

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 14th December 2022

Present:

Cllr Bennett - Chair

Cllr Cockrem

Cllr Griffiths

Clerk: Kim Duller

Cllr Coleman – Deputy Chair

Cllr Cawley

Cllr Partridge

6 Members of the General Public

Public Forum: i) Concerns raised relating to the poor workmanship of Gigaclear works on Rickhay Rise and Highfield. Emma Baker housing Officer from Abri has been to inspect as the repairs are considered to be dangerous. **Action: Clerk to follow up with Gigaclear and report back to Members.**

22/916 **Apologies for Absence:** None

22/917 **Declarations of Interest:** i) Cllr Cawley, Allotments. ii) Cllr Coleman, any footpaths on Broadstone Farm land.

22/918 **To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council 09.11.2022. Resolved.** All in Favour and Signed.

22/919 **Matters arising, not on agenda:** Correspondence received from local PCSO to be circulated.

22/220 **SCC/SSDC Councillors Report:** Apologies Cllr Patrick. Cllr Hewitson apologised for missing the past few meetings, due to pressure of work. Newsletter had been received and circulated to Members. i) Cllr Hewitson updated Unitary, new CEO appointed. Confirmed £36 million pound shortfall at County for 2023/23. ii) Cllr Hewitson had received confirmation from SCC highways that the 20mph signs around the school will be repositioned and will keep the PC updated. Still no definite confirmation received as to where the signs are to be located. Initially mooted one near the Muddled Man and the other near Church Close. Cllr Hewitson confirmed that a dropped curb next to the sign on Scott's Way would need to come under the SCC highways small improvement scheme, but unfortunately there is no SIS money at the moment. Finance for SID's in West Coker was queried, but these had been organised by the Police, not Cllrs Patrick and Hewitson. Cllr Hewitson to follow up SIS to find out when monies will be available. It was noted that Members were still confused as to why the sign was put on a grass verge in a space which was not fit for purpose and which blocked access to the Road from the pavement for buggies and disabled access. Cllr Hewitson agreed to follow up. iii) Ice Hollowell/Smiths Hill: SCC highways confirmed they cannot put ice signs out. Clerk confirmed SCC Highways had offered salt which would be delivered to the Clerk for distribution. It was noted that there are issues of the water is emanating from the Smiths Hill site and therefore the distribution of salt should be the responsibility of the Owner. **Action: Clerk to write to owner.** Cllr Hewitson agreed that this situation needs resolving a.s.a.p and it can only be solved by input from the SSDC planning team, addressing the issues of the springs and drainage. The Clerk explained that the planning Officer had confirmed she was hoping to talk to the senior planning team that week. All agreed it was a "sticking plaster" fix at the moment. The Chair accepted the offer of a salt bin from Highways as agreed by Cllr Hewitson. iv) Cllr Ash from Crewkerne gave forewarning of Roadwork's on the A30 at Roundham and closure of the Road, Jan/Feb, (TBA), due to drainage works.

22/921 **Planning:**

a. **22/00724/FUL – Fortunes Well, West Chinnock:** Heritage impact statement has been completed, but no further submissions or decisions made.

- b. **Planning Enforcement update: Hollowell Hill.** Clerk has requested a copy of original planning enforcement as a number of new issues have been raised regarding lighting on the site and buildings. Clerk to take advice from Cllr Patrick as there are still unresolved issues.
- c. **Planning enquiries Smiths Hill – water runoff:** Clerk has been in contact with planning Officers and Cllr Patrick, both supportive of the queries raised. Waiting for Planning Officer to come back to Clerk.
- d. **Determinations since time of agenda:** None.

22/922

Finance:

- a. **Resolved:** To pay Clerks Qtr 3 salary, net £1253.67. (Overtime included due to SSDC grant application, submission and presentation).
- b. **Resolved:** To pay Clerks interim Qtr 3 expenses to date. (remainder in the February meeting) £196.15.
- c. **Resolved:** To pay HMRC Qtr 3 £313.20 (Still ongoing query by HMRC – not a PC issue, being managed by Cox & Co).
- d. **Delegated Power Payments:**
 - i) **Resolved:** Defibrillator Grant £400.00 previously agreed.
 - ii) **Resolved:** West Chinnock, Churchyard maintenance grant, previously agreed £200.00.
 - iii) **Resolved:** National Allotment Society £66.00.
- e. **To pay any routine or previously agreed invoices:**
 - i) **Resolved:** SLL grass cutting November 22, £79.50 Inc VAT.
- f. **Receipts:**
 - i) **Greatfields rent 2022/23, £200.00**

22/923

Allotments:

- a. **New Tenants:** 3 new tenants, 6b, 20b and 13a. 20c reserved.
- b. **Tenancy Agreement Review and Modernisation:** Query has been raised regarding co-sharing. Regulations don't allow this at the moment. Members held a discussion. Proposed to review Tenancy in line with advice from National Allotment Society and legislative framework. **Proposed: Cllr Griffiths, Seconded Cllr Cockrem. All in Favour Resolved. Action: Cllr Partridge and Clerk to take advice from National Allotment Society. Cllr Partridge to make proposals for modernisation of the current tenancy agreement under the current legislative guidance. Current rents to be reviewed as part of the Tenancy Agreement.**
- c. **Vehicles on the Site:** To be reviewed as part of the Allotment Tenancy Review. **Action: In the meantime, Cllr Partridge to put a notice at site entrance regarding vehicles on the site.**
- d. **Vacant Plot Maintenance:** 2 plots vacant plots have been strimmed by Dave Hannan. (Thanked by Cllr Partridge). Once person interested another from outside of the Parish.
- e. **Lack of Hedging Plot 20:** Hedging planted, including Buddleia and black Hawthorn. Growth will be monitored.

22/924

Matters arising from 09.11.22 meeting:

- a. **Speed Signage School:** Discussed and action in item 22/919
- b. **Replacement Swing:** Clerk has ordered and been advised that delivery will be in January 2023.

Reports & Correspondence:

- a. **Warm Spaces: Report presented by the Clerk:** After consultation with local organisations, the sense was there isn't enough demand from residents, and that there is already enough capacity within the village and surrounding villages. **Action: Publicise "supporting and looking after your neighbours" campaign.**
- b. **Dangerous Parking at the School:** After a visit by the Police and discussion with the PC, they have agreed to visit more regularly. It was explained that there are 25 other villages locally with similar concerns and recommended that "safe parking and driving" should to be led by the school in partnership with the parents. Cones have now been put outside of the school, however this has caused parents to park on Scott's Way, which has exacerbated the issue of risk for parents walking up to Ridgway. Parking is still an issue at Stoneways, however it was noted that the police had advised any signage would need to be agreed with the owners of Stoneways. **Action: Phillipa to act as liaison with the Head Teacher, Mr Caswell.**
- c. **Gigaclear – Fibre Broadband:** Already discussed under item the Public Forum item at the beginning of the meeting.
- d. **Local Community Networks: Cllr Griffiths confirmed there has been no further progress.**
- e. **Footpaths:** i) **Recreation Ground Stile** completely broken and handrail. ii) **Eastall farm** still pending. iii) **Previously reported issue with electric fencing** from November meeting, no longer an issue as sheep have been moved. Landowner confirmed he would advise tenants of regulations relating to the laying of electric fencing if they were to use the field again. iv) **Scissor Gate, East Lane:** Cllr Coleman reported that the Footpath Officer was considering how to improve access and will keep the PC updated.
- f. **Parish Council Grants:** To be advertised by the Clerk.
- g. **Vandalism Report:** Graffiti Incident highlighted that there are issues with passing information from the point of initial report at Bridgewater central police department and the time it takes to filter through to the local police at Crewkerne. This is now being addressed by the police. The Clerk urged anyone reporting a police incident to insist on a crime reference number, so that the Crewkerne team can track the incident. Also highlighted was that on some occasions the central police department in Bridgewater may not pass through an incident. It was noted there had been a similar situation in Norton Sun Hamdon, where the Crewkerne police were not notified.
- h. **Clerk Report: Items by exception not on the Agenda. None**
- i. **Recreation Ground:**
 - i) **Grant Application for Play Equipment:** The Parish Council has been awarded a match funded Grant of £9998.00. This is specifically towards pre-determined play equipment for the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will to continue to approach further funders once the results of the Rec Consultation have been published and a final plan agreed. The Chair thanked the Clerk for writing the bid, managing the specification of works and quotes and presenting at the Area West Committee.
 - ii) **Consultation Events for Recreation Ground:** Two Consultation dates have been set to engage with residents and listen to feedback on the Vision, initial ideas and concepts. A survey will run alongside of the consultation events as well as being published on line. Posters promoting the events and the survey will be put up, supported by a leaflet drop, as well as posted on Social media.
- j. **Drains and Pot Holes:**
 - i) **Hollowell Hill: Action: Clerk to confirm what works have been completed on the springs and report back to Members.**
 - ii) **Pot Holes:** Nothing to report.
- k. **Hedges: Cutting has taken place in the villages by some local farmers.**

- l. Environment Champions Network by exception:** Cllr Cockrem confirmed from the Local Environment Network that there was a scheme to lend out heat cameras to show where resident's heat is "escaping" in their properties. (The scheme is being operated out of Crewkerne Library).
- m. Unitary Updates, included in SSDC Members briefing.**
- n. Emergency Contact for the Parish Council:** The Clerk explained that under the new unitary structure, all PC's have been asked to provide an emergency contact number. **It was agreed this would be Cllr Bennett.**

22/926

Correspondence & Matters for Wednesday 8th February 2023

The Clerk advised Members to be alert to any planning applications which may be submitted over the Christmas period. The period between Christmas and the end of January are renowned for planning applications to be submitted, knowing that many Parish Councils meetings do not meet in January.

Any Agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk before Thursday 2nd February 2023.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

Next Meeting 8th February 2023

**Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
Village Hall, West Chinnock**