

WEST & MIDDLE CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 9th March 2022

Cllr Bennett - Chair

Cllr Cawley

5 Members of the General Public

Cllr Coleman – Deputy Chair

Clerk: Kim Duller

Public Forum: The Chair opened the meeting and explained that as from this meeting, having taken NALG guidance on the management of meetings, discussions will no longer have lengthy summaries or be transcribed, only Resolutions and actions points will be recorded in the Minutes. The terminology “a discussion” or a lengthy discussion” was held will be inserted into the Minutes. **i) Youth Shelter, Allotments:** A Member of the Public, (MoP) explained this had fallen in to a state of disrepair. It was also noted that the Youth Shelter is not used for the function it was intended. **Action: Cllr Bennett and Cllr Cawley to visit, assess and make recommendations for maintenance works if required.** **ii) Recreation Ground Redevelopment:** A (MoP) raised concern regarding the PC approach to the Recreation Ground Development, having also received feedback from others in the village. **Action:** The response to the MoP was taken as a later item 22/919b **iii) Fresh Spring Water:** A MoP raised the possibility of opening up a freshwater spring in the village, close to the School. This has been Minuted previously. **Action: Clerk to reach out Norton sub Hamdon, Hardington and also Stoke Sub Hamdon Clerks who also have fresh water springs and report back to PC at the April meeting.**

22/910 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Cooke, ill, Cllr Partridge, work commitments, Cllr Tinkley, work commitments.

22/911 **Declarations of Interest:** i) Cllr Cawley Allotments. ii) Cllr Coleman, any footpaths on Broadstone Farm land. iii) Cllr Bennett, Playground Committee.

22/912 **To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9.02.2022.** **i)** A MoP had disagreed with the Minute taking from the previous meeting in regard to the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk had taken advice on this matter from SSDC and SALC. Parish Councillors agreed with the Minutes; however, it was agreed that the Minutes would be amended to “a lengthy discussion was held” as there were a number of personal opinions Minuted and no resolution made. **ii)** A MoP had queried a resolution taken relating to item i) in the Public Forum. The Clerk had listened to the Minutes on tape and the matter was discussed but no formal resolution took place. The Clerk had taken advice on this matter from SSDC and SALC and had been advised there was no requirement for a vote, as the Recreation Ground was owned by the Parish Council. However, the Chair advised the Clerk he would like a formal vote at the next meeting to demonstrate openness. **iii)** An Email GDPR query, Clerk waiting for advice from SSDC and SALC.

22/913 **Matters arising, not on agenda: None**

22/914 **County Councillors Report:** Cllr Keating has stepped down. Clerk has not received any information on who is standing in for Cllr Keating. Likely nothing going to happen before elections. It was queried whether Cllr Keating is still drawing a wage/expense as both SSDC Cllr Patrick and Cllr Keating receive expenses. **Action: Clerk to clarify and confirm expenses.**

22/915 **SSDC Councillors Report:** Cllr Patrick sent apologies. Newsletter received and circulated to Members. Items relevant to W&MC; **i)** Landslip at Chinnock Hollow, meeting rescheduled. **ii)** A30 Closure. The Chair explained that the PC had been heavily involved with the A30 closure behind the scenes and had been liaising directly with the CEO of SCC and the Leader of SCC, the aim being to enforce the closure of the diversion for non-residents. It was acknowledged

that it was still being ignored by locals from the area who know the roads well, although reported some improvement. iii) Greenham's Hill. To be discussed under planning.

22/916

Planning:

- a. **Applications: None.**
- b. **Applications since time of the agenda: None**
- c. **Determinations since time of agenda:**
- d. **Planning queries: None.**
- e. **Planning Queries: None.**
- f. **Planning enforcement: Greenham's Hill:** Cllr Patrick has acknowledged that there is a breach, however only one item has been submitted as a breach. (The Lights). Cllr Patrick has confirmed to the Clerk that there is currently no enforcement Officer and enforcement reports are being managed on a basis of order of importance priority. Greenham Hill is not considered as a priority and the team are short staffed. A MoP had followed up the enforcement, however the PC has written to SSDC planning to explain that the comments contained in the correspondence were not those of the Parish Council. Cllr Bennett acknowledged that SSDC planning were under immense pressure and stated the PC did not want to add to this stress. **Action: Clerk request exact confirmation from SSDC Councillor Patrick as to what has been received by SSDC planning to establish a baseline for moving forward.**

22/917

Finance:

- a. **HMRC query:** The Clerk had contacted HRMC directly, who explained that the payroll Agent was at fault, not the PC. The internal auditor, NC was copied in to correspondence requesting the payroll company to close the query with HMRC. **Action: Clerk to report back to PC when matter is resolved.**
- b. **To pay Cllr Cawley £31.78 for Machined Rail Timber: Resolved. Clerk offered to pay via a cheque.**
- c. **Delegated Powers payments: None.**
- d. **To pay any routine or previously agreed invoices: None**
- e. **To note SLL has cut grass today at the recreation ground but not the allotments.**

22/918

Allotments: Noted Cllr Partridge not in attendance – report given by the Clerk

- a. **Annual Contracts:** Clerk has started sending them out and all will be completed by 31st March 2022. Plots which are due for re-inspection will not be sent contracts until the inspection has taken place, however there may be a cross over due to the Clerk having already begun to send out the contracts.
- b. **Bonfires on the Allotments:** Correspondence received from SSDC Environment team reporting 15 bonfires on the Allotments. Cllr Partridge has spoken to plot holders and acknowledged a few, however the numbers did not equate to the numbers reported. **Action: Clerk to ask SSDC Environment team for more detailed information to establish where the bonfires are and if there is a particular pattern.**
- c. **Remedial Inspections: Action: Cllr Partridge to notify relevant plot holders.**
- d. **Hedge Plot 2: Cllr Partridge to provide a report.**
- e. **Hedge Plot 20: Cllr Partridge to provide a report.**
- f. **Plot Vacancies: No change since previous Minutes.**

22/919

Matters arising from the 9th February 2022 meeting:

- a. **Community Playground: Query with figures reported at the last meeting. C/F.** Clerk explained there was a discrepancy between what was reported at the last meeting and the accounts.
- b. **Recreation Ground Re-development:** Chair & Clerk have met with existing Consultants to discuss current budget and a way forward which will facilitate a consultation with all residents and current users. The existing plan will be considered as part of at least 3

other basic sketches. So far just over £1000.00 has been spent from the original budget of £4K. The Chair confirmed decision making will be led by a thorough Consultation.

- c. **Riverbank Collapse:** The Chair has met the land owners adjacent to the river. There are trees which are impacting the flow on both sides of the banks of the river. The land owners are considering if they can undertake remedial works themselves on the land they own and the PC will contact Highways to ask if they can action tree removal on the roadside. Clearing the existing blockages may cause further problems for flooding at Bow bridge and on the Road. The bank collapse is being caused by the diversion of the flow around the obstacles (trees) in the water. **Action: PC to contact Highways and Environment agency/Rivers Authority to discuss a full review of the situation, including the impact on flooding. Cllr Bennett to take photos for the Clerk to submit.**
- d. **Dog Fouling:** A poster campaign has now commenced, following a consultation between the PC and SSDC officers and 35 pictures sent by the Clerk to SSDC. There is no Dog Warden, however SSDC Environment Enforcement Officers will be patrolling the area on a regular basis, in particular where areas of a high number of incidents take place.
Wildflower Seed Giveaway: Nothing further to report.
- e. **Bench, West Chinnock Church:** Rev Nick has received the quote from the PC, however there now may be further delay as the concept of a bench in the churchyard has to be approved. The original basis of purchase of the bench was based on match funding. A MoP gave details of a good quality second-hand bench which is really good condition and would be cheaper than a new one. MoP to send details of cost to the Clerk, including pictures. **Action: Clerk to forward details to Rev Nick for consideration.**
- f. **Roadworks A30: Previously discussed under item 22/915**
- g. **Jubilee Grants Response:** 2 applications have been made so far. Also received ideas for posters and publicity, which the PC have agreed to fund.
- h. **Community Grants Response:** Only 1 received, however individual dropped out as it didn't match the criteria for applicants, (Needed backing of a local organisation rather than a grant made by an individual), however will apply at the next round of grant giving.
- i. **Parish Councillor Vacancies:** Potentially 2, but no formal applications made. Co-option can be made before the elections. Any vacancies after that would have to be part of the election process.

22/920

Reports & Correspondence:

a. Clerks Report:

- i) Email received from Louise White raising 3 areas of concern:

- a) **Increasing size of potholes and the danger they present to road users:** A discussion was held. It was agreed that this is an issue. It was noted that the increase in some potholes and Road side collapse is exacerbated by the ditches not being drained, in particular on the Road running up to the Recreation Ground where there is major corrosion and disintegration on the Road. It was noted this is a major issue throughout the village. **Action: Discussion to be continued under the pothole item 22/92.**
- b) **Farm Vehicles causing damage:** A discussion was held. It was noted, that due to the A30 closure there were a number of large vehicles accessing the village, often some being lost. Oil tankers accessing Smokey Hole and large amazon vans were quoted, with drivers pulling over on to verges to ask for directions. It was also noted this was particularly prevalent in Middle Chinnock. It was agreed that it is difficult to attribute the situation to any particular type of vehicles at the moment whilst the A30 is closed. **Action: It**

was agreed that this matter would be reviewed when the A30 is re-opened.

- c) **Speed of tractors, younger drivers:** A discussion was held and it was confirmed that there are more tractors on the Roads at the moment due to the closure of the A30, including contractors. **Action: The Chair explained the PC has no jurisdiction over speed of tractors, or any other vehicle. This is a police issue and any complaint must be reported to the police. Add as an issue for the future villages speed and Road safety review.**

- ii) **Neighbourhood Planning:** Clerk reported a strategic review by Action with Communities in England. Acre. They are offering a service whereby they will come and talk to local parishes. **Action: Clerk to circulate.** The Chair has read a report by SALC. **Action: Clerk to circulate.**

- b. **Footpaths:** i) Sheep are grazing in fields and near Eastfield Lane. Walkers are turning off electric fencing and sheep are escaping. **Action: Please can residents not turn off electric fencing.** ii) *Report of broken fence before bridge at Kempsters Farm footpath.* **Action: Clerk to walk the path to review.**
- c. **Drains Audit and Action Plan Update:** The Clerk has received reports of drain blockages after the hedges were cut on Smokey Hole Lane as well as mud after the recent storms. Action: Cllr Cawley to inspect the drains at top of Poop Hill again. **Action: Cllr Cawley to inspect drains at the next pothole inspection. Blocked drains which cannot be unblocked manually to be reported on the SCC reporting website. Drains plan to be updated.**
- d. **Potholes:** Duckpool Lane maintenance taken place. Concerns raised about level of deterioration and water at gate outside Little Silver land. i) **Action: Ask Highways to investigate as this could be exacerbating the situation with the unofficial pull in. Suspected old drain blocked.** ii) **Action: Little Silver pothole pictures received and will be forwarded to Cllr Bennett to be reported.** iii) **Action: Cllr Cawley to carry out full review of potholes and report back to Cllr Bennett.**
- e. **Unitary Governance:** Clerk to continue to send all correspondence to Members.
- f. **Election May 22:** Clerk explained that it was impractical to give a briefing without all Members in attendance and will send out details via email. **Key dates to note. 21st March 2022, Election posters displayed. Closing date for nominations 5th April 2022. Members can take their nomination papers to SSDC between 9.00am – 5pm weekdays starting on 21.03.22 and 4pm on the closing date, 5th April 2022.**

22/921

Correspondence & Matters for Wednesday 13th April 2022

Any Agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk before Thursday 7th April 2022

Meeting closed 8.36pm

Next Meeting

**Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 13th April 2022
7.30pm Village Hall, West Chinnock**

