

EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4th March, 2019 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-chairman, Cllr Bussell took the meeting.
Councillors Dr John Cox, Dave Tuck, Doug Reeve and Debbie Taylor
Officer Maureen Randell
Ward Councillors Mark Keating (part of meeting) and Ric Pallister (part of meeting)

Public Question Time: Anthony Vaughan, the prospective Liberal Democrat candidate for the District Council was in attendance as an observer. There was one member of the public present who said that there was a lot of debris from a burnt out car on Chiselborough Hill. Cllr Pallister said he would deal with it.

- 35/19** **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Paul Taylor.
- 36/19** **Declarations of Interest and to receive any written requests for DPI dispensation:** none
- 37/19** **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Debbie Taylor seconded the motion that the minutes, having previously been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the February meeting.
- 38/19** **Matters arising:** i) The clerk said that she had spoken to Greenslade Taylor Hunt (GTH) who manage the play area for the diocese about the lease. They said that the current lease cannot be extended and a new lease would be required. The council would have to pay the costs of the Diocese which would be around £2,500 to cover the solicitor's fees and those of GTH. Based on recent reviews of other play areas they manage the rent would be between £200 and £500 per annum. They suggested that the council put together a proposal saying what term they needed, what they intended to do with the area, how the improvements would be funded and the amount of rent they would be prepared to pay. This would then be considered by the Diocese. They said that they had plenty of people interested in renting amenity land in villages if the Parish Council couldn't afford to renew the lease. They also noted that the previous lease agreement showed a rent of £150 a year but the council had only been invoiced for £50. Cllr Pallister recommended that the HMRC District Valuer be asked for a valuation to assess what would be a fair price for purchase or rent of the area. He also suggested that the clerk speak to Angela Watson of the District Legal Department for advice before any negotiations were entered into. ii) Cllr Paul Taylor had sent a message asking that the Speed Indication Device update be deferred.
- 39/19** **District Councillor's Report:** i) Cllr Pallister said that he had received confirmation that the small litter bin in the layby would be replaced with a larger model at no cost to the parish. ii) He said that he had asked for the Carters Lane development planning application be referred for a committee decision as he considered the reasons for the refusal of the last application were still valid, there having been no changes in policy during the intervening period. He said that the majority of the committee had voted to refuse it. iii) He said that the solar energy site at Taunton would be going on line and provide an income for the council. This was currently a 25 megawatt site but had the capacity to be doubled in size. He said that the income generation plans were on track and the council had recently bought some offices in Clifton and a warehouse in Bridgewater. It was hoped that a separate housing company could be set up eventually which would give a long term sustainable income.
- 40/19** **County Councillor's Report:** i) Cllr Keating said that the council's finances had improved and a balanced budget for the next three years should be achievable despite it being more expensive to deliver services across a rural area than in the densely populated cities. His March Report contained the following points of interest: i) The County element of the Council Tax will increase by 2.99% in April plus another 1% which will be ring-fenced for adult social care. This will equate to 91p per week increase for a Band D property. ii) Somerset Motofest will take place over the weekend of 22nd/23rd of June at the Fleet Air Arm Museum. It will be organised by the County's Road Safety Team and will be a free event for anyone with a passion for two or four wheeled motors and will include a host of activities for all the family. iii) There will be a community drop in event at Ruishton Village Hall from 3.00pm to 8.00pm on Thursday 14th March for those wishing to see the plans for the planned improvements at Junction 25 of the M5. iv) Dillington House will be offering cream teas or a carvery for mother's Day and there will be an Easter Eggstravaganza on 21st and 21st April.

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For more information on all their events ring 01460 258648 or visit www.dillington.com.

- 41/19 Planning Applications:** i) It was noted that Planning Application No. 18/03425/FUL for a development in Carters Lane had been refused.
- 42/19 Clerk's report and correspondence:** i) The clerk said that she had attended the District Council Election seminar on 27th February where she was advised that all councillors officially stand down on 7th May. Those wishing to stand again for the next term must submit Nomination Papers by 4.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April. Because of the electoral laws these must be hand delivered (although not necessarily by the nominated person) to the District Council offices in Brympton Way. All the councillors present indicated that they were prepared to stand again. ii) Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) would be running an Audit Course on 2nd April at a cost of £30 and a free Clerk's Briefing Seminar on 12th April. The councillors agreed that the clerk should book a place on these. iii) SALC are also running Councillor Essentials Training courses for new councillors at Somerton on 1st May and Horton Village Hall on 13th June. Cllr Debbie Taylor said she would like to attend and it was agreed that the clerk would check with Cllr Wicks to see if he was interested and then book whichever suited. They also had a Responding to Planning Applications course in July. However, it was likely that the District Council would be running something similar in the summer and it was agreed to wait until there was more information about that before booking any places. iv) The clerk reminded everyone that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place immediately prior to the next Council meeting. This was organised by the chairman who would give a report to the meeting about the council's activities over the last year with members of the public having the opportunity to ask questions or raise matters of interest.
- 43/19 Finance:** i) It was agreed that Cllrs Bussell and Taylor would arrange a date for the clerk's annual appraisal. ii) The Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct had been thoroughly reviewed a couple of years ago and it was agreed that they were still fit for purpose.
- 44/19 Payments:** the following payments were presented and approval was proposed by Cllr Reeve and seconded by Cllr Tuck:- i) SSDC £452.88 for the Ranger half yearly invoice ii) M Randell £898.30 for quarterly salary, holiday pay, home office allowance and expenses. It was noted that the direct debit of £24 to Cox and Co for payroll services had been paid and £50 had been received for adverts in The Chimes.
- 45/19 Entertainment's Committee:** Cllr Tuck said that their next meeting was scheduled for 19th March. They would be deciding whether or not to have a quiz and discussing the summer music night.
- 46/19 Parish Ranger Report:** Cllr Cox said that the ranger had been delayed until 1st March. He had cleared the weeds from the pavement by the church and at the back of the garages in Carters Lane as well as clearing at the top of Orchardleigh. It was noted that the keep left road signs had been cleaned but Cllr Reeve said that this was done by Highways. The signs were previously illuminated but he had been told that this was no longer necessary where there were street lights. He had therefore asked for them to be cleaned so that they could be seen.
- 47/19 Highways:** Cllr Reeve said that he had reported a large pothole in Cod Lane and was monitoring one at the top of The Hollow. Cllr Buseel said that there was a large pothole just within the boundary on the Odcombe Road and Cllr Tuck remarked that there were a number of potholes along that road. The clerk said that she had been asked about Green Lane and Cllr Reeve said that Highways had acknowledged that it was their responsibility but because it didn't have much traffic it was a low priority.
- 48/19 Play Area Report:** There was nothing further to report on this in the absence of Cllr Wicks.
- 49/19 Rights of Way Report:** i) Cllr Bussell said that It had been confirmed that Back Lane from the top of College to Orchardleigh was the responsibility of Highways. ii) He said that he had completed the update of the map of the village footpaths based on the original produced by Marion Merchant. It was agreed that Cllr Bussell would ask the Chimes Editor about including an A4 copy of the map in the next edition of The Chimes so that the residents would be aware of the full extent of the footpath network in the village. He would like all footpaths to be used regularly as this made it easier to keep them clear. Cllr Debbie Taylor said she would ask her husband if he could get the copies made. It was suggested that the large scale map could be displayed in the Village Hall and Cllr Bussell said that he would ask his wife, who was on the Village Hall Management Committee, to bring this up at the next

meeting.

50/19
51/19

Items of Report: none

Next Meeting: will be on Monday 1st April, 2019 and will be preceded by the Annual Parish meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Signed (Chair) Date.....

Copies of these minutes can be found on the village website at www.EastChinnock.net and the Parish website at www.ecparishcouncil.net