

Minutes 9th September 2020 7pm

7.00pm Meeting opened.

Attendees: Chairperson B Sugg, Vice Chairperson M. Shepstone, Cllr. M. Beckerleg, Cllr H Cowan, Cllr R Comstive, Cllr J Bennett, Cllr P Chant, Cllr T Wilkins, Cllr S Snelling, Clerk J. Heggarty. Public Attendance: D Cllr G Seaton, D Cllr N Clarke, C Cllr M Keating 1 x member of the public

7.00 Cllr Sugg welcomed everyone and advised that the meeting would be recorded
19/670 To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. Cllr P Hodge and Cllr D Mead. Reasons have been noted.

19/671 To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda. Councillor Sugg advised that she would be touching on the application 20/02304/REM which arrived after agenda was published. However there would be no observations or decisions made. She advised that she wanted to declare an interest and D Cllr Seaton did the same.

19/672 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council, meeting which was held on the August 12th 2020. **All Agreed**

19/673 Public Question Time

Members of the Public. One member of the public spoke on item 19/696.1 He said he felt the tree was unsightly and that it was coming over his boundary and starting to cause cracking of the pavement. Also, there was a lot of Pigeon poo underneath. He said that the general consensus of the neighbours was it should either be cut down and replaced with something smaller or pruned hard back.

19/696.1 Councillor Sugg brought this agenda item forward. She advised that ECPC do not own that land which the tree is on. She advised that we had had the Arborist complete a report and was happy that the tree was healthy and of good shape and he did not think anything needed to be done. Cllr Bennett advised that because it is an evergreen it softens the impact of any housing. He also said that it was in a conservation area so it would be very difficult for anything to be done to it and he was struggling to find any reason to go against the arborist report. Cllr Snelling advised that she had been around to the parishioner's house and was shocked to see how much light this tree blocked and said it looked terrible. Cllr Comstive agreed with Cllr Bennett comments. Cllr Shepstone suggested that we contacted the arborist again and advise that there had been further complaints and invite another visit but this time with access to the parishioner's garden. Parishioner agreed that he was happy to have his email address forwarded to arborist, and it was suggested that he should also contact the arborist directly with his concerns. **Action:** Clerk to email arborist.

County and District Councillors. Reports

19.09 C.Cllr Mark Keating joined meeting and member of the public left.

C Cllr delivered his report and advised that he was in full support of "One Somerset" and if anyone had any questions, he would be happy to answer them. Cllr Shepstone said that he felt that before the PC can move forward, we would need to have a presentation from the district council so we can then make an informed opinion rather than a one sided one.

County / District Councillor's Reports

19.31 C Cllr M Keating left meeting

Cllr N Clarke delivered her report and advised that she would be happy to do a presentation on a Stronger Somerset, she also advised that the application for changes to the car park at Sutton Bingham had been withdrawn for the time being.

Cllr Seaton delivered her report and commended everyone in the Coker Ward for their response to Covid 19. She said that the community help and spirit was amazing.

19/674 Planning

a **15/01000/OUT** Location: Keyford

Cllr Bennett advised that there was nothing further to report at this time.

b **19/02298/HOU** Location: Waterfalls, East Coker, BA22 9NJ. Concern of ongoing works. Cllr Sugg advised that the Clerk had had a call from an anonymous person who said that they were very concerned about tree felling and building works which are being undertaken at the location. D Cllr Seaton said that she was also aware of concerns and it will be monitored. Action: Situation will be monitored.

7.42 Cllr Sugg asked Cllr Comstive and Cllr Bennett if they had had a chance to look at the below application and then she and D Cllr Seaton left meeting and Cllr Shepstone took over.

c **20/02304/REM:** Location: White Post Garage. Cllr Shepstone advised that there would be no decision made at this meeting, but wanted all Cllr to be mindful of this application and that he thought an extraordinary meeting and a site meeting would need to be booked in as the application has got to be responded to by the 29th September. The clerk has requested an extension but as yet has not had a response. All Agreed that there needs to be a site visit. **Action:** Clerk to arrange site visit and email Councillors, and if extension is not granted organise an extraordinary meeting.

7.46 Cllr Sugg and D Cllr Seaton return to meeting
SSDC – Planning Determinations – For your information.

19/692 Memorial Approvals. None

19/693 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. Maintenance of Path through the Paddock was discussed as it was felt that the path needed to be renewed. The path is currently cobbled and Cllr Comstive was asked to investigate contractors who would be able to undertake the job in a traditional and sympathetic manor. **Action:** Cllr Comstive to find suitable contractors and update the Clerk.

2. Maintenance of Path at the Chapel was talked about and it was felt that this need attention. However it is a gravel pathway so the Clerk will get 3 quotes from contractors and report back to the PC. **Action:** Clerk to obtain quotes.

19/694 To receive the Clerk's report

Clerk advised that the lychgate painting quote of £1,375 had come in from KM Dikes. Councillors agreed as KM Dike had already undertaken half this job to a very good standard that there was no need to get any further quotes and instruct KM Dike to proceed. They had also sent a quote for a door closer to be fitted to the Chapel door which was £140.00. This was thought to also be a fair price. Action: Clerk to instruct KM Dike to proceed with works as per both quotes.

7.55 D Cllr Seaton left meeting

19/695 To receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC

1. Email received from SSDC re Stronger Somerset. Stronger Somerset was discussed and it was decided that Cllr Shepstone and Cllr Cowan would attend the Zoom meeting at the end of the month to gather more information from the District Council perspective and report back at next meeting.

Action: Clerk to email meeting dates again, to Cllr Cowan and Cllr Shepstone so that they can chose which date they wish to attend the meeting.

2. Email received regarding proposed series of changes to the Planning system. Email was circulated prior to the meeting to all Councillors. Cllr Bennett requested more time to look at the email and said that he would contact everybody if he felt anything in the document need to be questioned.

3. Cllr Sugg advised an email had been received from SALC regarding pay increase and that the clerks wage would increase to £14.05 per hour but would be back dated to April 2020.

19/696 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence

1. Fir tree at junction of Mill Close and Long Furlong Lane. (See 19/673)

2. Thank you letter regarding the Cemetery. Clerk circulated a letter from a gentleman, prior to the meeting to say a big thank you to the PC for giving internment permission.

3. Phone call and email received from resident about the dumping of bags of dog poo in his hedge. This was discussed and it was decided that signage would be displayed and stickers would be put on bins in the area. **Action:** Clerk to contact SSDC and request signage and stickers.

8.05 Cllr S Snelling left meeting

19/697 Discuss Working Groups

1. The Pavilion Modernisation. Cllr Chant advised that final quotes had not been received but he had chased them, and hoped to have working group meeting before the next PC meeting.
2. The Chapel. Nothing to report at present.
3. Future Finance: Nothing to report..
4. Cemetery improvement update: Clerk Reported that another letter had been hand delivered to the owner of the land which surrounds the cemetery, but a response has not arrived yet..

19/698 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr M Shepstone: Cllr Shepstone reported that the AGM would be held via email and phone. He also advised that he had requested that the cast metal sign from the village hall be removed and used to replace the one which was stolen from the bottom of Lodge Hill. He has advised the Village Hall Committee that the PC will pay for any decoration to the wall once the sign is removed. He awaits their response.

Alms Houses – Chairman B. Sugg Nothing to report

Primary School – Cllr. R Comstive Primary School: Cllr Comstive reported that the school had gone back and they were staggering the drop offs and the collections

19/699 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve. None

19/700 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger None

19/701 To discuss and resolve the following topics;

Resolution sought to exclude the public (*Non Parish Council Members*)

19/702 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 14th October 2020 .

Village Sign

Fly tipping on Placket Lane.

19/703 Cllr Sugg advised, that it was with great sadness that she wished to inform all Councillors that Cllr Hopkins would not be returning to the parish Council due to family commitments. She said that she was a wonderful Councillor and would be very much missed.

19/704 Finance

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

Description

Amount Inc VAT

VAT

Previous Balance

£75,723.85

Funds as of 31st August 2020

£73,581.70

Monies in August 2020

Cemetery

£494.19

HMRC

£766.04

Total

£1260.23

Paid Out in August

C & R Fabrications (repair of the Cricket nets)

£432.00

£72.00

Clerk wage, office, phone and broadband + Stationary

£727.50

Claire's Cleaning

£45.00

KM Dike

£958.26

£159.71

KM Dike Lychgate Repairs

£500.00

£100.00

Replacement Defib pads

£42.00

£7.00

Playground Annual Inspection

£66.00

£11.00

SSDC Burton Drains

£48.60

£8.10

CCM Electricals (Lights at Pavilion)

£405.12

£67.52

Bookers (cleaning products and Signs for the Pavilion)

£77.90

£12.98

Total	£3,402.38
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Invoices Awaiting Payment

SALC and NALC Affiliation Fees	£491.35
Clerk 57quarter hours / Costs	£825.74
Stationary	£62.72
P. Hodge (Sundries)	£67.00
Claire's Cleaning	£75.00
KM Dike monthly maintenance	£958.26
£159.71	
KM Dike Football pitch maintenance	£1248.00
£208.00	
EDF Energy	£237.05
J A Stewart Tree Surgery (Pavilion)	£540.00
£90.00	
Total	£4,505.12

Balance Carried Forward	£69,076.58
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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 20.22