

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 6th October 2021

Cllr Bennett - Chair
Cllr Cooke
Cllr Cawley
5 Members of the General Public

Cllr Partridge
Cllr Tinkley
Clerk: Kim Duller
SCC Cllr Keating

Public Forum: i) Welcome by the Chair to Cllr Partridge, first meeting as a Councillor. ii) Neil Cochran (not in attendance) had asked the Clerk previous to the meeting, if the PC would consider reinstating the offer of the purchase of portable shelters for the football club. The previous offer was £650.00, with the caveat that the old dugouts, which were considered a health & safety risk, were removed and disposed of before 12th December 2020. The football club had declined the previous offer. The PC therefore paid £200.00 for removal and disposal. The PC were supportive of the purchase of portable shelters and having investigated the price of the original portable shelters at £400.00, plus seating £650.00 agreed to give a grant of £450.00 for the purchase of the shelters with the suggestion that cheaper seating be sourced. Proposer Cllr Tinkley seconded Cllr Partridge, all in favour.

Resolved

21/862

Apologies for Absence: Cllr White and Cllr Coleman

21/863

Declarations of Interest: i) Cllr Cawley Allotments ii) Cllr's Bennett, Coleman and Clerk, Recreation Ground Development Committee. iii) The Clerk, legal transfer of the Recreation ground. v) Cllr Coleman, any footpaths on Greatfields land. vi) Cllr Bennett, Playground Committee.

21/864

To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8.09.21
Resolved. July Minutes, Clerk to amend; was not a virtual meeting, not an annual Parish Meeting and numbering to be amended.

21/865

Matters arising, not on agenda: None

21/866

County Councillors Report: Cllr Keating apologised for lack of recent attendance due to illness and hospitalisation. Report received via email. i) Chinnock Hollow still closed. Specialist surveys taking place on 18th October 21. Suggestions of speed and weight limit through the Hollow. A30 West Coker major road works planned for next year and will be a major issue if Chinnock Hollow still closed. ii) Drains and Gullies; the Chair reported the drains and gullies are still blocked, including removal of hump and residents are still having to clean the drains and gullies. Concern raised on poor planning decisions which are exacerbating the situation, Smiths Hill, similar situation on new development in Hinton St George. **Action: Cllr Keating to have meeting with Keith Dodge, Clerk to send telephone number to Cllr Keating.** iii) Unitary Authority proposals. Cllr Keating advised the PC to keep up to date regarding unitary structure and local boards. The Clerk explained that the PC has a lead Member with this portfolio, Cllr Cooke. iv) Speed Limits: The Chair asked if there was any further news on the additional funding for speed limits which Cllr Keating said he was working on with Norton school at a previous PC meeting would get back to the Clerk about. Cllr Keating explained it isn't the same as the small improvement scheme and that every school in Somerset would be assessed in the coming months. Cllr Keating said he would speak to the Head at Norton, who is also the Head of WC school. Cllr Keating also explained that the school were organising their own initiatives with marshalled parking and marshalling along the road in the hope that speed will be reduced and parking improvements. The Chair asked if there would be an official speed change in Norton. Cllr

Keating said that this was part of the review. **Action: Cllr Keating to let the Parish Know when the review will take place at West Chinnock School and will also ask SCC highways if the villages could have a statutory speed limit.**

21/867

SDDC Councillors Report: Cllr Patrick had sent his report via email and had sent apologies. The report had been circulated to Members. No queries or comments from Members.

21/868

Planning:

a. Applications:

- i) **21/02713/HOU: Willows Trees, Lower Street, West Chinnock.** The PC had replied to SDDC planning, with no objections or comments.

b. Applications since time of the agenda: None

c. Determinations since time of agenda:

- i) **Twin down Mead: Application refused.** Cllr Tinkley reported this was due to issues with heritage asset status and insufficient information submitted to satisfy the impact of the development on protected species.
- ii) **21/02370/HOU2: Ridgway West Chinnock:** Application refused. Clerk to send Members link to planning portal refusal. **Action: Members to review and send comments to Clerk/Cllr Tinkley.**

d. Planning enforcement: Hollowell Hill 19/00026/FUL: Clerk still chasing enforcement team and liaising with JN.

e. Planning queries: None

21/869

Finance:

- a. **Resolved:** To record receipt of Precept £15,000 on 09.04.21
- b. **Resolved:** To accept payments of 21/22 Allotment payments as per payment schedule.
- c. **Resolved:** To pay Clerks expenses Qtr. 1 £87.45
- d. **Resolved:** To pay Clerks Salary Qtr. 2 £873.60 Net
- e. **Resolved:** To pay HMRC £218.40 Qtr. 2
- f. **Resolved:** To agree delegated powers to the Clerk to pay Battens solicitors completion statement up to £972.20. Proposed Cllr Partridge, seconded Cllr Cooke.
- g. **Resolved:** To pay SLL31592 Somerset Landscapes grass cutting contract July 21 £215.40
- h. **Delegated Powers payments September:**
- i) **Resolved:** SLL31690 Somerset Landscapes grass cutting contract, August £351.00. (Noted, extra cut in August due to cricket match).
- ii) **Resolved:** Glasdon S1823547, new bin lid for waste bin, Duckpool Lane £21.26
- iii) **Resolved:** The Play Inspection Company 48524, annual risk assessment recreation ground. £72.00 **Action: Clerk to re-circulate report to all Members.**

21/870

Allotments Update:

- a. **New Tenants/Vacant Plots:** Vacant plot, 6b has been transferred to a tenant who has a qtr.15b Plot. Cllr Partridge thanked Allotment volunteers who helped to clear plot 6b. Plot 15b will be retained by the tenant until December. **Action: Qtr 15b plot to be advertised by Clerk.**
- b. **Annual Inspection:** Will take place 6th November 2021. Members to agree who will attend with Cllr Partridge and representatives from the Allotments.
- c. **Hedge Cutting: Action Cllr Cawley to speak to Andrew Kempster for Roadside Hedge. Clerk to contact SLL to cut hedge at plot 20.**
- d. **Shed needs removing on plot 20.** Shed is very close to power cables/substation and careful consideration to be made in its removal. **Action: Cut hedge first and then review removal of the shed. Cllr Partridge or another Member to be at the Allotments and a representative from the**

Allotments to be available when the hedge is cut to take a view on the removal of the shed.

- e. **Equality Impact Assessment: Action: Cllr Partridge to carry out assessment.**
- f. **Bonfire recently left unattended. Action: Cllr Partridge and Allotment representatives to remind Allotment holders that all bonfires must be attended at all times when active and that the only rubbish burned must only be allotment waste.**
- g. **Monthly newsletter to start again. Action Cllr Partridge/Clerk**
- h. **Plot 20a:** It was agreed that plot 20a would still be kept vacant as an accessible plot as part of the PC's commitment to accessibility.

21/871

Matters arising from the 8th September 2021 meeting:

- a. **Cllr Keating update speed reduction schemes:** Previously discussed under Cllr Keating's report. The Chair advised if no support is available from SCC, then the PC should action the planned review with residents.
- b. **Grass Cutting - West & Middle Chinnock Churches:** Rev Nick Clarke made a presentation asking if the PC could support funding cutting the grass at the church as this was very much a community space, used more than a Church yard, moreover a space for bio diversity, reflection and relaxation. The school are also involved in the bio diversity project. The Chair explained that there is funding still for the community bench and also it may be appropriate to have some sort of Jubilee Garden within the area of the church. It was also noted that the management of the churchyard will eventually fall to the PC. **Action: The Chair asked the Clerk to contact Somerset Landscapes to provide a cost for annual cutting (as they are the PC's contracted providers). Rev Nick had quoted an approximate cost of £1,500 per annum, the Chair did not think the PC would be able to fund all of this, but would consider a contribution once a quote had been received. This is only for West Chinnock Church, not Middle Chinnock Church. Cllr Tinkley to attend with Rev Nick when SLL quote.**
- c. **Smokey Hole & Smiths Hills Trees overhang, land owners' responsibility for Risk Assessment: C/F Action: Cllr White to liaise to organise risk assessment with JM.**
- d. **Riverbank Collapse, Scott's Way, Parish Work Plan:** Clerk in contact with Merriott PC. Currently trying to establish ownership of the farmland bordering the river. **Action: Clerk to continue to "search" for landowner with the Chair and report back to Merriott PC.**
- e. **Footpaths Parish Work Plan:** i) Reported broken stile in Middle Chinnock to Cllr Coleman ii) Electric fence coming from CB field, plastic cover not on fence and dangerous. **Action: Cllr Cawley to contact CB to arrange fence to be covered and signage. C/F to next meeting: Cllr Coleman to confirm with SCC whether the handrail which was broken by cows at the southern end stile/bridge at the Rec is landowner's responsibility or SCC and report back to Clerk. Also, to consider whether a gate could replace the existing stile.**
- f. **Trip Hazard – The Knapp: Action: Clerk & Chair to meet to agree way forward.**
- g. **Police Monthly Beat Surgeries:** Currently on hold. Clerk will be contacted when they re-commence.
- h. **Neighbourhood planning informal meeting with JC:** Date agreed 3rd November 2021 at 7pm. Venue TBA. Cllr Cooke will not be available to attend. **Action: Clerk to check availability of Village Hall.**
- i. **Recreation Ground Purchase Update:** All paperwork signed, just waiting for final completion and transfer with SSDC.

Reports & Correspondence:

- a. **Parish Resilience and Emergency Plan: Climate change and various other risks facing local communities:** Discussed the need for a lead Councillor, emergency plan for the village and flood plan, impact of soil erosion etc. Cllr Cooke volunteered to take lead role. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Cooke to meet and discuss what guidance is currently available, audit other PCs in terms of emergency planning, flood wardens etc.**
- b. **Queens Platinum Jubilee 2nd – 5th June 2022:** Discussed PC response. PC to encourage groups/residents, churches; school etc to come forward if considering any ideas. **Action: PC to consider a funding for community response. Clerk to contact groups, individuals, schools, sports clubs and churches, pub etc for any ideas they may have.**
- c. **Change of meeting from 1st Wednesday in the month to the 2nd Wednesday in the month:** Clerk had checked legality and all OK. **Resolved:** From November 2021, the PC meeting will take place on 2nd Wednesday of the month. Proposed Cllr Partridge, seconded Cllr Tinkley. All in favour. **Action: Clerk to book village Hall for next 12 months and publicise.**
- d. **Tree Policy Review: Resolved:** Formalise policy to collective responsibility of Members rather than Tree Warden and “police” by exception. **Action: Clerk to update and publicise contact points for residents.**
- e. **Parish Work Plan:** No updates. **Action: All Members to fill in the plan on a timely basis prior to the PC meeting.**
- f. **Clerk Report: None**
- g. **Highways, Hedges & Ditches:** No update apart from previously discussed items. It was noted that hedges had not been trimmed this season and the Parish should receive 2 cuts. All hedges cut by local farmers. **Action: Clerk to query with SCC Highways why cuts had not taken place.**
- h. **Drains Report/Potholes:** 3 filled in Ridgway. Drains discussed with Mark Keating on item 21/866 however still continue with plan to obtain quotes. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr White on progress who is lead Councillor on Drains.**
- i. **Non agenda item:** Gate at Rec still being closed as sign has not been put on gate. **Action: Cllr Cawley. Cllr Bennett to claim expenses for rec padlock and keys.**

Correspondence & Matters for Agenda Wednesday 10th November 2021

- a. Any Agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk before Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Next Meeting

**Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 10th November
7.30pm West & Middle Chinnock Village Hall**

