

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 8th March 2023

Present:

Cllr Bennett - Chair

Cllr Coleman

Clerk: Kim Duller

Cllr Cawley

Cllr Griffiths

4 Members of the General Public

Public Forum: i) The Chair opened the meeting by sending condolences to the family of John Wheatley, who had recently died. The Chair explained John had been an advocate and kind supporter of the Parish Council and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. ii) Coronation Weekend 6th May 2023. Garry Medcalf from the Muddled Man explained that the main event will take place on Sunday 7th May, as it was felt everyone would be watching the actual Coronation on Saturday 6th May 23. An independent Committee has been formed to organise the event. The provisional plans include a Road Closure, Morris dancing and a street party for children and pensioners. Also a BBQ from the pub premises, with all profits from this paying for the street party. Road closure from 11am until 6pm. Andrew Kempster has offered his Barn for backup in case of bad weather and the WI will be providing a cream tea at some point throughout the afternoon. There may be a skittles knock out competition throughout the day and Gary is also waiting to hear back regarding the potential of a band in the evening. There is also potential for a folk band in the afternoon. An open meeting is being held to discuss all ideas. Organisations in the village who would like to do some fundraising would be welcome to come and set up some “fun” stalls around the main celebration site, including stocks. Any volunteers to help with the setting up will be welcomed.

23/1028

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Cockrem and Partridge.

23/1029

Declarations of Interest: i) Cllr Cawley Allotments. ii) Cllr Coleman, footpaths on Broadstone Farm land iii) Cllr Bennett, Community Playground Committee.

23/1030

To Approve and Sign as Correct the Minutes of the Parish Council 8th March 2023.
Cllr Griffiths gave the following amendments: (Changed by hand on signed March Minutes.) Resolved. All in Favour with following amendments:

- a. Delegated Powers para d) ii) insert “to” in last sentence.
- b. Matters Arising form 14/12 meeting Gigaclear para d) - delete “responded” and replace with “responded”.
- c. Reports & Correspondence, para a0 i) - Norton Shop - delete apostrophe in “Member's” in line 6.

23/1031

Matters Arising: None

23/1032

SCC/SSDC Councillors Report: Apologies received from Cllr Hewitson, due to a school event for his daughter and Cllr Patrick.

23/1033

Planning:

a. Applications:

- i. **Charmead, 23/00409/HOU:** Eastfield Lane, Middle Chinnock. Proposed rear conservatory to dwelling. It was **resolved** that due to the amount of previous planning information, including conditioning, change of use of land at the back of the property (agricultural land) and applications since the time of the new build, the Parish Council would require a longer period of time to review and consider the application. **Action: Clerk to request a time extension to SSDC.**

b. Applications Since time of the agenda: None

c. Determinations since time of agenda: None

d. Planning enforcement: Hollowell Hill. No Update. **Action: Clerk to attempt to resolve outstanding queries directly with the Enforcement Officer.**

e. Planning queries:

- i. **Smiths Hill, 22/03095/S73A:** Various amendments to conditions and revised planning for a garage. Still no feedback from the planning team. **Action: Clerk to re-submit concerns with visuals and to again, request a site visit.**
- ii. **Quarry Cottage:** Email received from Owners. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Planners on behalf of the PC.**

22/1034

Finance:

a. Delegated Powers Payments:

- i. Community Playground Association £519.45 (Previously agreed in the February Minutes). **Resolved**

b. To Pay any routine or previously agreed invoices: None

c. HMRC ongoing dispute: The Chair has now emailed the MD of Cox and Co; the company contracted to manage payroll and asked them to resolve the situation. **Action: Chair to follow up after a further 10 working days.**

23/1035

Allotments: Clerk Report in the Absence of Cllr Partridge

- a. **Tenancy Agreements Notice for Clerk to issue Agreements for 23/24:** Formal Notice was given that Allotment contracts will be issued during March 2023 and will stay at the same price as 22/23.
- b. **Notice to review Tenancy Agreements in line with National guidance during 23/24, ready for April 24/25:** Formal Notice was given to review Tenancy Agreements in line with national Guidance during 23/24 and to be issued in April 2024.
- c. **Notice to Review Rent in the April 23 Parish Council meeting for 24/25:** Formal Notice was given of a rent review and decision, which will be made at the April 2023 Parish Council meeting.

23/1036

Matters arising from the 8th February 2023 Meeting:

- a. **Speed Signage:** No Feedback as yet. **Action: Clerk to follow up with Cllr Patrick.**
- b. **Gigaclear:** Clerk has received a report back from Gigaclear. With regards to installing fibre in Middle Chinnock, Gigaclear has no plans to install. Gigaclear responded to the concerns regarding the poor quality of works by requesting that the Clerk ask residents to contact Gigaclear directly regarding any issues, and they would rectify them. With regards to schedules and residents' concerns that work had stopped, Gigaclear confirmed they did not have a dedicated crew for West Chinnock, but would be bringing in crews from other areas. Dedicated crews will be bought back in at some time in the future. The Clerk confirmed she had publicised a Broadband providers event hosted by SSDC, which she hoped that residents who have concerns regarding broadband infrastructure, would attend.

Reports & Correspondence:

- a. **Purchase of Salt Bin:** Cllr Hewitson has offered to provide the Parish Council with a salt bin. The Chair asked for thanks to be passed to Cllr Hewitson. Salt bin due to arrive 10th March 2023. It was confirmed that some Salt bins have been topped up, but that bins need re-checking. **Action: Clerk to go back to SSDC, subject to a visual check by Members, giving confirmation of the current level of salt in each bin. The Clerk confirmed that salt will now remain in the Unitary budget.**
- b. **Highways update: Salmon in the Parrett:** **Action: Clerk waiting to hear back from SCC Highways on revised dates for work.**
- c. **Bonfires on the Allotments and in the villages:** The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to Cllr Partridge who was providing a response to the formal complaint regarding fires on the Allotments and the issues which were raised. **Action: Cllr Partridge.**
- d. **Recreation Ground: For Information**
 - i. **Survey:** Now closed and data being analysed. Some data from existing users of the Rec is yet to come in. Presentation of the data will take place after the Easter holidays, possibly mid to late May due to the Early May Bank Holiday and Coronation. The results will inform discussion moving forward, including resident's preferences and priorities, in relation to any future development.
 - ii. **Installation of new Play Equipment:** This will take priority for PC Members over the next 2-3 weeks. Installation should be completed by the Easter school holidays. Heras fencing is being placed around the installation area, so the use of the REC will not be impacted. **Action: Clerk to put up temporary signage explaining installation.**
 - iii. **Next steps:** Set date for official opening of the play equipment (play equipment will be available before the official opening) and survey feedback. **Action: Clerk and PC.**
- e. **Local Community Networks:** Cllr Griffiths confirmed that Clerk has been in contact with the Clerk Castle Cary with the aim of having a briefing. Castle Cary is one of the new pilot Community Networks.
- f. **Clerk Report: Parish Council during Feb 23 - March 23**
 - I. **Pot Holes:** Some of Middle Chinnock pot holes have been filled, but there was concern raised that the work was not of a high standard and neither would be filling in individual pot holes on an ad hoc, piece meal basis be effective in the longer term. The PC discussed the bigger picture of road maintenance in the Villages and in particular the stretch of road which is in a major state of disrepair in Middle Chinnock. **Action: It was agreed to undertake research as to what is causing the deterioration of the particular piece of road in Middle Chinnock, including possible water retention since the ditches are not operational and drainage issues, impact of increased traffic and any other potential factors. If SCC Highways are not able to maintain the Road, the PC may need to consider whether this would have to be a precept issue. Clerk initially to contact SCC to discuss the potential of a survey.**
 - II. **Hedge Cutting:** **Action: Clerk will write to the Farmer, Mr Honeybun to request that the hedges bordering his fields and the highway, are i) Not cut back so much ii) Debris is removed after cutting has taken place and iii) Report the damage to the sign. (Subject to Cllr Cawley reviewing the damage to the sign which is the property of Highways and check whether Highways need to contact Mr Honeybun for compensation and repair).**

- g. **Dog Fouling:** Complaints regarding dog fouling in the village are increasing again, especially at Layne Terrace. **Action: Clerk to contact SSDC enforcement Officers and Dog Warden, and to also put a reminder regarding the legal responsibilities of dog owners on the Website and Facebook Page. Clerk to discuss the repeat of the poster campaign with SSDC.**
- h. **Water Leak, Lower Street, maintenance by Wessex Water:** Completed.
- i. **Water Pressure Issues at Pavilion:** NC reported pressure is now OK.
- j. **Meet the Broadband Providers Event:** Previously reported under item 23/1036 (b).
- k. **Footpaths:** Cllr Coleman, no new reports. Outstanding: i) Easthall Farm, Footpaths Officer waiting for an application to go in ii) Mr Honeybun, entrance to Rec from Land leading to Middle Chinnock, awaiting update.
- l. **Parish Councillor Vacancy:** Clerk to advertise.
- m. **Environment Champion:** Nothing to report.

23/1038

Correspondence & Matters for Wednesday 12th April 2023

- a. Cllr Coleman requested the Clerk find out if anyone is planning a litter pickup for the spring. **Action: Clerk to ask.**
- b. **Stroke Consultation:** Steve Ashe highlighted a consultation with NHS on closure of the stroke services at YDH. He explained that time was of the essence when a stroke happens and having to add an extra 30 minute journey on to the onset of stroke could have a major impact on patient's chance of recovery. **Action: Clerk to promote the consultation.**

Any Agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk before 6th April 2023.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

Next Meeting 12th April 2023

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