

Minutes 8th July at 7pm

7.03pm Meeting opened.

Attendees: Chairperson B Sugg, Vice Chairperson M. Shepstone, Cllr. M. Beckerleg, Cllr H Cowan, Cllr R Comstive, Cllr S Snelling, Cllr J Bennett, Cllr D Mead, Cllr P Chant, Cllr T Wilkins, Cllr P Hodge, Clerk J. Heggarty. Public Attendance: D Cllr N Clarke, D Cllr G Seaton, and 2 Member of the public. Apologies: None,

Cllr Sugg began by advising that the meeting would be recorded. She then went on to pay tribute to Margaret O'Neill who has sadly past away. In years gone by Margaret was a very active member of the Parish Council and will be missed by the community. A card of condolence has been sent to her family.

19/651 To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. None

19/652 To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda. None

19/653 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council, meeting which was held on the 10th June 2020. **All Agreed**

19/654 Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public **Two**

(2) County / District Councillor's Reports. D Cllr G Seaton commended Cllr N Clarke on her monthly report. Cllr N Clarke advised that there is a full (virtual) council meeting planned for the 16th July at 6pm.

(3) PCSO. Not Present and nothing to report

19/655 The Following Planning Applications where discussed

a 15/01000/OUT Location: Keyford

Cllr Bennett reported that there is nothing new to report. Evidence regarding a potential road safety audit is still being gathered and he is unable to confirm if Yeovil Town Council wish to join with us due to their summer recess".

b 20/ 01563/FUL Location: Land to the rear of 173 West Coker Road, BA202HE

Application: Erection of a detached dwelling.

Cllr Sugg advised that a site visit had been conducted in June. Cllr Mead said that although outline planning for 95 houses had been given next door. This would still be Grade 1 agricultural land and needed to be assessed individually. Cllr Beckerleg said that regardless of next door's application this was still back filling and Cllr Hodge said it went against the NP.

Proposal It was felt that for reasons of consistency (where historically we have stood against back lot development), ECPC are unable to support this application due to the policies against back-land development. (Policy ECH2 for high quality design and ECH3 to take account of the context and character of the surrounding area and policy ECT3 to not cause an adverse impact on the road access where there is restricted access) and the fact that the proposal is on Grade 1 agricultural land within the EC Neighbourhood Plan and those at district and national level which represents just 5% of all agricultural land and therefore needs to be preserved. **Proposed** by Cllr Bennett **Seconded** Cllr Hodge a vote was taken. 1 abstention 2 against and 8 agreed with this proposal.

SSDC Planning Determinations. None

19/656 Memorial Approvals.

1. Placement of a 9" x 6" tablet on an existing grave to remember Ruth Grant was requested. All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to update family.

2. An additional inscription on an existing head stone to remember Muriel Joyce Hill was requested. All Agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update family.

19/657 To receive the Clerk's report

1. Clerk advised that it would be possible for all Councillors to have their own @eastcokerparish email address. Cllr Beckerleg and Cllr Sugg asked if it was possible to have this forwarded through their

current emails as they did not want another log in account: It was agreed that the clerk would find this information out and report back next month. **Action:** Clerk to contact Web master and find out if forwarding is possible and chase compliance quote.

2. Clerk reported that the football pitch maintenance should be finished on Friday 10th July and Lychgate should have the repairs completed by the end of July.

3. Clerk reported that the Pop-up Friday market appeared to be very popular with the community. Cllr Hodge asked how long it would continue for and Clerk advised that as long as it was well attended it would continue to run. It may possibly stop through the winter months but at the moment this is unknown. Cllr Sugg thanked the Clerk for organizing.

19/658 To receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC

1. Email was received re recommendations on the role of Parish Councils in the event of Local Government Re-organisation. This was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Shepstone said that we needed to take note that all four District Councils opposed this and it was unclear at present if Coker Ward would remain should this go ahead. Cllr Snelling advised that she had put together a list of questions which she felt needed answering. It was decided that Cllr Snelling and Clerk would write an email listing these questions. Once this is complete it will be sent to all Councillors for their approval and anything they wish to have added and once complete sent out.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Snelling to write letter and distribute to all Councillors for approval. **All Agreed.**

2. Email was received from SSDC containing Government Guidelines and a risk assessment for the opening up of playgrounds. Cllr Shepstone advised that he had carried out a risk assessment which referred to all the current government guidelines and he felt, due to the demographic of people who visited the play park, it should remain closed. He also advised that there was no way to follow the cleaning guidelines. A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to print signs explaining why ECPC have come to this decision and place at the park, and also put on the web site.

19/659 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence

1. An email was received from a concerned resident regarding Wessex Water plans for Sutton Bingham redevelopment. Cllr Beckerleg advised that he attended the drop-in meeting which was held on Saturday 4th July. He said that there was much opposition from local residents, to Wessex Water plans to upgrade the parking/picnic and play area and walks. The two main concerns were antisocial behaviour and disturbing wildlife. Originally WW were looking at not locking this area at night once it had been completed, but this has now been changed and it will continue to be locked once completed.

It was felt by ECPC that WW plans would encourage tourism, which would be a positive thing.

Proposal: Cllr Shepstone proposed that ECPC did not want to inhibit the plans but would monitor developments. A vote was taken and all agreed.

2. Clerk advised that an email had been received from the "Save the Forrester's Arms Group". asking ECP to write and support the application for a new license to be granted, but this would need to be done before the 7th July. Clerk advised that she had responded to the email advising this would not be possible due to PC meeting happening after comments deadline.

3. An email was received regarding the large pine tree on the green between Long Furlong Lane and Mill Close. The author felt it was unsightly and possibly dangerous if it was to fall. Clerk sent content of email to the PC Tree Wardens, Cllr Bennett and Cllr Comstive prior to meeting so they could visit and report back to council.

Cllr Comstive advised that the tree was big but looked in good health and, in his opinion, if it was to fall, due to prevailing wind it would fall away from any properties. He suggested that the Arborist should be requested to visit and give his casting judgement. Cllr Bennett agreed with this and said he would draft a letter to arborist. **Action:** Cllr Bennett to draft letter to Arborist and clerk will send. Clerk to update author of email with PC comments.

19/660 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. Quote has been obtained from Flaydermouse for the printing of Discover East Coker leaflet. For 500 it will cost £650.00. We will order 250 now then another 250 in the future.

2. Walking maps were also discussed. Cllr Chant, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Cowan Cllr Comstive and Cllr Sugg all reported that they were fairly accurate. There are some areas which need to be cut back but Cllr Sugg will organise this with the Ranger. There is reference to the Post Office which will be changed to the Old Post Office and some signs will need to be replaced.

Cllr Sugg advised the finger posts which are routed out are no longer supplied by SCC as they cost between £150 to £200 per sign. Instead plain posts are supplied by SCC. It was agreed that Cllr Sugg would get quote for routed signs. Plain posts could be used in others. Plain posts will be delivered to Cllr Mead for safe keeping and erected by the Ranger as and when they are needed. With regard to the finger posts, it was decided that once quote came in the number which would be replaced on a yearly basis would be confirmed. A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action** Cllr Sugg to request delivery of plain post and get quotes for finger posts.

Two of the maps start at the Helyar Arms which would probably encourage walkers to use the car park. It was suggested that we contact landlord and confirm that he is happy with this and if not then we would have to re write the maps to start at the village hall. All Agreed.

Action: Clerk to Email landlord of Helyar Arms.

3. Since lock down the bus shelter has been used as a unofficial book swap. Now lock down is easing it was suggested that it may be a nice idea to make this more of a permanent thing, and have a couple of perspex and wood cases installed to house the books rather than just being left in boxes. A quote for this has already been obtained but is over £500 so another 2 will be obtained and brought back to Council. Both Cllr Wilkins and Cllr Hodge shared concern over keeping it tidy and Cllr Sugg advised that the Ranger always sweeps it out and if need be could possibly tidy books. Cllr Snelling also said that she would ask someone who she knows who is very interested in the book swap if they would be willing to look after it. All Agreed. **Action:** Cllr Snelling to contact Parishioner to find out if they would be willing to look after book swap and Clerk to obtain 2 more quotes for the relevant book shelves.

Cemetery Plots

4. Village Drains: Cllr Sugg and Cllr Mead met SCC on 2nd July to look at and jet for the second time the drains at Burton and King Spring Lane. Unfortunately, SCC were not able to jet again but instead rodded them. However the water just filled up again so it was decided that an extra drain between King Spring and Burton would be installed. Cllr Sugg advised that they say this should hopefully be done over the coming months. Clerk suggested that jetting was done every year in October, November time once leaves had finished falling and that she had obtained a quote for a daily rate of jetting by a private company which is £780 plus vat for jet and a further £780 for water tanker. This would total around £1,560 plus vat per day. Cllr Mead advised that if company was happy, he could possibly provide the water for flushing so a tank may not be needed. A vote was taken and all agreed that this would be a good idea. **Action:** Clerk to obtain 2 further quotes and find out if it is possible to use Cllr Mead's water bowser for flushing to keep costs down. Clerk to add this cost next year's budget.

19/661 Discuss Working Groups

1. Cllr Chant reported that The Pavilion modernisation group had a very successful meeting this month, and thanked all members. They have now got all quotes in and have arranged to meet one of the companies to discuss the plans on site. This will take place on 10th July. Cllr Hodge request that SSDC was contact to find out the procedure for withdrawing 106 monies which have been allocated to ECPC. A vote was taken an all agreed **Action:** Clerk to contact SSDC.

2. The Chapel: Clerk sent a questionnaire around to all Councillors prior to the meeting to find out how they would like to take this project forward as things are not progressing and no plan has been agreed on over the past year. Cllr Hodge suggested that it would be a good idea to start again. Cllr Snelling offered to write a new brief. Cllr Mead and Cllr Shepstone voiced concern about proceeding with the project due to other PC financial commitments.

Proposal: Cllr Sugg proposed that Cllr Snelling write a new brief and bring it to the next PC meeting. All Agreed. **Action:** Cllr Snelling to write new brief.

3. Future Finance: Clerk advised that a meeting had been arranged for the 13th July. She advised that Cllr Hodge has organised for a gentleman who was willing to undertake an internal audit and he will also attend.

4. Cemetery improvement. See 19/665

8.43pm Members of the public were requested to leave meeting for this item.

8.49 pm Members of the public were invited back into meeting

19/662 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr M Shepstone had nothing to report.

Alms Houses – Chairman B. Sugg had nothing to report.

Primary School – Cllr. R Comstive advised that he and Cllr Snelling had update the School Head that the Food Bank was still being run through the summer holidays by the village café, and she has agreed to circulate this information with the school community.

19/663 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve. Cllr Mead advised that he will be cutting the hedges where poor visibility is an issue, but will not be doing Long Furlong Lane until September. Cllr Shepstone advised of uneven ground and pot holes at the Halves Lane, Mill Close junction and Cllr Wilkins advised of a drain sinking in between Tellis Cross and North Coker Park on the left-hand side as you enter the village. **Action:** Clerk to report to Highways

19/664 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger. Cllr Sugg will speak to Ranger regarding the information which has been fed back from people following the walking maps.

19/665 Resolution to exclude the public (None PC Members)

Cemetery Improvements.

19/666 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 12th August 2020.

The Chapel brief.

19/665 Finance

To approve the following items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers.

Description	Amount Inc VAT	
VAT		
Previous Balance	£78,987.30	
Funds as of 30 June 2020	£78,313.16	
Monies in June2020		
Cemetery	£384.40	
HMRC	£1,666.60	
ECP Electricity contribution	£182.29	
Total	£2,233.29	
Paid Out in June		
Clerk wage, office, phone and broadband, stationary	£739.86	
Chalmers (yearly PAYE)	£372.00	£62.00
Claire's Cleaning	£45.00	
SALC Clerk Training	£25.00	
KM Dike	£994.26	
£165.71		
SLCC Membership	£126.00	
East Coker Scout Grant	£500.00	
Stationary	£27.62	£4.60
Adhesive for notice board	£17.69	£1.96
Amazon Vouchers for Scarecrow Comp	£60.00	
Total	£2,907.43	
June invoices Awaiting payment		
Back Pay and Current year bus shelter rent	£125.00	

Triangle Compost and plants	£85.97
Clerk wage, office, phone and broadband + Stationary	£735.49
Claire's Cleaning	£45.00
KM Dike	£922.26
£153.71	
J Mead and Sons (Verge Cutting)	£780.00
£130.00	
Total	£2,693.72
Balance Carried Forward	£75,619.44
Please note above finances are subject to change due to invoice arrival times.	
Balance in Projects Account	£29,910.00

Minutes were emailed to all Councillors and agreed as a true account. They will be signed when ECPC are able to meet again in person.

Meeting ended 9.03pm