain affordable insurance.

iii) South Somerset have a balanced budget situation for 2015/16 without cutting any services but they expect that cuts will have to be made in the following years.

iv) A formal announcement will be made shortly about the Local Plan and it is expected to be put before the full council in February for adoption.

v) With regard to The Portman Arms, Cllr. Pallister advised that before an application for change of use can be made the business has to be marketed for a reasonable time and the seller needs to prove that the business is not viable. He confirmed that the District Council have not been approached by the owners. He stated that it is council policy to work with any developers to try and encourage them to consider any local concerns and to develop a site within keeping with the local environment.

**166/15 County Councillor's Report:** none.

**167/15 Planning:** The councilors noted that planning permission has been granted for application no. 14/03540/FUL to extend the parking area at the copse opposite Bridge Cottage, Coker Hill.

**168/15 Parish Plan:** The meeting for December had been postponed until 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

**169/15 Clerk's report and correspondence:** i) The councillors noted that the clerk had responded to the Library Consultation with the council's view that they hoped that the mobile service could continue but suggested that if necessary it could be reduced to just one stop in the village. They asked that this be outside the pre-school group building in the interests of the safety of the children using it.

ii) The Policing Survey asked for feedback for use of the service during the last three months and as the council had had no dealings during this time it was agreed that they could not respond.

iii) There has been one application so far for the casual vacancy but the closing date is not until 19<sup>th</sup> January so this will be dealt with at the February meeting.

iv) It was noted that the ranger visits for 2015 would be 19<sup>th</sup> February, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

v) It was noted that Somerset CAB had sent a letter of thanks for the £50 donation.

**170/15 Finance:** i) it was noted that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant Allowance for the next financial year has been set at £170.

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i) after discussion it was agreed to set the precept at £7330. This was proposed by Cllr. Stephen and seconded by Cllr. Murdoch, with all present in favour.

**171/15 Payments:** a) the following payments were presented and approved with Cllr. Stephen proposing and Cllr. Merchant seconding the motion to approve:

i) A. Sinclair for beer for bonfire event - £40.00

ii) East Chinnock Village Hall for P.O. outreach rent for January to March, 2015 - £97.50

b) It was noted that 3 amounts of £20 had been received for adverts in The Chimes.

**172/15 Entertainments Committee:** i) The final profit for the bonfire event is £476.45 and all agreed it was an excellent evening.

ii) Cllr. Merchant had received a written proposal from Mr. Gliddon of the entertainments committee asking for agreement to purchase addition tentage. As this wouldn't be needed immediately it was agreed that this would be deferred until all the councillors had had chance to study the proposal. The clerk was asked to write to Mr. Gliddon to thank him for his proposal and tell him that a decision would be made when all the councillors has seen it.

iii) Cllr. Murdoch asked if the golf croquet group had insurance cover and said that if not they could come under the entertainments committee. Cllr. Merchant said that it was available from the Golf Croquet Society but the Society had told them that changes were being made and advised them to wait. As the season would not start until later in the year they had decided to defer any decision.

**173/15 Community Speed Watch report:** nothing to report

**174/15 Parish Ranger Report:** It was understood that the ranger would be in the village on the third Thursday in the month as usual but he arrived on the Tuesday. He did his regular jobs – dealing with litter and sweeping out the bus shelter and also weeded round the village hall and tidied and repaired round the perimeter of the playing field. He returned on the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> December to help Cllr. Weber clear parts of the ditch in Westways.

**175/15 Potholes & General Maintenance Report:** i) Cllrs. Carter, Weber and Stephen met with local landowners in Westways on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014 to discuss the flooding problem. The landowners thought that flooding could be alleviated but it was not likely to be entirely eradicated. It was agreed that Cllr. Weber would use his digger to clear the ditch and with the help of the ranger the first part was done on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The remainder will be done shortly. This work will be covered by The Flood Mitigation Grant. It was noted that more regular clearing of the silt trap and gridded drain would help. It was also noted that the County Council had not done any cutting back/clearing of the verges and hedges in Westways and Cllr. Carter agreed to contact the Highways Department about this.

ii) The County Council have re-iterated that the problem drain in Forge Lane is not their responsibility. Cllr. Weber has also ascertained from a neighbour that when rodded recently the drain was found to be blocked some way down the private access lane, probably by tree roots. He agrees with the District Engineer's verdict that it will probably need excavating and part of the drain being replaced. Unfortunately as this is not a public adopted highway there is nothing further the council can do. Cllr Carter agreed to speak to the residents.

**176/15 Play Area Report:** Cllr. Weber had sent a message saying that he had cleared the bags of old grass cuttings and that there was nothing else to report.

**177/15 Rights of Way Report:** Cllr. Murdoch stated that he had looked at the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2 which sets out how the County Council will manage and improve the Rights of Way. The County Council will undertake their statutory duties but there will be little finance available for anything else. A lot of work is undertaken by volunteers and as a result of this almost 100% of the rights of way in East Chinnock are passable compared to 80% across the county.

**178/15 Items of Report:** Mann's mobile grocery store will be in the village every week starting 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

**179/15 Next Meeting:** will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2015

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Signed ..... (Chair)    Date.....

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