

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th December 2016

Cllr Shaun McMillan - Chair
Cllr Bill Mannering
Cllr Gill Langford
Cllr Phillipa Coleman

Cllr Raymond Bailey
Cllr Tony Cawley
Cllr Mark Bennett
Clerk, Kim Duller
5 Members of the Public

Public Forum:

- a. A query was raised relating the rules regarding electric fencing erected across public footpaths, as electric fencing has been placed across the footpath behind Layne Terrace. Cllr McMillan explained that it is acceptable as long as it doesn't present a danger to individuals. **Action: Cllr Bailey to investigate.**

16/263 Apologies for Absence: None.

16/264 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Cawley, Allotments.

16/265 Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd November 2016: Agreed and signed by the Chairman.

16/266 Matters Arising (Other than those on the Agenda): None.

16/267 County Councillors Report: The Clerk reported that no report had been received from County Councillor, Marcus Fysh.

16/268 District Councillors Report: The Clerk reported that no report had been received from District Councillor, Ric Pallister, however Ric had sent his apologies as he was away on holiday.

16/269 Planning Applications:

- a. 16/04500/FUL: Erection of two story extension (Retrospective); Garden Cottage, Lower Street, West Chinnock. Parish Councillors were very concerned that this was the second retrospective application on this property and felt compromised at having to make two retrospective decisions which contradicted the original planning permission. The Parish Council however agreed that it had no observations or comments on a purely planning decision basis. **Action: The Clerk was asked to find out more information from the SSDC planning team as to the reasons why the two retrospective planning applications occurred and express Members deep concern.**
- b. 16/05003/FUL: Resurface Yard, The Cowstall, Balsters Farm, Lower Street, West Chinnock. After discussion, Members confirmed they did not have any observations or comments. **Action: Clerk to report to SSDC planning team.**

16/270 Determinations:

- a. 16/04265/FUL, 27, Ridgway, West Chinnock, demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new conservatory. **Approved.**
- b. 16/03919/FUL, Retrospective, Garden Cottage, erection of a replacement porch, Lower Street, West Chinnock. **Approved.**

16/271 Finance:

- a. **Precept Update:** Discussion held with Members. **Action: It was resolved that the Clerk would forward Members a copy of the Band D agreement when it was received and that a meeting would take place in the first week of January to make a decision on the total sum required for the 2017/18 precept.**
- b. **To Pay Clerks Salary, Quarter 3 Due to No Meeting in January:** £735.00 salary, £40.00 depreciation, £95.28 expenses. It was resolved to pay £10.00 per month towards the cost of the Clerks telephone and £10.00 towards the cost of Broadband, backdated to the beginning of the 3rd Quarter and to also pay the Clerks salary and expenses. **Action: Clerk to investigate Payroll Company for PAYE.**
- c. **Budget Update Against Forecast Year End and Half Year Review:** It was resolved to budget additional costs for £300.00 grass cutting, £120.00 Clerks expenses (phone and Broadband), £45.00 hedge cutting. **Action: The Clerk to forward insurance documents to Cllr Langford in order to check Employers Liability insurance.**
- d. **Budget Remaining for Village Grants:** It was resolved to allow up to £1745.00 towards village grants, although this amount would not necessarily all be allocated and the final amount would depend on the grant applications received.
- e. **A VAT Refund of £89.26 was Recorded.**

- f. **To set Allotment rents for 2016/17:** It was resolved to increase the water charge per whole plot to £9.00 to cover the cost of the annual water charge. The cost of a whole plot rental would be increased to £8.00. It was also resolved that the income from Allotments would remain ring fenced and any expenditure relating to the Allotments would be taken from any unused income. (Surplus). **Action: Cllr McMillan to write to Allotment holders when contracts and rent requests are issued in January.**
- g. **To pay any routine or previously agreed invoices:** Somerset Landscapes unpaid June invoice, £369.00 inc VAT. The cheque had been paid during November under powers which allow the Chair to issue cheques up to £500.00 under delegated powers.

16/272 Matters Arising from the November Meeting:

- a) **A356 Report:** A positive response to the request for information had been received from Kerry Jones, Principal Programme Coordinator, Traffic and Transport Development Group, Somerset County Council. After discussion it was felt that the response left a number of key issues unanswered and timescales were not satisfactory. **It was resolved to form a sub committee consisting of Cllrs Langford and Bennett to respond to the report. Action: Clerk to organise a meeting in January 2017 in order to prepare a draft response from the Parish Council.**
- b) **Playground Inspection Query:** Removal of Trees, Cllr Bailey. **Actioned**
- c) **Recycling Centres Outstanding Query: Outstanding, carry forward.**
- d) **Conservation Area Queries: Covered under planning**
- e) **Update on Community Plan:** Next steps, data from surveys being collated and analysed by computer, results available in the near future.

16/273 Reports & Correspondence:

- a. **Drains/Flooding:** Cllrs Bennett & McMillan met with Mike Fear SCC and drain inspections took place. Mike Fear explained that drains will not be jetted unless they present a serious risk to flooding. Man hole covers are covered by leaves. Villages and residents will be encouraged to take more responsibility for keeping them clear throughout the year as there will be no funding from SCC. Cllr Bennett is also making a record of man holes covers and drains which are not currently shown on the existing maps held by SCC. **Action: Clerk to make a note in the Parish Magazine.**
- b. **Pot Holes and Logging Records:** White markings had been made around pot holes which were not made by SCC. The Parish Council was warned that however frustrating the pot holes were, if local residents make any further unofficial markings on roads it could put in jeopardy any future official pot hole filling by SCC. Cllr Bennett agreed to report all pot holes and keep a record. (Cllr Cawley to provide Cllr Bennett with a list of all which had been reported). It was reported by Cllr McMillan that the hole in Layne Terrace had been filled. Cllr Bennett to review current list of pot holes after Cllr Coleman reported a number of recent additions in Middle Chinnock.
- c. **Hedge & Verge Cutting:** Cllr McMillan reported that there was potential support from the local farming community to cut hedges during February 2017 and will update the February meeting. In the meantime Cllr Bailey to continue to collect quotes for hedge cutting as previously agreed.
- d. **Consultation on a proposed new Public Space Protection Order for public land across South Somerset:** For information, previously circulated. No action.
- e. **Somerset Council Elections, 4th May, 2017:** For Information, previously circulated. No action.
- f. **Grant Request: Citizens Advice:** After discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council could not award a grant. Any grant funding available this year would be given to local organisations and groups from West & Middle Chinnock.
- g. **David Fothergill, Highways & Transport portfolio holder event, 13th January 2017:** No further update. Cllr Keating was not present to give a report.

16/274 Reports & Correspondence: Received after the Agenda:

- a. **West Coker Forum:** Previously circulated, Friday 6th January 2017. **Action: All members to contact the Clerk if they would like to attend.**
- b. **Poor Condition of Tarmac on Roads - Rickhay Rise, Highfield & Hill View Close:** Cllrs Bennett and Cawley to investigate if the condition of the roads presents a hazard. **Action: Discuss with Cllr McMillan if roads warrant reporting to SCC Highways.**
- c. **Bags of Rubble: Reported past Bow Bridge:** Cllr McMillan to investigate.
- d. **Scalping in the Recreation Ground Carpark:** It was resolved that these do not need replacing however regrading.
- e. **Employing Local Residents:** It was confirmed that Warman Builders was employing local tradesmen on the Smiths Hill site.

- f. **Road Signage:** Cllr Coleman asked if the issue relating to “slowdown” signage for horses on Hollowell Hill could be considered as currently the situation is dangerous with cars speeding along this stretch of road. Members suggested that there was a need for a complete review of signage in the villages and hoped that once the results of the Community Consultation were published that perhaps a Transport and Road Users Group would be formed.
- g. **Use of Cones to Prevent Parking:** Cllr McMillan explained that there had been an increase in residents and local organisations using cones to reserve parking spaces on the public highway. Cllr McMillan explained that it is an offence to obstruct the highway and thus is not permissible to reserve parking by placing any obstruction, including cones on a public highway. **Action: Clerk to include in the Parish Magazine.**

The meeting ended at 9.05pm and was followed by Christmas drinks and Nibbles provided by Members and the Clerk.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st February 2017 (No meeting in January 2017) 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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