

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 12th April 2023

Present:

Cllr Bennett - Chair

Cllr Cockrem

Cllr Partridge

Cllr Cawley

Cllr Griffiths

Clerk: Kim Duller

4 Members of the General Public

Public Forum: None comments or questions.

23/1039

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Coleman

23/1040

Declarations of Interest: i) Cllr Cawley Allotments, ii) Cllr Bennett, Community Playground Committee.

23/1041

To Approve and Sign as Correct the Minutes of the Parish Council 8th March 2023.

Cllr Griffiths gave the amendments below: Resolved. All in Favour with following amendments:

- a. Move apostrophe to end of "residents'.." in Para d) of Reports and Correspondence.
- b. Spelling of "stroke" in final paragraph.

23/1042

Matters Arising: None

23/1043

SCC Councillors Report: Apologies received from Cllr Hewitson and Cllr Patrick. April Newsletter had been circulated, mainly focussing on Unitary updates.

23/1044

Planning:

- a. **Applications: Charmead, 23/00409/HOU:** Eastfield Lane, Middle Chinnock. The Parish Council objected to the application based on lack of information and evidence based on previous conditioning. The Parish Council has requested further information and clarification from the planning team.
- b. **Applications Since time of the agenda: None**
- c. **Determinations since time of agenda: None**
- d. **Planning enforcement, Hollowell Hill:** The Clerk recommended that this be taken off the agenda unless there are further concerns raised by residents.
- e. **Planning queries:**
 - i. **Smiths Hill, 22/03095/S73A:** Enforcement is in the pipeline, TBC. No further action until more information is received from the planning authority.

22/1045

Finance:

- a. **To Pay Sovereign the Balance for the Children's Play Area £20315.72 inc VAT. (Balancing payment): Resolved. Proposed by Cllr Partridge, seconded Cllr Griffiths.**
The Clerk confirmed there is a 5 year Warranty on the play equipment. It was also confirmed that a post installation inspection had taken place and a ROSPA annual inspection.
- b. **To Pay Sovereign for additional security £1079.99 inc VAT: Resolved. Proposed by Cllr Cockrem, seconded Cllr Partridge.**
- c. **To Pay HMRC £335.20: Resolved. Proposer Cllr Griffiths, seconded Cllr Cawley.** The Clerk confirmed that she had not heard back from HMRC regarding the dispute, or Cox and Co. **Action: Clerk to report back if more information received.**
- d. **To Pay N Tinkley £13.99 for Grass Seed for Children's Area: Resolved.**

- e. **To Pay Clerks Salary £1340.92 Net: Resolved.** The Clerk reported that officially the Clerks salary should not come to the main meeting; however the Clerk felt she would like it to be readily available for the public to see.
- f. **To Consider Annual Increase Clerk:** After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should have an increase in line with National Guidance. There are scale 62 scale levels and the Clerks current level is scale 12, commensurate with the level of responsibility required for W&M Chinnock and based on 10 years service. The hourly rate should be £12.73 and the new rate will be announced and backdated once the public sector unions have agreed. The Clerk said she would not be going on strike.
- g. **To Pay Clerk Expenses Balance Qtr 4 £215.26: Resolved. Proposed Cllr Cockrem, seconded Cllr Griffiths.** It was agreed the orange fencing and posts which were purchased to put around the new play equipment could be stored in the shed on the Rec.
- h. **Delegated Powers Payments:**
 - i. **Wessex Water £203.00 for Quarry Farm Allotments stand Pipe: Resolved**
 - i. **To Pay any routine or previously agreed invoices:**
 - ii **To Pay Somerset Landscapes £79.50 for March Recreation Ground cut: Resolved**

23/1046

Allotments:

- a. **Tenancy Agreements 23/24:** All been issued, drip feed payment. Cllr Cawley to give plot 9,10 holder his new Tenancy Agreement.
- b. **New Tenants:** 2 new Tenants, only one vacant plot remaining.
- c. **Bonfire Complaints: Cllr Partridge to action.**
- d. **Vacant Plots:** One vacant plot, with the potential of a couple more later in the year/next year. Currently one resident interested in the vacant plot. Qtr plots are proving to be very popular.
- e. **National Allotment Society AGM:** June 23 in Leamington Spa.
- f. **Rent Review:** Cllr Partridge reviewing other local Allotment sites.
- g. **Allotment Inspection:** Due for 3rd June 2023: Clerk to send a note to all Allotment holders confirming date of the inspection.

23/1047

Matters arising from the 8th March 2023 Meeting:

- a. **Speed Signage:** The Clerk has had correspondence from the new lead on this project, Gary Warren. Concerns were raised regarding the placement of the post on Scott's Way which is already in situ and the Clerk was asked to check that this would be moved. The email confirmed the work would take place within 6-8 weeks. **Action: Clerk to follow up with Gary Warren.**
- b. **Salmon in the Parrett:** None spotted. Clerk has been advised works will take place in August 23.
- c. **Dog Fouling:** Dog Fouling is becoming a major issue and hazard to health. Previous SSDC Environment Officer is still in post in the Unitary Council. A long discussion was held with a number of concerns discussed. **Action: Increase signage for a set period of time and on social media and continue to liaise with Unitary regarding spot visits and prosecution of those who break the law. Residents to be helped to feel empowered to report concerns on the website. Spot checks in the early morning and early evening.**
- d. **Litter Pick:** Already being organised by Cllr Oliver Patrick.
- e. **Baby Swing at Rec:** Mended.

23/1048

Reports & Correspondence:

- a. **Recreation Ground: For information**
 - i. Installation of the new Play Equipment now taken place, including post installation Report. Feedback has been very positive.
 - ii. Next Steps Survey Results: To be presented at Bacon Butty and Coffee breakfast end of May/early June.

- b. **Local Community Networks:** Meeting to take place with pilot LCN, the Clerk and Cllr Griffiths.
- c. **Unitary Live:** Clerk has experienced a number of positive changes to the way that some departments work. New website up and running, which seems easier to use and customer friendly. Response to planning applications has changed, more focussed and concise.
- d. **Clerk Report:**
 - i. **Direction Stone:** Concerns have been raised at junction of Eastfield lane/Smokey Hole and whether there is enough protection from Tractors and large vehicles. It was noted, the Stone has already been moved back. **Action: Cllr Bennett agreed to inspect and report back to Clerk.**
 - ii. **Asset Register:** The Clerk has been advised that the Asset Register must be more comprehensive to include every single Asset including, salt bins, phone box, benches, bus shelter etc.
 - iii. **Offer of Bench by Resident:** Parish Council to consider location.
 - iv. **Police Liaison:** Police to visit to give more visibility in the villages. This is in regard to specific concerns raised by residents, anti social behaviour in the villages, and parking around the school. New PCSO appointed to our Villages.
 - v. **Sign for Recreation Ground: Action: Clerk to investigate costs of 2 signs from entrance to Rec from Lower Street and Car park.**
- e. **Footpaths:** Clerk has been liaising with County Highways Officer on the installation of new gate which was previously requested by the Parish Council at the Rec. Once the Recreation Ground dries up and vehicles can go across the grass a new access friendly gate will be installed.
- f. **Parish Councillor Vacancy:** Clerk to re-advertise.
- g. **Drains, Potholes and Hedges:** Potholes have been reported and marked up, however there is potentially a 28 day response rate in terms of Highways contractual guarantee. The Clerk met with County Highways and Cllr Patrick to discuss issues of Road maintenance in Middle Chinnock. It was confirmed that the majority of the issues are not potholes, but gullies, created at the edges of the existing road due to wide vehicles and a significant increase in the overall volume of traffic on a single track Road/Lane, which was originally designed for smaller vehicles. The gullies are filling with water as the ditches and the drains are not effective, which is exacerbating the situation. The main cause of the Road collapse is due to the very hot summer, followed by flooding and then ice. Remedial works will take place once the water has cleared. The Gullies and potholes will be filled, however this is only a temporary solution. Discussions were held regarding drainage at the Recreation Ground and the existence of a Brook which was filled in. **Action: Clerk to publicise issues relating Road and drainage issues.**
- h. **Environment Champions Network:** No Update.
- i. **Somerset Day 13th May 2023:** For information only.
- j. **Sign Query Middle Chinnock:** Cllr Cawley confirmed that no action is required regarding the sign which was previously discussed at the last PC meeting.

23/1038

Correspondence & Matters for Wednesday 10th May 2023

Any Agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk before 4th May 2023.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

**Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2023 7.00pm
(before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)**

**Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 10th May 2023 7.30pm
Everyone is welcome**

NB. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting. The Local Government Act states that every parish must hold Parish Meeting a year. If there is a Parish Council, the Chairman of the Parish Council (or vice-chair if the Chairman is unable to attend) must preside. If there is not a Parish Council then a Chairman is elected by the meeting itself. The Agenda is a standard agenda, to give reports on the business of the last 12 months. The Parish Council reports to its electorate on its activities over the last year and there are usually reports from County and District Councillors and perhaps from any voluntary or local community groups. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the village. As the Annual Parish Meeting is not a parish council meeting it is not conducted in the same way or governed by the same rules as a parish council meeting. Members of the public are permitted to make statements on relevant matters during the meeting. Any resolutions passed do not bind the Parish Council.