

# WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Cllr Bennett - Chair  
Cllr Coleman – Deputy Chair  
Cllr Cooke  
Cllr White  
4 Members of the General Public

Cllr Partridge  
Cllr Cawley  
Cllr Tinkley  
Clerk: Kim Duller

**Public Forum:** John Grainger made a request to the Parish Council to take on the issue of poor Broadband speed in Middle Chinnock and explained the significant differences between West Chinnock and Middle Chinnock due to distance to BT cable networks. Open Reach has confirmed they are not going to do any works to address this for at least another year. John explained he had a Zoom meeting with SCC and there were 3 other alternatives available. Wessex internet is concentrating on South East Somerset, Jurassic fibre East Somerset, and already in Yeovil, Crewkerne and Chard. Jurassic Fibre had confirmed they would be happy to talk to the Parish Council. JG also confirmed another option is satellite, however not as reliable. The Chair explained that the PC would be happy to support the case for increased broadband speed in Middle Chinnock however didn't feel that the Parish Council would be able to support financially unless this was raised via the precept which would be an increase for all residents in West & Middle Chinnock. The Chair agreed to look in to the matter further to see if funding was available from Somerset local government or any national grants. **Action: JG to pass details of Jurassic Fibre to the Clerk and any other details/contacts he had from the Zoom meeting.**

21/886

**Apologies for Absence: None**

21/887

**Declarations of Interest:** i) Cllr Cawley Allotments. ii) Cllr's Bennett, Coleman and Clerk, Recreation Ground Development Committee. iii) Cllr White Risk Assessment of Trees Smokey Hole and Smiths Hill. iv) Cllr Coleman, any footpaths on Greatfields land. v) Cllr Bennett, Playground Committee. vi) Clerk & Cllr Bennett, Flax Mills planning.

21/888

**To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10.11.2021 Resolved.**

21/889

**Matters arising, not on agenda: None**

21/890

**County Councillors Report:** Cllr Keating sent apologies. Newsletter received and circulated to Members. No queries or comments from Members.

21/891

**SSDC Councillors Report:** Cllr Patrick sent apologies. Newsletter received and circulated to Members. No queries or comments from Members.

21/892

**Planning:**

a. Applications:

- i) 21/03366/HOU The Old Flax Mill, West Chinnock. Discussed by Members, Resolved no objection.
- ii) 21/03372/HOU or 21/03373/LBC: Twindown Mead, Middle Chinnock (Re-submission). Discussed by Members, Resolved no objection.

b. Applications since time of the agenda: None

c. Determinations since time of agenda:

- i) Shiredown, Middle Chinnock, Approved.
- ii) 21/02370/HOU2: Ridgway West Chinnock: Refused at appeal.

- d. **Planning queries: None**
- e. **Planning enforcement: Hollowell Hill 19/00026/FUL.** Photographic evidence to be collected on concerns raised at the Hollowell Hill site as the current enforcement notice has not been actioned due to lack of tangible evidence. (Clerk still waiting for formal confirmation from SSDC).

21/893

**Finance:**

- a. **Resolved:** Clerks Salary Qtr. 3 had not been calculated by the payroll company. **Agreed Clerk to be paid by delegated powers.** Gross £1176, which will include an element for HRMC. Clerk and HMRC to be paid when payroll company confirm net figure.
- b. **Resolved:** To pay West & Middle Chinnock play area £544.00. Proposed Cllr Cawley seconded Cllr Partridge, all in favour. NC explained background to previous split between school, playground committee and PC. **Action: Clerk to query increased cost from previous year, how it is calculated and circulate to Members. NC to confirm date of AGM to Cllr Bennett.**
- c. **To pay any routine or previously agreed invoices: None**
- d. **Delegated Powers payments: None.**

21/894

**Allotments Update: Report on items since time of agenda**

- a. Monthly Newsletter (November) circulated.
- b. Tender updated and re circulated for maintenance to plot 20. All tenders received; decision pending subject to discussion with Members.
- c. Tenders issued for works to site entrance. Awaiting final submission from final contractor.

21/895

**Matters arising from the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 meeting:**

- a. **Smokey Hole & Smiths Hills Trees overhang, outstanding Risk Assessment:** Clerk had written to County who were due to come out and inspect, however Cllr White confirmed that Lou White has now taken responsibility for providing risk assessment and quotes were being obtained. **Action: Cllr White to confirm date to report back to PC.**
- b. **Parish Resilience Plan:** Cllr Cooke had previously circulated papers and requested that Members consider or not, the need for a Community Flood plan to be put in place. It was felt that the WMC currently have an informal system for flood alerts and this was successful. **Action: Cllr Cooke and Clerk to carry out further research on examples of best practice of those Parishes who have implemented a community flood plan, including CSF and also further information from the Environment Agency. All Members to read background papers ready for further discussion.**
- c. **Riverbank Collapse, Scott's Way:** Still no response since Cllr Bennett Contacted John Lock, who had subsequently explained that the land belonged to his sister. Cllr Bennett confirmed he had sent details of Rivers authority guidance on ownership of the river to the sister. Cllr Bennett explained he was having difficulty contacting the land owner. **Action: Cllr Bennett to update progress to Members prior to next PC meeting and agree a date to meet with the landowner. PC for liability concerns must send a letter to the land owner to ensure that there is some progress.**
- d. **Hedges, Fortunes Well: Action: Chair to write to owner to request they are cut.**
- e. **The Knapp:** C/F waiting for response from SSDC. **Action: Clerk to chase.**
- f. **Queens Platinum Jubilee 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022:** C/F to February 22 meeting.
- g. **Neighbourhood planning informal meeting with JC. Action: JC and Clerk to continue to collect evidence to demonstrate impact of NPs.**

21/896

**Reports & Correspondence:**

- a. **Grass Cutting, Churches:** The Chair explained that a letter had been received from the Middle Chinnock PCC which had requested that they also receive funding for grass cutting. The letter had been previously circulated to Members.

The Chair and Cllr Cooke confirmed that previously Rev Nick had suggested on West Chinnock Church, not both and the PC needed to consider the potential of funding in relation to the precept being raised (a new cost centre); and parity across the number of residents calculated separately in Middle Chinnock and West Chinnock. Cllr Tinkley confirmed he had received a quote for £1,600.00 for West Chinnock Church, which included hedge cutting for 6 cuts a year. It was discussed that potentially the cost for Middle Chinnock was cheaper. It was agreed that in theory the PC may still be in favour of some sort of grant, which would be raised by increasing the precept or reducing services however this needs further discussion and would be considered further at the Business planning meeting on 13.11.21 **Action: The Clerk was asked to request full sets of the last 2 years accounts for both West and Middle Chinnock churches to understand the finances of each church. It was Resolved that whatever the outcome of funding, the PC would not be responsible for tendering for any works and this would be the responsibility of the churches.**

- b. Wildflower Seed Giveaway:** Information previously circulated. Cllrs Cooke and Bennett led the discussion. Confirmed that wherever the flowers are planted there has to be public access, for example lay-bys, verges, school, churchyard and Rec etc and also on private land which has footpaths running through it. A number of locations were suggested. **Resolved: A plan is needed to co-ordinate planting, cultivation and management, starting small to see how successful a small project could be and extend the project if a pilot is successful. Action: The Chair to contact the owners of the field through to the rec to discuss if they are willing to let the space be turned over to wild flowers. Cllr Cooke to lead the project and also contact the school to see if they are interested.**
- c. Consultation: Devon and Somerset Fire Service.** Noted, no response/action from Members.
- d. Wessex Water; maintenance works at Lower Street.** Noted and previously displayed via social media and on notices in Lower Street.
- e. Fly tipping:** 3 reports during November on Odcombe Road. All cleared.
- f. Footpaths:** No response back from SCC regarding who the lead Officer will be. In meantime request all residents to keep reporting any issues via SCC Rights of Way WebPages.
- g. Drains Audit and Action Plan:** Cllr White confirmed the audit had taken place with himself, Keith Dodge, Cllr Keating and Lee Norman from SCC Highways. The audit covered the whole of the village and an action plan has been drawn up, with some of the work started. The plan will be updated with the works as they happen, however Cllr White/Clerk are still waiting for exact confirmation of timescales for some of the work in order that a decision can be taken as to which drains are priority for funding from the PC drains budget. Cllr White also mentioned a number of actions which will be the responsibility of landowners and not Highways, for example clearing of ditches on private land. **Action: Cllr White to identify which ditches need clearing and Cllr White and Chair to write to landowners to agree a plan of action for maintenance. This will involve potential 5 or more landowners. Clerk to circulate plan to Cllr White to co-ordinate updating the plan. Review funding at the business planning/budget meeting 13.12.21.**
- h. Hedges:** Cllr Cawley has had a chat with Andrew Kempster regarding hedges at Allotments, but waiting for a decision on maintenance on plot 20 before anything is agreed. **Action: Cllr Cawley/Cllr Partridge.**
- i. Potholes:** Nothing to report, except the lay-by at Little Silver. **This has not been reported, however Cllr Cawley explained SCC are aware of the need for remedial**

**works. Action: Cllr White explained he had spoken to Lee Norman about this area, but that he would report it formally as well via the website.**

- j. Recreation Ground development update:** Further plans published, however only one person fed back so far. **Action: Cllrs Coleman and Bennett to request full sized plans in order to feed back.**
- k. Rec Fence – None Agenda item:** Mended by Cllr Cawley. Clerk received invoice. Cllr Cawley thanked by PC.
- l. Clerk Report:**
  - i) BT phone box:** Concerns raised regarding the amount of “stuff” being put inside and lack of rotation of existing items. The Clerk reported there are a number of individuals who do already support keeping the box clean and tidy and do a really good job, however moving forward it might be helpful to get additional support. In the first instance, Clerk to create a note to ask residents to help keep it tidy and ask for extra volunteers to help.

21/897

#### **Correspondence & Matters for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

- a. Bench for West Chinnock church: (previously agreed grant prior to lockdown)** Cllr Coleman currently receiving quotes and liaising with Rev Nick.
- b. Allotments:** Request by Cllr Partridge to agree the works from Tenders and complete maintenance work before February 2022. In order to delegate powers to pay, there needed to be an agreement with regards to a final figure and this is likely to exceed the delegated powers figure. After discussion, it was agreed that a further extended discussion is required on prioritisation of maintenance works as existing budget from the 21/22 for the whole year was £2,000.00 for one off maintenance works and this has been committed. No agreement could be reached due to concerns on the price for clearance. Members asked that it is made clear through a reminder to plot holders that the £2k allocated this year was a one-off payment to bring the site back to a standard which meets cultivation standards and that no further monies will be available for individual plots. As per the tenancy agreement, it is the tenant’s responsibility to keep the plot cultivated.
  - i) Resolved: It was resolved to pay up to £1,200 to pay for clearance of plot 20 under delegated powers, if the contractors are fully insured. Cllr Partridge proposed, Cllr Tinkley seconded, all in favour.**
  - ii) Resolved: It was clarified that the tarmac works would have to be a precept cost for discussion at the business planning/budget meeting.**

Any Agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk before Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Meeting closed 8.43pm**

#### **Next Meeting**

**Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
7.30pm Venue TBA due to possible COVID restrictions**

