

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 12th October 2022

Present:

Cllr Coleman – Deputy Chair

Cllr Cawley

Clerk: Kim Duller

5 Members of the General Public

Cllr Cockrem

Cllr Griffiths

Public Forum: i) Complaints regarding clouds of black billowing smoke from a bonfire on Layne Terrace. Also reports of a similar of bonfires across the village. Cllrs agreed there was a definite increase and potential breach of rules relating to bonfires, in the villages. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Environment team at SSDC. In meantime re-issue regulations relating to the lighting bonfires.** ii) Concern raised regarding potentially dangerous siting of the new 20mph sign and pole at bottom of path leading on to Scott's Way following an incident. **Action: Clerk to refer concerns to Cllr Patrick for a response. To also ask regarding when further two school signs will be located.**

22/983 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Bennett & Partridge, both ill.

22/984 **Declarations of Interest:** i) Cllr Cawley Allotments. ii) Cllr Coleman, any footpaths on Broadstone Farm land and Eastfield Lodge planning application.

22/985 **To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council 20.07.2022. Resolved All in Favour and Signed.**

Matters arising, not on agenda: Request from Chris Stock to Parish Council for a representative at church on Remembrance Sunday. **Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Partridge. Cllr Coleman offered to attend if Cllr Partridge can't.**

22/286 **To Receive Members Outstanding Registration Forms: Action: Cllr Cawley to arrange a time with the Clerk to fill them in at the Clerks house before the next meeting.**

22/987 **SCC/SSDC Councillors Report:** Newsletter received and circulated to Members. Apologies received. No local matters directly impacting on West & Middle Chinnock from either Cllrs Patrick or Hewitson had been reported.

22/988 **Planning:**

- a. **Applications: i) Retrospective Fence on Ridgeway, no comments.** (Not discussed in September meeting as it was cancelled).
- b. **Determinations since time of agenda: i) Twindown Mead, 22/01950/LBC and 22/01901/LBC:** Planning permission given with conditions. **iii) 2201152/FUL/ Replacement Dwelling, Eastfield Lodge, Eastfield Lane, Middle Chinnock.** Planning permission given with conditions.)
- c. **Planning enforcement: Hollowell Hill.** An inspection has taken place. The Clerk explained the enforcement process explaining that an actual report is not produced for public consumption. **Action: Clerk is having on-going conversations directly with the Enforcement Officer to ensure the queries previously, raised have been addressed.**
- d. **Planning queries: i) A number of comments have been received by the Clerk regarding Easthall Farm.** The Clerk confirmed there is on-going dialogue between the planners and the owners Easthall Farm. **ii) Fortunes Well, Higher Street, West Chinnock.** Still no update, no change on planning portal. **iii) The Clerk asked Councillors to note that the planning team are incredibly stretched at the moment and under-resourced, with a reported high number of vacancies in the planning department.**

22/989

Finance:

- a. **To Approve Qtr. 2 Accounts:** Inspected and recommended for approval by internal auditor Neil Cochran. Amendments required but not related to final balance sheet figures. **Resolved. All in Favour.**
- b. **To Approve Clerks Expenses Qtr. 2.** It was noted that the majority of expenses related to additional purchases relating to the Mourning of Queen Elizabeth II. **Resolved. All in Favour**
- c. **To Approve Clerks Salary Qtr. 2 £956.80 Net:** **Resolved. All in Favour.**
- d. **To Approve Payment of Battens Legal advice relating to a piece of land. £414.00 inc VAT** **Resolved. All in Favour.**
- e. **Delegated Power Payments:**
 - i) **£239.20 HMRC:** **Resolved. All in Favour**
 - ii) **SLL, September 2022 Grass Cutting Invoice, £215.40 Inc VAT:** **Resolved. All in Favour.**
 - iii) **SLL, July 2022 Grass Cutting Invoice, £215.40 Inc VAT:** **Resolved. All in Favour.**
 - iv) **SLL, August 2022 Grass Cutting Invoice, £135.90 Inc VAT:** **Resolved. All in Favour.** (Lower cuts due to lack of rain).
- f. **To pay any routine or previously agreed invoices.** **None.**

22/900

Allotments – Clerk gave an update from a written report by Cllr Partridge

- a. **Hedge Roots Plot 2:** All previous queries resolved. **Action: Cllr Partridge is putting in writing discussions with the Tenant.**
- b. **Plot Vacancies:** 14a to become vacant however will be filled immediately from the waiting list. 3 further plots are available now. The recommendation from Cllr Partridge is to split 20c into 2 quarter plots, unless there is a need for another ½ plot.
- c. **Vacant Plot Maintenance:** A discussion was held: **Action: Cllr Cawley agreed to trim plots in preparation for weed cover material. Cllr Cawley to measure plots 6b, 20b, and 20c and give measurements to Cllr Partridge and Clerk. Cllr Partridge/Clerk to obtain quotes for weed cover.**
- d. **Lack of Hedging Plot 20:** A discussion was held. **Action: Clerk to report back to Cllr Partridge, concerns regarding lack of hedge where the shed on the plot was removed, exposing the Allotments to the Road.**
- e. **Reports of Unsocial Behaviour:** A discussion was held regarding increase in bonfires and stealing of Allotment produce. **Action: Recent discussions have been held regarding vandalism in the village generally and the police are aware. Cllr Partridge to write to all Allotment holders regarding bonfires.**

22/901

Matters arising from the 20th July 2022 meeting:

- a. **Riverbank Collapse, Scott's Way:** Road closure for major structural repairs to the riverbank planned for 30th January 2023, instead of October 2022.
- b. **The Knapp Maintenance:** A discussion was held. The PC has no objections to the future replacement of the concrete driveway on the Knapp by the owner of Tree Cottage. **Action: Clerk to report back to the owner. Resolved. All in Favour.**

22/902

Reports & Correspondence:

- a. **Parish Grants Decisions:**
 - i. **Defibrillator Maintenance:** A discussion was held and all Members agreed that the grant request met the parish Councils criteria for a grant giving. It was agreed to award the full requested amount of £400.00. **Proposed Cllr Cawley seconded Cllr Cockrem. All in favour, Resolved.**
 - ii. **West Chinnock Churchyard Maintenance:** A discussion was held and all Members agreed that the grant request met the parish Councils criteria for a grant giving, making particular reference to recent fundraising and match

funding. It was agreed to award the full requested amount of £200.00. **Proposed Cllr Cockrem seconded Cllr Cawley. Resolved. All in Favour.**

- b. **Dangerous Parking at the School:** Photographic evidence of dangerous parking on Scott's way was presented. A discussion was held. **Action: Clerk to contact Local PCSO and ask for advice.**
- c. **Local Community Networks:** Steve Ashe (resident and Cllr from Crewkerne) gave an update on the recent LCN conference and in particular LCNs relevance and their importance to Parish Councils as part of the localism agenda, boundaries, services, planning and eventual funding. Steve talked through examples of how they "could" work. By default West & Middle Chinnock will be part of these. It was discussed that there will be a potential £30 million overspend at Somerset County Council this financial year. **Action: Clerk to circulate the questionnaire to ask Members to respond to the Consultation. It was recommended that Members engage with this process.**
- d. **List of County Councillors for each Parish. Previously circulated. It was noted it was a "very large list".**
- e. **Somerset Day 2023: Previously circulated.**
- f. **Grit Bins:** All full, with additional salt at various locations in the villages for top ups.
- g. **Footpaths:** i) **Eastall Farm:** Footpaths Officer in discussions with Cllr Coleman and owners regarding footpath across the land and new fencing. ii) **Outstanding:** Maintenance of footpath between Broadstone Farm and Bakers Farm. iii) **The Knapp Footpath/Gate:** The Clerk gave details of complaints regarding stones on the entrance to footpath on the Knapp. Action Cllr Coleman agreed to investigate and report back.
- h. **Clerk Report: Items by exception not on the Agenda. None to report.**
- i. **Recreation Ground:**
 - I. **Completion of Final Registration:** Update by Clerk, land registration now completed, full ownership of the Recreation Ground by the Parish Council.
 - II. **Grant Application for Play Equipment at the Recreation Ground:** The Clerk gave details of a match funded grant application which the PC was hoping to make to SSDC for recreation equipment. Timescales are very tight and bid has to be submitted by 31st October 2022, which must meet strict criteria.
 - III. **Consultation Events:** These will take place during November, specifically for the Recreation equipment; however will give the opportunity for residents to look at the options for further development.
 - IV. **Management and Bookings of Rec. C/F**
 - V. **Insurance for Users C/F**
 - VI. **Risk Assessment C/F**
 - VII. **Signage C/F**
 - VIII. **Broken Swing:** Adult seat broken, this is additional to the one which had already been reported. **Clerk to action purchase of additional seat subject to approval of cost.**
- j. **Protection of Direction Stone Smokey Hole Lane C/F**
- k. **Wall Erosion Smokey Hole Lane C/F**
- l. **Drains and Potholes: Update by exception: Clerk**
 - i) **Blocked Poop Hill:** Clerk has had further discussions with Highways regarding Smiths Hill drain blockages and has asked for the drains to be cleaned as a matter of the highest priority.
 - ii) **Smokey Hole Lane:** Clerk has been advised these drains will not be cleaned by exception due to the constant water flow of mud and leaves, twigs etc. It was agreed that as long as the drains are kept clear on Smiths Hill, Lower Street and Poop Hill that the PC appreciated how difficult it was to keep the Smokey Hole drains clear.

iii) **Hollowell Hill:** Drains currently clear and on normal cycle. Cllrs and Residents to notify Clerk if any other immediate issues.

m. **Hedges: Update by exception:** No comments or feedback.

n. **Environment Champions Network by exception: Cllr Cockrem.** Locally the discussion is on-going via various groups, including a Somerset Levels conference, however nothing which impacts of West & Middle Chinnock. Weakness of events is that they are all held during day. A Somerset Tree strategy has been launched on line. Ham Hill have removed all rubbish bins and as a result, levels of rubbish have reduced as visitors are encouraged to take their rubbish home with them. Environment Grants are available. **Action: Clerk to publicise relevant grants, including Allotment Grants linked to enhancing the environment. Clerk to send to Cllr Partridge.**

i) **Item raised by exception: Dog Fouling:** Reports that dog fouling is worse than it has ever been. Councillors and public agreed. **Action: Cllr Cockrem is going to put signs back up, Clerk to contact Environmental Health and signs on Parish FB page.**

o. **Unitary Updates: No Update except already discussed LCN's**

p. **Warm Spaces** Request for Information from SSC and whether there is a need for a co-ordinated response: Discussion held on vulnerability index. Organisations already consulted. **Action: Clerk to ask again via FB, to assess if there is a need.**

q. **Norton Community Shop:** Colin McDonald, Chair of Community Land Trust kindly gave a full summary of the current situation relating to the Norton Community Shop. He went on to ask if there was any potential for a grant towards further costs. The Chair explained that the LCT could apply for a grant in December 2022 when the next grant giving is considered. Application forms will be available from the Clerk in December 2022.

22/982

Correspondence & Matters for Wednesday 9th November 2022

Any Agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk before Thursday 3rd November 2022.

Meeting closed 8.59pm

Next Meeting 9th November 2022

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

