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**EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2015 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

<b>Present</b>	Chairman Cllr Mrs M Merchant
Councillors	Mrs R Carter, I D Stephen, N Weber, B Murdoch, Dr J Cox, M Bussell
Officer	Mrs M Randell
District Councillor	Mr R Pallister (part of meeting)
County Councillor	Mr M Fysh (part of meeting)

**Public Question Time:** There were three residents present and an observer from Haslebury Plucknett Parish Council. One of the residents, who is a member of Community Speed Watch, asked about the costs of requesting and installing SID's (flashing 30mph signs) as drivers were still speeding. Cllr Fysh asked that the clerk write to Highways and he would endorse the letter. The councillor from Haslebury Plucknett suggested that the Council contact Haslebury Plucknett clerk as their village had been in contact with SCC Highways with a similar request.

One of the residents asked about the situation with The Portman Arms. They were told that the clerk had received notification that day that it has now been registered as a Community Asset and also that Marston's have indicated that as it has been marketed for some time as a public house without a sale it was their intention to offer it for sale without any restrictions. This has triggered the 'right to bid'. The village had six weeks to register an intention to bid and this would then give them until the beginning of September to put together a bid. Cllr Pallister reminded everyone that this was a right to bid and gave no guarantees that the bid would be successful. The clerk had also spoken to district planning who confirmed that they had received a planning application for the pub to be converted into two dwellings with four other properties on the site. The application was awaiting validation and would then be sent out for consultation. It was likely that the plans would be available next week. Cllr Pallister urged all villagers to respond during the consultation period to ensure that their views are taken into account.

- 180/15**      **Apologies for absence:** None
- 181/15**      **Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none
- 182/15**      **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Merchant proposed and Cllr Carter seconded that the minutes, having previously been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the February meeting.
- 183/15**      **Matters arising:** With regard to The Portman Arms the Council agreed that they should organise an open meeting for the villagers to be given all the details about the right to bid. Putting together a bid would require a lot of time, effort and money and the council do not have the resources or experience to do this themselves. However, if there is sufficient interest from villagers they can register an intention to bid on their behalf to give them time to set themselves up as a qualifying non-profit organisation. It was agreed to organise a meeting for 7.30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, providing the hall is free. The clerk will check the availability and then email all the residents who left their details at the last council meeting and also ask the village website to advertise the meeting.
- 184/15**      **District Councillor's Report:** i) Cllr Pallister reported that the Local Plan is going before Full Council for adoption on 5<sup>th</sup> March. ii) The District Council have been able to reduce Council Tax by 1.99% to the level of 2010. Front line services have not been cut and it is hoped that cuts in services can be avoided in 2016/17 and 2017/18. iii) The forthcoming election will mean that, whilst council business will continue largely as normal, anything deemed politically controversial will be deferred until after 7<sup>th</sup> May. iv) The Council has adjusted its pay bands to ensure that all staff are paid at least the living wage apart from apprentices, interns and casual staff. v) Cllr Pallister will ask Diane Layzell to prepare a statement of the Community Asset position regarding The Portman Arms for circulation in the village.
- 185/15**      **County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Fysh reported that the County Council Tax had been frozen despite a £20m cut in funding from central government. He said that rural weighting means that counties such as Somerset get less per head of population than urban areas despite the fact that they have to deliver their services over a much wider area. The County Council continue to campaign for this to be changed. Despite the cut in funding the council had managed to allocate £32m for roads and would spend money on converting road

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lighting in some areas to LED which would result in savings in electricity costs. They had also managed to continue to subsidise some bus services that had been under threat. Cllr Merchant had brought along some of the golf croquet equipment that had been paid for from the Health & Wellbeing grant organised by Cllr Fysh and the councillors thanked him for funding this and also a new table tennis table and bench.

Cllrs Pallister and Fysh and the Councillor from Haslebury Plucknett left the meeting.

186/15

**Planning Applications:** An amendment to Application Mo. 14/03140/FUL for works at Broad Farm, Broad Hill, Hardington Mandeville had been received after the agenda was sent out. The application was looked at by the councillors and they agreed that the council had no objections to the proposed amendments. The clerk was asked to reply to this effect.

187/15

**Clerk's report and correspondence:** i) East Chinnock Under 5's Preschool group had asked to use the playing field for their annual Summer Fair on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June but the clerk was asked to ring them to see if they could change to another date as the Entertainments Committee were organising an evening event on this day and would need access to the field in the afternoon to erect the marquee. As they now had a much larger marquee it was felt that it might not be safe to have an event occurring with young children at the same time.

ii) The clerk said that she had attended a meeting at SSDC about the election and had been given the nomination forms for those who wished to stand in May. It was agreed that the clerk would ask Alix Janes to put in the Chimes that nomination forms were available from the clerk for anyone else who wished to stand.

iii) The clerk had received a request for a donation from St Johns Ambulance. It was agreed that the council had limited resources and already made a donation to CAB so could not donate to anybody else. The clerk was asked to write and explain this to them and she was also authorised to reply in the same manner to any other requests for donations.

iv) The clerk reminded the councillors that her job appraisal was due in March. It was agreed that Cllrs Weber, Stephen and Bussell would meet with the clerk on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

188/15

**Finance:** nothing to report.

189/15

**Payments:** the following payment were presented and approved with Cllr Murdoch proposing and Cllr Stephen seconding the motion to approve:

i) Mr & Mrs Jewell £29.99 for web hosting costs ii) Clerk's quarterly salary (including holiday pay) £820.47 iii) BCT Outdoors Ltd £1,120.00 for marquee extension tent.

190/15

**Parish Plan:** the councillors were concerned that whilst there had been a lot of valid discussion very little had been committed to paper. Cllrs Carter and Bussell had attended the last meeting and said that the news of a planning application for change of use for The Portman Arms was imminent appeared to have focused the group's attention on the importance of at least producing a first draft so that the planning authority could be made aware of the wishes of the community. Cllr Bussell said that he is putting together a précis of the history of the village to go at the beginning of the plan. He and Cllr Weber agreed produce a document, giving a rough outline of what was required for the group to discuss and expand upon.

191/15

**Entertainments Committee:** i) the Entertainments Committee had discussed the Terms of Reference at their last meeting and Cllr Weber said that they had suggested a number of minor amendments. These were agreed and Cllrs Carter and Stephen agreed to incorporate these amendments and bring the Terms of Reference to the next Council meeting for approval.

ii) The hire conditions were discussed and Cllr. Merchant agreed to arrange for these to be available at the next Council meeting. The clerk advised that the new tents were being covered by the insurers at no charge until renewal in June and that the annual premium from then will be £16.10. The clerk was asked to ascertain what the policy excess was for damage to the tents; it was suggested that the terms of hire would include provision for a deposit of at least this amount to be taken. iii) the Council approved the dates proposed for the Entertainments Committee's summer events. There would be an evening event with music on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June and a family fun day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

192/15

**Community Speed Watch Report:** nothing to report

193/15

**Parish Ranger Report:** i) Cllr Stephen reported that he had met with Cllrs Carter and Weber on 18<sup>th</sup> February regarding the flood mitigation work along Westways/Cod Lane. It was confirmed that the ranger would attend on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March and work with Cllr Weber to

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continue clearing the ditch and stream bed where accessible to aid the water flow. Cllr Carter agreed to photograph the area when the work was complete and send the before and after photos to enable the grant to cover the cost to be paid. ii)The ranger had worked in the village on 19<sup>th</sup> February and spent the morning on his regular tasks of sweeping, weeding, clearing leaves and litter picking. In the afternoon he cleared several grips along Westways/Cod Lane and Cleaves Track and also cleared the ditch by Broad Lane. The sleeper diversion in Cleaves Track is working well. iii)The hedge overhanging Cleaves Track was deemed beyond the ranger's remit and the owner has been advised that she needs to engage a private contractor. iv)The ranger will be in the parish again on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and the councillors were asked to let Cllr Stephen know if there was anything that needed adding to the ranger's list of tasks.

**194/15 Potholes & General Maintenance Report:** i) Cllr Carter said that she had chased Highways again about the clunking 2<sup>nd</sup> grid beside The Hollow Cottages. ii) The owner of the hedge in College had been contacted and had arranged for it to be cut back. iii) Cllr Carter is still waiting for the family of The Forge Lane resident to contact her so that she can give them details of blockage in the private drain. iv) It was agreed that the Council would write reminding Highways that they has said they would carry out a speed survey after the installation of pedestrian refuges to monitor their impact and then a Post Construction Safety Audit would be commissioned.

**195/15 Rights of Way Report:** Cllr Murdoch said that he had nothing to report apart from the fact that everywhere was very muddy.

**195/15 Play Area Report:** Cllr Weber had nothing to report. Cllr Murdoch said that he had noticed that the pedestrian gate had been damaged. He had made it safe and Cllr Weber agreed to see if he could repair it.

**197/15 Items of Report:** Cllr. Merchant said that the steps down into the airfield were very muddy and the gate on the bridleway by the electric substation was very stiff. Cllr. Weber said he would have a look and see what can be done. Cllr Murdoch mentioned that the bulbs planted in the autumn in the verge by the corner of Broad Lane were showing through and there should be a good splash of colour shortly.

**198/15 Next Meeting:** will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Signed ..... (Chair)      Date.....

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