

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 12th July 2023

Cllr Bennett - Chair

Cllr Cockrem

Cllr Griffiths

3 Members of the General Public

Cllr Cawley

Cllr Partridge

Clerk: Kim Duller

Public Forum: i) Cllr Cawley, on behalf of Neil Vout, raised concerns regarding litter being left at the youth shelter and usage of the shelter by non-resident youth. It was confirmed signage had been placed on the youth shelter as requested at the June PC meeting. A discussion was held which included discussion on the increase in the parking of scooters. It was queried as to whether parking is allowed. It was agreed parking was allowed on the current understanding that the land directly adjacent to the youth shelter is not allotment land and change of use had been granted when the youth shelter was created. Cllr Bennett confirmed that had been an increase in police presence in the villages during June/July.

Action: Cllr Bennett concluded that more time was required to understand the background to the provision of the youth shelter and requested that Cllr Cawley and allotment holders keep note of any unsociable behaviour. He confirmed that paperwork which was previously archived has been retrieved and this would be studied in preparation for presentation of evidence at the September PC meeting. This would enable Members to make informed decisions.

23/1085

Apologies for Absence: None.

23/1086

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

23/1087

To Approve and Sign as Correct the Minutes of the Parish Council 14th June 2023.

Resolved. All in Favour. i) A discussion was held on whether the pot holes in the Rec carpark had been completed. Cllr Cawley confirmed they hadn't been. Cllr Bennett requested this is actioned a.s.a.p. **Action:** It was agreed that the PC would contract with Andy Cockrem to deliver scalplings on the Rec. Cllr Cockrem to confirm price to Cllr Bennett and RFO before implementing the work. Cllr Cawley to undertake the filling of holes and finish with a wacker. (See continued discussion item 23/1093 b).

23/1088

Matters arising, not on agenda: None.

23/1089

SCC/SSDC Councillors Report: i) **SC Monthly Newsletter:** Previously circulated. ii) **A30 Closure:** SC Councillor Mike Hewitson summarised the discussions from the A30 closure meeting earlier in the day. The contractors have been agreed and the works will definitely go ahead as planned in the first week of the school summer holidays. The public will still be able to access the butchers and post office, doctors and local services. There will be approx. 60 signs up to give details of the closure, however concerns were raised that West & Middle Chinnock would be used as an unofficial diversion route. Residents and the PC to let SC Cllrs Patrick and Hewitson know straight away if this happens and they will arrange extra signage. Cllr Cockrem had also attended the meeting and confirmed that the entrance points to the diversion were going to be manned 24/7. Residents will have permits. Cllr Cockrem declared an interest as an owner of holiday accommodation in West Coker and raised concerns regarding access by her guests. SC Cllr Hewitson confirmed that he would be able to support her to get permits for her guests and those servicing her accommodation. iii) **Waste Strike:** Called off and is now unlikely to happen due to positive negotiations with the unions. (TBA).

Planning:**a. Applications:**

- i) **Fortunes Well 22/00724/FUL, Higher Street, West Chinnock.** The Clerk advised she had circulated information received by Highways. Neil Tinkley was asked to share his thoughts on the information and implications in relation to the adoption/non adoption of the entrance and whether or not there was sufficient turning space and general entry for large vehicles. He explained the information seemed contradictory as it also mentions the outcome if permission is granted. NT believed permission should not be given if the concerns regarding adoption had not been addressed. It was also noted that the comments were made after the official closing date for receipt of comments. A discussion was held. **Action: After a vote it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should ask the planning team for clarification regarding the latest Highways advice and confirm whether the PC would be consulted if there was a redesign of the entrance.**
- ii) **23/01276/HOU Rickhay, Scott's Way, West Chinnock TA18 7PU: Cllr Bennett led the discussion.** There were 5 specific areas which were discussed, with a request that greater consideration be given to items listed below as Rickhay is in the conservation area. It was also recommended to the owners that further pre-application advice is taken:
 - Lack of heritage & design statement
 - Request condition relating to screening
 - Lack of ecological survey
 - Single storey extension, request condition
 - Solar panels, more detail required

The owners of Rickhay gave feedback and were able to express their views and discuss these with the Parish Council. The owners then left the meeting. The final decision was to object to the application, (4 Members in favour, 1 in not in favour) however with a caveat that the Parish Council would support the granting of permission if all of the conditions and requests relating to Material Considerations were met

b. Determinations: None

c. Planning enforcement: i) **Hollowell Hill:** The Clerk has been advised by SC Cllr Patrick that this is not on the list of priority enforcement matters. ii) **Smiths Hill:** SC Cllr Patrick has advised that enforcement is a high priority and that the planning team are in regular contact with the owner.

d. Planning Queries: None.**Finance:**

- a. **To Approve Qtr1 accounts, subject to internal audit 2023/23:** Draft accounts have circulated, awaiting internal audit. **Action: To be recirculated when internal audit has taken place.**
- b. **To pay Clerks Salary Qtr. 1 £1430.96: Previously approve by Cllr Bennett. Resolved.** The Clerk advised that she and the Chair had discussed moving to a monthly salary which would hopefully remove the tax issues with HMRC relating to quarterly invoicing. The Clerk is taking advice from Cox & Co, the payroll company.
- c. **To pay HMRC Qtr. 1 £357.60. Resolved.**
- d. **To pay Clerks Expenses Qtr. 1 £220.06: Previously approved by Cllr Bennett: Resolved.**

e. To pay any routine invoices:

i. **SLL grass cutting June Invoice £285.38 including vat: Approved.**

Cllr Bennett confirmed that following discussions with SLL, the company had confirmed that they would not be taking photographic evidence of cuts and the contract which was currently in place should be all that is required. There was still concern that the dates on the invoices did not correspond to the dates the grass is cut, however accepting that the number of cuts was right. **Action: The Clerk to re-visit the correct dates of cutting with SLL.** Cllr Bennett confirmed that the PC had regularly undertaken tenders, however not since before COVID. He explained that whilst individuals in the past had undertaken grass cutting on behalf of the PC, quality had not been consistent. He explained that SLL had always provided a consistently high-quality service and VFM.

f. **Delegated Powers & previously agreed invoices:**

i. **Village Hall Hire April 2022 – March 2023 £166.00:** The Clerk confirmed there had been a mistake on the previous invoice and this had been rectified.

ii. **SLL grass cutting April Invoice: £226.16 including VAT: Resolved.**

23/1092

Allotments: Cllr Partridge

- a. **Inspection Report:** 6 plots require attention, report not finished yet. **Action: Reports to be sent to Clerk for circulation to allotment holders when they are completed.**
- b. **Rent Review Report:** Cllr Partridge confirmed he had begun to undertake a comparison of allotment rents locally and nationally. His initial findings demonstrate that the current market rental rates at Quarry Farm allotments are not in line with national averages. A discussion was held. **Action: Cllr Partridge to present a report with recommendations for any rent increase at the September 2023 PC meeting.**
- c. **Plot Vacancies:** One ¼ plot is available. Interest has been shown by a potential tenant. **Action: Cllr Partridge to keep Clerk updated.**

23/1093

Matters arising from the 14th June 2023 meeting:

- a. **Youth Shelter: Discussed under Public Forum.**
- b. **Pot Holes Recreation Ground:** Cllr Cockrem confirmed price of trailer load of scalplings (approx. 2 ton), £75.00 including delivery. (Plus VAT). The price was discussed. Proposed Cllr Bennett, seconded Cllr Partridge, all in favour. **Resolved to purchase.** **Declaration of interest noted from Cllr Cockrem. Action: Mr Cockrem to liaise with Cllr Bennett.**
- c. **Recreation Ground Signage:** A discussion was held relating to semi temporary signage at the Rec to meet legal requirements. It was agreed that dogs would still be allowed in the Rec, however wording would ask that dogs should be kept under close control. **Action: Clerk to source local supplier and agree final wording with Members.**
- d. **Core Policies Review:** Cllr Griffiths has reviewed the policies and made some initial amendments. She stressed the need for a more in-depth review in the future. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Griffiths to further review each policy/standing order for sign off at the September meeting.**
- e. **20mph Speed Signage – School Approaches:** Location of 20mph signs has been finalised with SCC. Currently awaiting confirmation of timings for implementation, as well as remedial works for damage to pavement outside of the Muddled Man Pub where an attempt was made to locate a sign, by mistake.
- f. **Asset Register: Action: The Clerk to provide Cllr Griffith with a copy of existing register and as well NALC recommended framework.**
- g. **Parish Council Risk Assessment:** Discussed and amended accordingly. **Action: Clerk to update and place on file.**

- h. **The Knapp:** Letter sent to owner of Tree Cottage as requested at June meeting. **Item closed.**
- i. **Vandalism:** Police presence has increased. **Action: Monitor, watching brief. Item closed. (Not a standing item).**
- j. **Complaint:** The Clerk had been asked to apologise for a comment made to SC Cllr Patrick which did not represent the views of the Parish Council. The Clerk apologised and the apology had been accepted by SC Cllr Patrick.

23/1094

Reports & Correspondence:

- a. **Proposal from SC for a Community Funded 20mph Speed Limit in Somerset Villages:** Cllr Bennett outlined the proposal from Somerset Council, whereby local villages are being asked to consider whether they would like to undertake a review of a 20mph speed limit. Cllr Bennet stressed that the cost, which could be in the region of £15K would have to be funded by the residents, either through raising the precept or fundraising. A discussion took place between Members, which considered **i)** was there an identified need, given that there will be new 20mph signage around the school, **ii)** VFM, **iii)** enforceability of a 20mph speed limit, **iv)** consideration of consultation with residents, not just relying on a Facebook survey. Members agreed more information was required relating to the proposal. Members were still keen to wait and consider whether the school 20mph speed limit is effective, however as the timescale for a reply to express an interest was the end of August, timescales were incompatible. Members felt that overall, the timing of the response required did not give enough time to consult with residents. **Action: Clerk to ask SC for clarification of costing for West & Middle Chinnock and further queries on enforceability.**
- b. **Recreation Ground Survey Published/Next Steps:** Cllr Bennett confirmed that he had received one offer of interest in supporting and the Clerk had also received an offer of support. It was reiterated that “Improved Access” to the recreation ground was identified as the first priority in the survey, including access to the Recreation Ground from Lower Street and from the car-park. The circular path was the second priority and this linked in with improved access. **Action: i) Cllr Cockrem to contact the owners of the field between Lower Street and the Recreation Ground to consider improved access. (ROW across the field). Cllr Bennett to send the information he has. ii) It was agreed that a costed plan is required to define the elements of the improved access. Once this plan has been agreed a funding strategy can be created to consider how each element of the plan can be funded. iii) Clerk to draft a note to residents outlining details of the plan to improve access to the recreation ground from Lower Street, making good the pot holes in the car park and still looking for volunteers to support the next stages of development. Member approval required before publishing.**
- c. **Local Community Networks:** Cllr Griffiths updated Members. Breakout groups identified priorities for Members within the LCN. Minutes had been published today. Some issues discussed included credibility and powers of the LCNs, including lack of budget, planning powers etc. Those who are responsible for making LCNs work are absolutely committed to them; however it is early stages for Members of the LCNs to see if they will be effective. A request from the LCNs, as part of the Minutes, was to bring back concerns of residents. Meetings are going to be quarterly. The overriding concern is “what are LCNs going to achieve”.
- d. **Clerk Report: Parish Council 15th June – 12th July:**
 - i) Clerk recommended a formal thank you be sent to the Footpaths Officer for the new gate at the Rec. **Agreed.**
 - ii) Cllr Bennet thanked the Clerk and Neil Tinkley for planning support.

- e. **Footpaths Update: Action: Clerk to update Cllr Cockrem on the footpath logging/action system and also resend details for the footpath officer.**
- f. **Drains, Potholes and Hedges:** i) A number of potholes have been filled, in particular those on Scotts Way. ii) Damage to local roads has been reported to Highways by Cllr Patrick. This had been caused by farm vehicles entering and exiting fields on Scotts Way and Hollowell Hill.
- g. **Unitary Updates: None.**
- h. **Waste Collection Strike:** Action has been suspended, subject to further negotiations.

23/1095

Correspondence & Matters for Wednesday 13th September 2023

- a. **Agenda items, including Members Reports** to be forwarded to the Clerk before Thursday 7th September 2023.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

Next Parish Council Meeting 13th September 2023

7.30pm, Village Hall, West Chinnock