

# WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Cllr Shaun McMillan - Chair  
Cllr Mark Bennett

Cllr Raymond Bailey  
Cllr William Mannering  
Cllr Tony Cawley  
Acting Clerk, Martyn Hamlin  
**7 Members of the Public**

### Public Forum:

Mr Neil Vout raised the issue of allotment holders being required to pay for Liability Insurance Cover for their allotment, in particular objecting to the element of compulsion. The Chairman explained that as the responsible landlord, it was incumbent on the Parish Council to ensure that Liability Insurance was in place, it being the case that the Parish Council insurance did not cover this. The Parish Council had decided that the best and most cost-effective way to achieve this was through the National Allotment Society which the current Allotment Society were now members of, and the cover could be arranged for £3.00 per allotment holder. It had been hoped to discuss this at a meeting of Allotment Holders and the Parish Council, but attempts to arrange this meeting had failed. New Contracts had to go out in time for the new financial year, so the Parish Council had to include the Insurance Liability requirement. It was agreed that a meeting would take place at the earliest possible date. **Allotment Committee to advise Parish Council of possible dates to hold a meeting for agreement.**

**19/539 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Phillipa Coleman, Clerk Kim Duller

**19/540 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Tony Cawley, Allotments.

**19/541 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th February:** These would be amended (Item 19/536), to reflect the fact that it was not the case that there was no representation for the Allotment Committee at the PC meeting, there was, the reason for there being no discussion was that it had been decided beforehand to withdraw the item from the agenda. Otherwise agreed as being a true record of the meeting.

**19/542 Matters Arising (Other than those on the Agenda):** None

**19/543 County Councillors Report:** Cllr Mark Keating's March report had been circulated. The financial position at County Council was improving with more financial stability, Council Tax would be increasing 90p on a Band D property. Monthly Pop-Up market being held in Odcombe, attempts still being made to get the junction with the A356 jettied to alleviate flooding. Cllr Keating reminded the Parish Council that it would likely be August before the verges would be cut, and that if the Village could cut them so beautifully themselves in the spring like in previous years, he would then be able to continue to hold up West Chinnock as a shining example of a Parish Council making a real difference to their community.

**19/544 District Councillors Report:** Cllr Ric Pallister advised that clarification had been received on 6 Hillview which resulted in no objection. It was tied to the main property so cannot be used separately. Record with the Clerk. Regarding the transfer of the recreation ground, this would be at no cost to the Parish Council the only costs being legal fees as it would be gifted to the Parish Council. Mr Neil Cochran advised that paperwork had been received requiring a business case to be made. Cllr Pallister advised that this was not the intention of the Council and it should be a case of a straight transfer from one local authority to another (known as a Community Transfer). Cllr Pallister to liaise with Mr Neil Cochran on this.

**19/545 a) Planning Applications:**

**19/00026/FUL Erection of an agricultural barn and 3 Poly tunnels.** Noted that there were a lot of objections to this from the public. In particular the visual impact the poly tunnels being enormous, the large barn, lighting requirement in the winter, the unsuitability of the steep track for vehicles; the visual impact from various points in the village was significant.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would raise objections on the following grounds:

- I. That there had been no application made, so no permission granted, for change of use of the land from agricultural use, with a presumption that the application would immediately fall on this ground.
- II. In the event that ground 1, no longer applied, the second ground would be that there would be a severe landscape impact on what is a very historic landscape. The ridge is a significant landscape feature, the proposed application would have an impact so severe as to invoke strong objections to any re-application for planning permission.

**19/00401/LBC** (i) To demolish existing timber heifer barn and replace it with a new timber stable block and (II) to demolish the breeze block end wall of a lean to on the old stables and rebuild with a Ham Stone faced wall. The new stable block would be a lot smaller than the heifer barn and prima facia there appeared to be no obvious problems. However, in view of the fact that this application related to a building in close proximity to a listed building, it was agreed to arrange a site visit prior to making a decision on comments.

**b. Applications since Time of the Agenda:** None

**c. Determinations since Time of the Agenda:** None

**19/546**

**Finance:**

- a. It was resolved with all in favour, that once the water bill for the allotments was received (it would be due in June), that subject to the cost being no more than 15% greater than the previous year charge of £172.00, that the bill would be paid.
- b. It was resolved with all in favour to pay the Clerk's salary of £588.00 net and PAYE £147.00
- c. It was resolved with all in favour to pay Acting Clerk Martyn Hamlin £32.00 net and PAYE £8.00 for work undertaken in covering the March meeting.
- d. To pay any routine or previously agreed invoices. None.

**19/547**

**Allotments:**

- a. **Contract renewal and rent requests.** The Clerk had issued the new contracts most of which had been delivered. Cllr Cawley agreed to deliver the remaining letters.
- b. **Setting up a meeting with the Parish Council.** Mr Vout to email the Clerk to arrange a meeting probably in week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**19/548**

**Matters arising from the February 2019 Meeting:**

**a. Chinnock Chase:**

**i. Insurance update:** Cllr McMillan advised that the insurance cover for the inflatable's (a large arch for the start), would be covered by the organiser's insurance.

**ii Route update:** no confirmation had yet been received as to the routes (which would change weekly), but a meeting would in due course be arranged where this would be clarified. There were no anticipated road closures.

**iii Parking update:** Arrangements had been made for parking to be facilitated on William's field.

**b. The Haunts: Creation of Parking Space on Public Highway: Cllr Bennett:** No updates had been received.

**c. Pot holes self-maintenance: Cllr Bennett:** This referred to a scheme whereby Parish Councils were empowered to fill their own potholes. It did raise the matter of liability for which the Parish Council would be responsible if they filled their own potholes. Some progress was being made and the current system whilst not perfect did work. It was resolved not to proceed with enquiries as to self-filling potholes, but to continue as now reporting to the County Council for remedial repairs.

Noted that Mike Fear had now retired and that reporting was now electronic. Cllr Bennett had reported by sending PDFs through the website as required, but there seemed to be no feedback. A lot of the drains etc were not marked on the digital maps and Cllr Bennett had been advised that it would be 5 years before the maps were fully

updated. Currently Mike Fear's email address continued to be monitored and Cllr Bennett would continue to send reports to that email as well as digital reporting until told that non-digital reporting would not be accepted.

Noted that Litter-picking had taken place on 4/3/19 by SSDC.

- d. **Grill Over Well, Higher Street: Next review March 2019.** Cllr Bennett had had a look at it and it would need doing, he advised that in due course he might be able to procure a new grill when it got to the point that it was required. In the meantime, quarterly checks would be carried out to check for deterioration.
- e. **The Knapp: Cllr McMillan:** Cllr McMillan advised that he had overlooked the sending of an email but that he would be sending one as a priority thanking the property owner for the temporary repair and asking what was his intentions for permanent repair.
- f. **Dog Fouling: Cllr Mannering:** Cllr Mannering advised that he had walked the village with the Dog Warden and the only dog fouling they had found was in Scott's Way. It was suggested that 2 dog poo bins be relocated to improve their visibility. The one near Layne Terrace obscured by trees in the growing season, suggested moving to the other side of the signpost opposite where it is now. The one outside the rec in Lower Street move it up nearer the gate. Noted that there were good reasons why it was not located near the gate when it was sited, being that it would have been too near the wall and would cause an obstruction, and where it is now the pavement is wide enough to accommodate it. Signage was placed on the new bin so that people would know it was a dog bin as well as a waste bin. The dog warden had advised that he would tour the village fortnightly.

19/549

#### **Reports & Correspondence:**

- a. **Highways and Drains:** Report on any new issues: Cllr Bennett. Covered above, new issue mainly regarding electronic reporting.
- b. **May Elections: Clerk:** The Clerk ran through the key factors; Clerks had been issued with nomination packs enough for existing Council plus spares. Nomination papers could be accepted from 18<sup>th</sup> March. Deadline 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Nomination papers must be hand delivered to SSDC Offices, Brympton Way. Proposer and Secunder required who must be on Chinnock Voters list. In theory the same 2 people could propose and nominate all 7 Councillors. Address of candidates must be supplied to SSDC, but can opt out of making them public. If more than 7 candidates come forward there will be an election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Quorum is 3. If less than 3 candidates another election within 14 days. Cllr McMillan advised that a new Chairman and Vice Chairman would need to be elected. He requested that if anyone would like to signify intention now to take on the role of Chairman, he would be happy to speak to them and arrange a smooth transition to the new person.
- c. **Somerset Wood. Donation Request: Discussion:** 16 people from Chinnock had lost their lives in the First World War which would equate to a donation of £400. The proposed memorial wood was in North Somerset and the question arose would not it be better to have a permanent memorial in the village where people could see it. It was felt that the Parish Council would like to do something but to keep it local. Further consideration to be given to the options.
- d. **Applications for Village Grants. Decision:** A revised application had been received from the Village Hall for the sum of £576.00 for the purpose of replacing the tiles where the old fireplaces were and replacing them with matching wood as they had become a health hazard. This was the only application that had been made. The question was posed as there was further money available should a higher grant be made say to round it up to £1,000. After discussion it was resolved to stick to the amount applied for, as to give more could set a precedent which could cause difficulty in future years, and carry over the excess. Carried unanimously to grant the figure quoted of £576.00
- e. **Grants for Farmers to Manage Water on their Land:** This had been circulated for information

f. **Temporary Road Closures – Latest:** Landslide under the bridge on the road towards Coker. Noted that following work carried out by Concept for BT in Duckpool Lane the previous week, the road had been left in a mess and could have been dangerous. Cllr Bennett to mention to Highways.

g. **SSDC Play Area User Consultation:** To be circulated for comment by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

19/550

**Correspondence Received Since time of Agenda:**

Cllr McMillan had been asked to raise comments received about a camper van parked on Lower Street. Assurance had been received that it was only parked there whilst work was being carried out on the owner's drive, and had now been removed from Lower Street.

**The meeting ended at 8.55pm**

**Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 - 7.30pm, Village Hall**