

# WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Cllr Shaun McMillan (Chair)  
Cllr Mark Bennett (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Phillipa Coleman

Cllr Tony Cawley  
Cllr Raymond Bailey  
Clerk, Kim Duller  
**7 Members of the Public**

### **Public Forum: No comments of feedback at the Public Forum**

**118/481** **Apologies for absence:** Cllr W Mannering.

**118/481** **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Tony Cawley, Allotments. Cllr Phillipa Coleman, Greatfields rent discussion.

**118/482** **Minutes of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018:** These having been circulated were taken as read. No amendments. Signed as a true record.

**118/483** **Matters arising (Other than agenda items):** None.

**118/484** **County Councillor's report:** Not much to report, only issues relating to SCC finances. List of 70 areas where savings are being made. It is not anticipated that SCC will declare bankruptcy and no need for a section 114 notice. Details of the cuts will be made public over the next few days, however have already been reported on in the press.

**118/485** **District Councillor's report: Ric** Pallister had sent his apologies and a written report was received which will be posted on the community website.

**118/486** **Planning Applications:**

**a) Applications During Summer Recess:**

**i) 18/01755/FUL Somersby:** Feedback has been requested from Ric Pallister as queries were raised regarding whether the legal planning timelines had been adhered to.

**ii) 19/02406/FUL Charmead:** Amended plans had been submitted and the PC reported it had no further objections. The Clerk had previously sent an email to the planning team confirming the decision.

**b) Applications Since Time of the Agenda:** None

**c) Determinations:**

**i) 18/01755/FUL Somersby.** (See previous comments).

**ii) 17/04677/FUL Land at Smiths Hill**

**d) Determinations Since Time of Agenda:** None

**118/487** **Finance:**

**a) To Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Accounts 2018/19:** The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Auditor had inspected the accounts and was satisfied that they were correct. **The recommendation to approve the accounts was made by the Chair. Approved unanimously.**

**b) To Request Cricket Club Wicket Rent – Flat Fee £10.00 Agreed Unanimously.**

**c) To Discuss Annual Rent Review, Greatfields, previously £200.00. Approved unanimously**

**d) Request Greatfields Rent, £200.00 for 2018/19. Approved unanimously.**

**e) To Pay Somerset Landscapes July Invoice £208.26. Agreed unanimously.**

**f) To Pay SALC Membership 2018/19 £152.06. Agreed unanimously**

**g) To Pay GDPR Training SSDC £20.00. Agreed unanimously.**

**h) A Vat reclaim for the 2017/18 financial year has been submitted for £450.03. Noted**

**i) To Pay Routine or Previously Agreed Invoices:** The August invoice from Somerset Landscapes has been received for £131.36. **Agreed to pay, unanimously.**

**118/488** **Allotments:**

**a) Allotment Inspection:** The Inspection had taken place and a report produced. It was

agreed that the Clerk would circulate the report to all Allotment Committee Members. Where concerns had been raised regarding the overall tidiness of the plots, with the exception of plots 14 and 15, Members felt that the Committee should decide whether or not the plots had adopted good husbandry regulations and take the necessary action. It was also agreed that the Allotment Committee should contact the Plot 14 and 15 tenant, giving him 4 weeks to bring the plot to an acceptable standard of good husbandry. The situation should be monitored for 4 weeks and if no improvement is made, the PC will issue a notice to vacate. PC Members agreed that it was not acceptable to leave any plot uncultivated and rely on the use of significant weed killer to kill the weeds. This is contrary to good husbandry regulations. **Action: Allotment Committee.**

**b) Feedback Regarding Weed Spraying:** After discussion it was concluded that low level use of weed killer is acceptable, however the over use of weed killer on plots 14 and 15 was not. It was reported that the weed killer from these plots had blown onto other plots and caused significant growth problems for other plot holders. **Action: It was agreed that the Allotment Committee would request the tenant of plots 14 and 15 to confirm what weed killer he had been using in order to check it against the list of acceptable weed killers and to also advise on a safe level of usage for spraying so that it doesn't impact on other Allotment holders. Action: Allotment Committee.**

**c) Access to the Allotments:** Tenants from 4b had requested that they put down something on the Allotments to make the paths less slippery for wheelchair use and give more stability, as well as using raised beds. Members asked the Clerk to refer these queries to the Allotment Committee to discuss with the tenants. **Action: Allotment Committee.**

118/489

**Matters Arising from June Meeting:**

**a) Roads:** Cllr Bennett reported that all village roads will now only be filled and maintained by SSC if they present a safety issue. However he did report that a significant number of Roads are currently being repaired. Cracks in the Road, just up from Little Silver were reported. **Action: Cllr Bennett to report.**

**b) Improved Disabled Access to Recreation Ground:** No response had been received from SSDC as to when the unstable narrow bridge would be repaired or replaced which was critical to the success of improving disabled access. The bridge has now become even more rotten. Cllr McMillan advised if it becomes any worse the entrance would have to be closed, or the PC should consider repairing it themselves. Cllr McMillan also confirmed that some queries which have been previously reported have taken up to 3 years to be resolved. **Action: Watching brief.**

**f) Hollowell Hill – Land use query:** A visit by Members hasn't taken place yet. **Action: Clerk to forward owner's details to Cllr Bennett to organise a meeting, inviting fellow Cllrs to attend.**

**c) Painting of Sign in Lower Street:** The sign has been carefully repainted and is clearly visible, however could be deemed to be the wrong colour. **It was agreed to leave the Road sign as it is, unless there is any further feedback.**

**d) Guide Stones:** No further update. **Action: Clerk to follow-up.**

**e) The Haunts, Creation of Parking Space on Public Highway:** SSDC Cllr Ric Pallister had been looking into this, he was not present and no update had been received. **Action: Agreed to adjourn until Ric reply received.**

**f) Complaint at Recreation Ground 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018: Carried forward from last meeting.** No reply had been received from Luton Town FC since Cllr McMillan wrote to them. A query was raised as to whether Luton Town FC had been advised not to pay a donation. **Action: Cllr McMillan to follow up.**

**g) Fox Deaths: Carried forward from last meeting.** A number of foxes had been reported dead near the allotments. The matter had been reported to the RSPCA but to date no update had been received as to the cause of the deaths. **Agreed to leave on the agenda pending the report from the RSPCA.**

118/490

**h) Overgrown Trees at the Knapp:** The Clerk had received a Tree report from Phil Poulton, the Tree Officer from SSDC, which was discussed. Members did not entirely agree with the report as the roots from the Birch Tree has lifted the concrete path, which when risk assessed presented a danger to walkers who access the public footpath across the Council Land. **Action: Clerk to follow up Risk Assessment with Phil Poulton.**

**Reports & Correspondence:**

**a) Highways & Drains:** No new issues although it was commented that the drain in Higher Street had been mended, however there were still a number of “wobbly” drains.. **Action: Cllr Bennett.**

**b) Unofficial Lay bys:** Some have been repaired. Cllr Bennett commented that there didn't seem to be a plan to carry out maintenance on all of them and that the approach was quite arbitrary.

**c) Recreation Ground/Pavilion:** Following further information received from SSDC, the Clerk explained that in order to secure the purchase of the Recreation Ground a business plan would need to be produced, including plans for future projects and usage. After discussion it was agreed that the PC use the priorities outlined in the Community plan to form the basis of an independent Community Recreation Committee representative of all local groups, organisations and individuals, however independent, to put together a bid/plan for development and a funding strategy, using the existing funds which had already been ring fenced. It was agreed that the project should not be led by the Parish Council, however were happy to be co-opted as part of the membership. **Action: Clerk to invite local residents, existing clubs and societies etc to join the Committee.**

**d) Dog Fouling Complaint:** Behind Little Silver on footpath. **Action Cllr Coleman agreed to follow-up.**

**e) Attempted Burglary Highfield:** The police had followed up this burglary as well as Yarlington Homes. It was reported that the rubbish left outside the garages had not been Cleared. **Action: Cllr Cawley agreed to speak to Yarlington Homes to get the rubbish moved.**

**f) Neighbourhood Watch:** A resident is interested in becoming involved with Neighbourhood Watch. As the scheme requires volunteers from different Roads within the village, the Clerk was asked to carry on finding out more information and then ask for volunteers in the Parish Magazine.

**g) Consultation on Rural Economy Priorities:** Members agreed not to submit.

**h) Grill Over Well – Higher Street:** The Chair reported that the metal grill was wearing thin and rotting. It was agreed to carry out a risk assessment. **Action: Cllr Bennett and Cllr Cawley to inspect and measure the grill.**

118/491

**Correspondence Received Since Time of Agenda:**

**a) Green Box Scotts Way:** Clerk has received a number of queries relating to who “owns” the box. **Action: Clerk to continue trying to establish ownership.**

**b) Letter received by the Clerk relating to Mark Keating Business Interests:** The letter was read out and Cllrs agreed to note comments but not take any action after an explanation by Cllr Keating.

**c) South Somerset Village Hall & Facilities Survey:** Clerk to forward to Village Hall & Recreation Ground Committees and Cllr Mannering, who manages events on the website..

**d) Sites of Special Interest Register:** **Action: Clerk to follow up and report back to establish if any exist in West & Middle Chinnock.**

**e) Purchase of Lawn Mower for Recreation Ground Cutting:** Members discussed this and agreed that as the mower had already been purchased they were unable to support the purchase, however would review once the Community Recreation Committee had been

established. Members expressed regret they hadn't known about the purchase earlier when they could have potentially considered supporting the purchase.

**f) Civic Service Muchelney Parish Church y 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018:** Members Invited, to contact Clerk if they would like to attend.

**g) Car Park Rails at Recreation Ground Broken Again:** Action Cllr Cawley offered to repair the rails with a budget of £50.00 being agreed.

**h) Locking of the Gate in the Recreation Ground:** This was discussed, but agreed that it should be discussed at a later date.

**i) Grit Bin:** Agreed this should be purchased in September. Cllr McMillan to give the Clerk dimensions of existing bins.

**j) Hedge on Duckpool Lane Alley** – complaint of Overhang: Cllr McMillan agreed to inspect.

**The meeting ending at 21.25 pm**

**Next Meeting Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 19:30pm in the Village Hall.**