

# East Coker Parish Council Meeting

## Minutes – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**629/15 (Agenda Item 1) Completion of Declaration of Acceptance of Office** forms completed and returned to Clerk.

**630/15 (Agenda item 2) Election of Chairman.** Cllr. H. Clarke proposed Cllr. B. Sugg, seconded by Cllr. D.Mead. Cllr. R. Jones proposed Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones. A vote was taken. Cllr. B.Sugg received 4 votes and Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones received 2. Cllr. B. Sugg took the chair as Chairman. Cllr. B. Sugg thanked Mr S. Shayler for 'raising the bar' of the council. Mr S. Shayler then left the meeting.

**631/15 (Agenda item 3) Election of Vice Chairman.** Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones was proposed by Cllr. S. Snelling and seconded by Cllr. R.Jones.

**632/15 (Agenda item 4) Minutes of Parish Council** meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 were proposed by Cllr. Shayler with amendments and alterations from Cllr. K. Wilson. This was seconded and carried by all.

**633/15 (Agenda item 5) Attendees:** Mr S. Shalyer, Cllr. B.Sugg, Cllr. R. Jones, Cllr. J. New, Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones, Cllr. S. Snelling, Cllr. C.Henocq, Cllr. H. Clarke, Cllr. M. Mead, Cllr. D.Mead District Cllr. G.Seaton. **Apologies:** County Cllr. M.Fysh MP.

**634/15 (Agenda item 6) New Parish Council.** Declarations of Interest forms given to new councillors and requested to complete and return to Clerk no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2015.

**635/15 (Agenda item 6a) Declaration of interests.** Cllr. D. Mead and Cllr. B.Sugg planning application 15/01911/FUL (minute 640/15).

**636/15 (Agenda item 6b) Roles and Responsibilities.** A meeting to take place between Cllr. B.Sugg, Clerk and Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones to discuss. Cllr. H.Clarke requested to keep her current role and responsibilities. Cllr. R.Jones asked if we could meet separately regarding planning applications. Cllr. B.Sugg suggested looking through planning applications and if required, then have a separate meeting and site visit.

**637/15 (Agenda item 7) Public Question Time.** Mr B Bennett showed interest in becoming a councillor by co-option. Mr Bennett was advised to email clerk to register his interest. Clerk will advertise the councillor vacancies.

**638/15 (Agenda item 8) County/District Councillors Reports.** District Cllr. G. Seaton informed the councillors that County Cllr. M. Fysh, now MP, is still a County Councillor for six months and was absent due to his requested attendance at Parliament. District Cllr. G. Seaton offered to pass on any information or help with Highways. District Cllr. G.Seaton said she had attended an SSDC presentation on Equalities. She advised councillors that severe fines could be given if we do not follow the new laws, for example, open public places must have a hearing loop. Jo Morgan (Equalities Officer) gave the presentation, "What is now expected from the Council". Clerk to arrange for Jo Morgan to either give a presentation at the next Parish meeting or provide information for councillors to read. District Cllr. G. Seaton mentioned the Village Hall having a defibrillator. The Village Hall Committee are in the process of getting one. Cllr. R.Jones offered to bring one in to demonstrate.

**639/15 (Agenda item 9a) Planning Applications.** 15/01000/OUT – Keyford Update. Mr B. Bennett read out an email he had received from Martyn Sowerbutts, East Coker Preservation Trust, suggesting that Parish Council might like to take professional advice on the EIA for the Keyford planning application. Evidently the lawyers for the Mudford Action Group had found deficiencies in the Mudford planning application EIA. Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones commented that the East Coker Parish Council gave a good response to the planning application and thanked Mr B. Bennett for his efforts in this respect. East Coker Preservation Trust also sent in a submission prepared by a chartered town planner.

There was concern over how fast the Keyford application might be taken to SSDC's Area South Committee for decision. District Cllr. G. Seaton to contact SSDC's planner, Mr S. Fox, over this and to point out to him that there was no Highways Authorities response to the application as yet. The public must be given a chance to respond to the Highways report when completed and received. West Coker had also responded to the application with objections, including on the traffic figures. There was also concern over the views of the SSDC Landscape Officer who was advocating housing south of Plackett Lane on the area currently shown as playing fields on the Masterplan. Archaeological investigations are also to be carried out.

Traffic impact is a main focus for a lot of people in the Parish. Mudford commissioned Richard Buxton & Co, Solicitors, to advise on the Mudford environmental statement. Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones asked if East Coker Parish Council would want to obtain the same sort of advice on the Keyford environmental statement. If members of council agreed, then Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones was happy to source quotations. Cllr. B.Sugg suggested working together with the Preservation Fund. Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones proposed to use a junior barrister; the advice would be obtained on a confidential basis to start with. Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones proposed to get 3 quotations, seconded by Cllr. D.Mead. Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones to organise and meet with Chairman after receipt of said quotations and instruct chosen barrister. Resolved accordingly. The speed at which this planning application is going through is a main concern. Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones suggested we should ask to see the draft section 106 planning agreement, including any revisions or amendments. Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones to advise Clerk who to write to. Cllr. D.Mead asked if there are any new planning officers after the election, District Cllr. G.Seaton responded with yes, and said that unfortunately they did not have all the background knowledge.

**640/15 (Agenda item 9b) Planning Applications.** 15/01911/FULL – Mr and Mrs John Sugg – The erection of a garage/Store. Little Foxholes, Yeovil. Cllr. B.Sugg and Cllr. D.Mead left the room having declared interests. Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones took the chair as Vice-Chair. He said that he couldn't see any issues with the planning application. Highways did not have an objection. Councillors considered the application and plans. Proposed by Cllr. J. New, seconded by Cllr. R. Jones that the Parish Council would raise no objections. Outcome: Council to inform SSDC Planning of no objections. Cllr. B. Sugg and Cllr. D. Mead returned to the meeting.

**641/15 (Agenda item 10a) determinations.** 14/01266/OUT / Appeal APP/R3325/A/14/2224839. Residential development, new vehicular access and associated works (GR 353196/113461) Appeal DISMISSED

**642/15 (Agenda item 10b) determinations.** 15/00459/FUL East Coker Scout Hut. The erection of extensions to existing scout hut and new entrance and external access ramp. The application has been withdrawn.

**642/15 (Agenda item 10c) determinations.** 15/000876/FUL 15/01254/LBC RMR Developments (Coker) Ltd. Applications withdrawn.

**643/15 (Agenda item 11/12) SSDC and SCC correspondence.** None.

**644/15 (Agenda item 13a)** It was agreed that Pauline Gubbins could dispose of an old laptop and printer.

**645/15 (Agenda item 13b) Resolution to change bank signatures.** It was proposed to take Mr S.Shayler and Mr B. Bennett off of the signature list, add Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones, Cllr. M. Mead and Clerk, Gillian MacPherson. Proposed by Cllr. R. Jones and seconded by Cllr. B.Sugg. Resolved accordingly.

**646/15 (Agenda item 13c) Training courses.** It was agreed by all for the East Coker Parish Council to pay for all Councillors to attend a 'Being a Good Councillor' course. Costing £25 each, with every fourth attendee free of charge. It was also agreed Clerk should also attend for reference. Cllr. H.Clarke asked if we could add people, Clerk to advise. All agreed to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 course at Davies Hall. Clerk to arrange.

**647/15 (Agenda item 14a) Items for Report and Discussion.** Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Under the East Coker and South Somerset District Council Neighbourhood Planning Memorandum of Understanding, April 2013, ECPC needs to appoint the Steering Group Coordinator (who has to be a member of ECPC) and approve other Steering Group members. Kath Wilson was acting as coordinator but she is no longer on Council. Another Councillor needs to replace her as Coordinator to act both as the 'lead' member of the Steering Group and the link between the Steering Group and ECPC. Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones is already a member of the Steering Group and he has said that he would be willing to take this role on. Kath Wilson has very kindly agreed to remain a member so that she can continue to share her Neighbourhood Planning expertise and provide continuity. Thanks were noted and given to Kath Wilson. The current members of the Steering Group are therefore: Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones, Cllr. S. Snelling, Kath Wilson, Jo Jones, Barrie Hartley, Anne Hartley, Martyn Sowerbutts, and Sarah Owen. It was proposed by Cllr. D. Mead and seconded by Cllr. S. Snelling that Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones be the Steering Group Coordinator with other members of the Steering Group as noted; resolved accordingly. Cllr. B. Sugg would like to be involved in the discussions. Cllr. N. Whitsun-Jones informed the councillors that they were a long way from finalisation of the Neighbourhood Plan. District Cllr. G.Seaton suggested up to 10

dwelling can now be built without affordable housing. It was suggested that an 'affordable housing statement' should be in the NP.

**648/15 (Agenda item 14b) Tellis Cross.** Mr Timmis to be invited to the next meeting to answer Councillor questions. His email and plans to be circulated to councillors before the meeting, clerk to action.

**649/15 (Agenda item 14c) Pavilion Repairs.** Cllr. B.Sugg suggested a water butt to feed into the new Pre-School garden. Cllr. M. Mead suggested a butt for just one side. It was agreed it was the time to do any repairs. A specification of requirements was taken by Cllr. B.Sugg and she will get 3 written quotations. Cllr. B. Sugg to confirm with Kay Strode (East Coker Pre –School) that a water butt can be used, or useful.

**650/15 (Agenda item 15) Accounts .** Proposed by Cllr. R. Jones, seconded by Cllr. N.Whitsun-Jones. Cllr. D. Mead wanted to confirm Scout Hut lease agreement signature before the Battens cheque is sent.

Accounts	
Office Expenses	£343.41
Office Expenses	£263.66
Office Expenses	£12.12
Office Expenses	£367.21
SALC Affiliation Fees	£454.45
Cllr. S. Shayler	£9.71
LCR Subscription Renewal	£17.00
Notice-It- Ltd (£475)	
West Coker [Parish Council?] paying half	£237.50
P.Phillips & Son	£19,020.00
(Car Park and Playground)	
WJ South West Ltd	£1,410.00
(Car Park Lines /Playground Games)	
SALC Training	£55.00
Battens – Land registry Fees	£120.00
(East Coker Scout Hut – Proposed New Lease)	
KM Dike	£904.18

**650/15 (AOB) Washing line.** The council had received a complaint. It was discussed and agreed that Cllr. B. Sugg to discuss with the landlord.

**651/15 (AOB) Paddock daffodils.** It was agreed that the daffodils should be left for a while to die naturally to improve growth next year. Clerk to email KM Dike to request cutting around them.

**652/15 (AOB) Millennium Stones.** They are looking dirty and the shrubs need renewing. All agreed to spend money on the stone and triangle. Costs to be clarified. Lengths man to cut a hedge around the stone.

**653/15 (AOB) Meeting Seating Arrangement.** It was agreed, going forward, plans should be on a separate table for discussion at the Parish Council Meetings. The tables for the councillors will then be arranged in a conference meeting style.

**654/15 (AOB) Lengths man.** Cllr. H.Clarke asked if the verges down the back lanes could be cut. Cllr. B. Sugg to action.

**655/15 (AOB) First Aid Kits.** Cllr R. Jones to buy a new box. Clerk to check with Cricket club to clarify which boxes they use. Clerk to label bin, fridge and cupboards. Clerk also to provide a label for the 'Hot' water tap to inform users that it is Hot. Clerk to write to users to remind them to take their own rubbish and use their own tea towels. Clerk to request cleaners to clean fridge regularly.

**656/15(AOB) Cricket Club Tree Cutting.** Cricket Club have cut branches around the field. We need to cut the trees on the adjacent field and permission to be obtained from Mr Howard Denning, Westfield Farm to request going on his land to cut tree.

**656/15 (AOB) Redundant Telephone Booth/Box.** Clerk informed councillors that she has been chasing BT collection team regarding the collection of Booth/Box. It was suggested that the electrics and wires showing should be tested for safety. Clerk to arrange and continue to pursue removal of booth/box.

**655/15 (AOB) Thank you letter.** A thank you letter was read out from Pauline Gubbins thanking Councillors for her leaving gift and leaving supper.

**9:20pm Meeting closed.**

**The next meeting is at 7pm 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.**

Gillian Macpherson, Clerk

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