**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak:**

No items were brought for discussion.

**Present**

Duncan Goodes (Chairman), John Cox (Vice chairman), Debbie Taylor and Dave Tuck.

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Doug Reeve.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th DECEMBER 2022 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Cox).

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DPI DISPENSATIONS**

None.

1. **MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**
   1. There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council.
   2. The clerk has reported a potential planning breach to SSDC relating to the caravan located on Odcombe road, so that this can be investigated.
   3. Cllr Goodes has erected the ‘No Parking’ sign on the community field gate. He has also put a ‘No Parking’ notice on the notice-board itself.
2. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

Cllr Patrick’s and Cllr Hewitson’s combined report was previously circulated.

1. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
   1. Planning application received:
      * App No: 22/03376/FUL Extension of an agricultural storage building at Alwyn, Fordhay, East Chinnock. There were no objections (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Tuck).
   2. There were no applications received after publication of the agenda.
2. **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2023**
   1. A resolution was passed (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Cox) to hold the ECPC meetings for 2023 on the following dates:

6th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 2nd May, 5th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October,

6th November and 4th December.

1. **FINANCE**
   1. The third version of the budget for 2023/24 was reviewed. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council Tax Base had increased slightly since last year. This meant that the precept could be increased by £236 to £11,356 and the percentage increase per household would remain at 0% (i.e. a band D property would pay the same as the previous year, £49.98). A resolution was passed to approve a precept request of £11,356.
   2. The Clerk received an email from the entertainments committee treasurer asking for the PC bank details, but as the bank statements for December have not yet been received it is unknown what amount was received.
   3. A resolution was passed to approve the following payments (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Taylor):
      * Village Hall committee – hall rental May 2021-Apr 2022 £132.00
      * Village Hall committee – hall rental May 2022-Apr 2023 £132.00
      * Village Hall committee – PO Outreach hall rental Jan-Mar 2023 £97.50
      * N Chapman – Sept-Dec 2022 salary & expenses £1087.05
      * VistaPrint annual website fee (£29.92 + VAT £5.99) £35.91
      * PC Contribution to xmas tree £11.65
      * Play UK (playgrounds) Ltd – Nest Swing & Springer Installation £1932.00

The clerk reported that no payments for village hall hire for PC meetings had been made since in-person meetings were halted due to Covid. The VHC have therefore invoiced the annual fee (£132.00) for both 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

The Clerk reported that she was no longer able to add files to the PC website. She believes this could be due to Vista partnering with Wix. An email was received from one of their designers stating the project could not be found. There is also a statement on the Vista website stating that websites may not be available for a short period while they are being updated. The Clerk agreed to investigate further and consider alternative options if necessary.

**Post-meeting note:** Cllr Cox reported that the cost of the village Christmas tree had been covered from other sources and so the PC cheque for £11.65 was destroyed

1. **COMMUNITY PARK**
   1. Cllr Taylor reported that the grass at the park was very long and untidy, but that it would currently be too wet to mow.
   2. The Nest Swing installation has been completed and the Helicopter Springer will be installed in a couple of weeks when the foundation concrete has cured.
   3. It was decided that using chemicals to kill the moss on the play areas may not be safe, and that power-washing may be more suitable. It was agreed to postpone this task until after the resurfacing has been completed, as much of the moss maybe removed in the process.
   4. Cllr Taylor felt that the Chainlink fence repair was not urgent as it has only been identified as low-risk in the inspection report, and that no action was required at this time.
   5. A volunteer parishioner has given an estimate of £400 per year to cover servicing and fuel costs to strim and mow the Community Field. There would potentially also be maintenance costs such as blade and belt replacement. A resolution was passed to accept the volunteers offer to maintain the grass this year based on these estimated costs (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Tuck).

1. **PARISH ISSUES**
   1. The Clerk previously circulated details of the three options proposed by the donator for the replacement memorial bench. One was Pine, one was Teak and one was recycled plastic waste. A resolution was passed (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Cox) that the bench made of recycled plastic would be most suitable as this would be maintenance free. The Clerk agreed to contact the donator with this recommendation.
   2. The Clerk agreed to contact John Chappelle and Alex Swarbrick to ask if either would consider being added to the list of contacts on the Somerset Emergency Community Contacts (SECC) database. (In addition to Duncan Goodes and Dave Tuck who have previously agreed to be contacts).
   3. There was no update on the parishioner led village-survey regarding the village pub.
   4. The task of investigating possible options for a commemorative hamstone planter for the village hall is ongoing.
2. **ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE**

There is a committee meeting next week. Cllr Tuck reported that the Pop-Up Pub is proving popular on some occasions but not all.

1. **PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

a) Cllr Cox reported that all the tasks that were on the Ranger’s list have now been completed (with the exception of the diggerwork required). Cllr Cox agreed to email SSDC with an updated list of tasks.

1. **HIGHWAYS REPORT**

**In his absence counsellor Reeve’s report was delivered by Cllr Goodes.**

* 1. Cllr Reeve has reported several new potholes to SCC Highways over the last few weeks.
  2. Cllr Reeve reported that the results of the data from the two temporary SIDS showed that around 15% of the traffic was exceeding the 35mph limit. The Officer who installed the SID's stated that this was one of the best results he had seen. He also thought that a SID located at the bottom end of the village on the A30 was not really necessary as in his opinion most drivers are automatically slowed by the bends in the road as they enter the village from Crewkerne.

Cllr Reeve believes that the PC should further investigate the speeds of A30 traffic using a black box monitor which will not be seen by the drivers (to determine the speeds when the SID units are not in place). He has spoken to SCC regarding the possible installation of a black box for 7 days and they have advised that the cost is currently £250 for installation. He believes that before the PC proceeds to spend a significant amount on the purchase and ongoing maintenance of a SID that all of the relevant facts should be obtained.

Cllr Reeve also noted that since the Chinnock Hollow has been closed, the volume of traffic going along the A30 seems to have been significantly lower.

Lengthy discussion took place on this subject. The disadvantage of the black box would be that it would only be installed at one location and it was difficult to determine where the main speeding problem lies. A resolution was passed not to take-up the black box option and to go ahead with the SID purchase (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Taylor).

* 1. Cllr Reeve has been approached by several residents of College regarding parking on the right-hand side of the road going up College, making it difficult or impossible for wider vehicles such as emergency services to go up the road. He has been in contact with SCC Traffic Management on this matter and they advised that if the PC requested it, they will investigate this matter and potentially they could issue a Traffic Regulation Order for ‘no parking’ on one side of College. A resolution was passed to go ahead with the request for a parking restriction (Proposer: Cllr Cox, Seconder: Cllr Taylor)

1. **RIGHTS OF WAY**

Mike Bussell reported that there were no new footpath issues this month.

1. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk reported that SSDC will require a post-installation inspection report for the new play equipment, in order for the PC to claim the Community grant award. The Clerk agreed to obtain quotes for this.

1. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 6th February 2022 at 7.30pm in at the Village Hall.