

East Coker Parish Council 10th March 2021 Minutes

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, Cllr S Bridgford-Whittick, Cllr L Mills, Clerk J. Heggarty. Public Attendance: D Cllr G Seaton, and D Cllr N Clarke Member of the public 3.

Meeting commenced at 7.01pm

Cllr Sugg began by advising everyone that the meeting would be recorded.

21/037 To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. None

21/038 To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda. Cllr Sugg and Cllr Mead declared and interest on item 21/00138.C

21/039 receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council, meeting which was held on the 10th February 2021. All Agreed.

21/040 Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

1 member of the public spoke in support for application 21/00138/FUL

1 member of the public spoke and objected to application 21/00468/HOU and advised that an objection letter had been submitted to SSDC. They also advised that the same objection letter had been forwarded to the Clerk. Clerk confirmed that this document had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

(2) Both Cllr Seaton and Cllr Clarke delivered their reports. Also dates of the Area South Committee Meetings were on Wednesday 31st March. Nothing in April but another one will be on Wednesday 12th May.

(3) PCSO was not in attendance.

21/041 To discuss and make observations on SSDC - Planning Applications

A 15/01000/OUT Location: Keyford. Cllr Bennett advised that the traffic report is currently delayed.

B 21/00397/HOU Location: Tree Tops, Burton Lane, BA22 9LJ **Application:** Construction of single storey garden room. This application was discussed but Councillors had no objections or observations to make. **Proposal:** ECPC have no objections or observations to make. **Proposed:** Cllr L Mills **Seconded:** Cllr S Snelling A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to email planning. 7.18 Cllr Mead and Cllr Sugg Stood down and Vice Chairman Shepstone took over meeting.

C 21/00138/FUL Location: Park Lodge, Lodge Hill, BA22 9JB. **Application:** Alterations and erection of a two storey extension and cladding of and the existing extension. Cllr Hodge noted that the applicant has complied with the ECPCNP policies. Cllr Snelling and Cllr Comstive agreed that this application would greatly benefit the look of the property. Cllr Shepstone asked that as per ECPC environmental policy was adhered to and that car charging points are installed. **Proposal:** Providing the applicant adheres to ECPC Environmental policy re installation of electric car charging points, the PC have no objection to this application and fully support it.

Proposed: Cllr Snelling **Seconded** Cllr Bridgford-Whittick. A vote was taken 11 in favour and 2 declarations of interest. **Action:** Clerk to email Planning Office

7.23 Cllr Sugg stepped back in as chairperson. 2 Members of the public left meeting.

D 21/00468/Hou Location: 1 Burton Cross Cottage, Higher Burton Road, BA22 9LY **Application:** Erection of a two-storey side extension. Application was discussed, Clerk circulated an objection email prior to the meeting regarding size of window and overlooking. Cllr Sugg advised that a site visit from the road had been done. Cllr Mills acknowledged the member of the publics objections but said that she thought that there would be more impact on the properties to the rear of the proposed development rather than to the front, were there was road, pavement and garden. Cllr Snelling said that from looking at the proposed plans it all looks "very jammed in". Cllr Cowan agreed with the

member of the public's objection regarding the size of the window and thinks that this should be a consideration. Cllr Comstive said that the plot ratio looked acceptable and that the fact that there are 2 off road parking spaces would be an advantage. **Proposal:** The PC have no objection to this application providing the applicant adheres to ECPC Environmental policy re instalation of electric car charging points. We would ask that the District Planning Officer also consults with the applicant on the size of the kitchen window. **Proposed:** Cllr Mills **Seconded:** Cllr D Mead. A vote was taken, 11 in favour and 2 abstentions. **Action:** Clerk to email planning.

21/042 Memorial Approvals. None

21/043 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. The possibility of PC accepting footpath Y9/4 (Waterfalls) as a gift from landowner was discussed, but it was felt that the costs of transferring the title deeds and also the ongoing maintenance charges would not be of benefit to the Parish. **Proposal:** ECPC do not wish to accept this pathway as a gift. **Proposed** Cllr Mead **Seconded** Cllr Mills A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to send owner an email to decline offer.

7.40 Cllr Clarke left meeting.

2. Discuss possible Village litter Pick. Cllr Sugg Proposed that bin bag loops, rubbish pickers and viz vest were purchased and an article written in the Society Newsletter advising people that they are available for use if anyone wants to litter pick in the Parish. Cllr Chant said that Plackett Lane was particularly bad at the moment.

7.58 Cllr Seaton left meeting.

3. Discuss and agree updated Standing Orders. Standing orders were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodge and Cllr Beckerleg said there were a few areas that brackets had not been filled in. **Proposal:** Cllr Shepstone proposed that Standing Order are formally adopted as of the 10th March 2021 in relation to Zoom meetings and himself Clerk and Cllr Sugg will go through document again and bring it back to the April meeting. A Vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to arrange meeting with Cllr Shepstone and Cllr Sugg

4. Fly the Flag for Somerset which takes place 8th & 9th of May. This was discussed and it was decided 2 flags would be purchased and put on the bus shelter on the above dates. **Action:** Clerk to order flags.

5. Village signs. Cllr Comstive advised that the replica road sign had now been swapped with the original cast sign which hangs in the village hall. Cllr Sugg advised all the village signs had been tampered with and that they had been taken down until they can be properly secure. The Ranger has volunteered to paint them whilst they are down. The Cockrel on top of the Holywell sign had also been stolen. Cllr Sugg had been in contact and got quotes for all village signs to be replaced in a ham stone surround, they would then be concreted into the ground. Each sign would cost £830.00 + VAT to supply and fit but as it is so specialist Cllr Sugg was only able to get this quote. Cllr Cowan questioned having to buy 4 signs and said that he felt that their current location on Yeovil Road and at Burton was unnecessary and confused people. He suggested that one could be put by the Cemetery and the other at Coker Marsh, this would save money. Cllr Shepstone said that there are 4 roads which lead into East Coker Parish and that the that location of the current signs is correct for the Parish.

Cllr Mead suggested was it is possible to get another quote. Cllr Mills advised that she would be happy to investigate other companies which would provide ham surrounds and forward information to the Clerk. Cllr Bennett said that there may be an issue with highways in regards to putting large pieces of ham stone at the side of the road. Cllr Sugg said that she will contact highways and discuss this further. Cllr Snelling asked if the price included the possibility of any added wording, maybe about TS Elliot. Cllr said that this would have to be something that would be added at a later date, Cllr Comstive suggested that the cost of that could be fund raiser for. **Action:** Cllr Sugg to speak to highways, Cllr Mills to try and obtain another quote.

6. Friday Market Sign for Recreation Ground. Quote of £90.00 + VAT had been obtained for a sign to be produced and put up at the recreation ground to advise people about the Friday market. A vote was taken and all agreed.

7. Paddock Pathway. Cllr Comstive is still waiting for the quotes to come in, for the cheapest option and the middle option.

8. EC Pre School Fees were discussed and it was decided that rent would be charged again from the 1st April 2021. A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to email school.

21/044 To receive the Clerk's report

1. Air Ambulance Village Landing Sites were discussed and Cllr Cowan is going to investigate these further and report back at the April meeting.

2. White Post Garage rubbish update. Clerk advised that Cllr Sugg had spoken to the manager at M & S and given him 2 weeks to organise clean up. Rubbish remained very bad so Clerk contact Environmental Health. EH advised it was private land and there was no evidence that rubbish was from M & S or the Car Sale Lot, as it could have been dropped or blown there. However, EH agreed to contact both M & S and the Car Sales and advise complaints had been made.

3. Cemetery Land. No further update at present.

4. Unsightly Paddock beside Footpath Y9/28 Moor Lane. EH have been contacted but are not able to enforce clean up as it is private land. Range has cleared up outside the gate which is on the footpath.

21/045 To receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC

21/046 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence

1. Complaint received about motorbikes being ridden in the car park at the recreation ground and request to lock car park at night and a request for a 20mph speed limit to be introduced in the village. Clerk advised no other complaints had been made in regards to motorbikes at the recreation ground. Cllr Shepstone advised that it was Highways that set the speed limits no more than 2 years ago so these could not be revisited for at least 5 years. All Cllr agreed that the car park should be left open at night. **Action:** Clerk to advise parishioner.
2. Thank you email received from Scout group.
3. Parishioner contacted Cllr Cowen and asked for a dog waste bin to be put in the paddock. Cllr Sugg said that she thought that putting a dog waste bin in the paddock would not be a good idea as it would be close to houses, and would smell in the summer and also when the bin is full people tend to just pile their bags on the floor rather than taking them home. Cllr Cowen to update parishioner.
4. Email received regarding Ground Maintenance. Clerk advised that she had put the ground maintenance out to tender and would move this item onto next month's agenda once all tenders are back.

21/047 Discuss Working Groups

1. The Pavilion Modernisation. Cllr Chant advised that the working group had met again to discuss plans further and a date was made of 17th March to discuss plans with all council members.
2. Future Finance. Clerk's Pension was discussed. Cllr Hodge had concerns that the LGPS would be very expensive but she was going to investigate further. She said she felt that this needed to be organised before the April meeting, so she will report her finding on the 17th March.

21/048 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr M Shepstone

Alms Houses – Chairman B. Sugg

Primary School – Cllr. R Comstive

Health and Wellbeing- S Snelling gave a short presentation on the well being of our community.

She would like to set up a volunteer scheme, of local people who would be happy to make phone calls to parishioner's who are suffering from loneliness. She advised that she attended a SPARKS meeting and would be happy to help her to set up the group and she would probably look at about 10 volunteers. She requested a budget of £500 but said that this would probably not be needed but it would be helpful if it was available so she did not have to wait for a PC meeting to access funds. Cllr Shepstone asked how the cost of group members being CRB checks would be borne. Cllr Snelling said that she didn't think CRB checks were necessary for talking to people on the phone, but said she would speak to Sparks and find out. Cllr Sugg asked why does this need to be under the Parish Council umbrella? Cllr Snelling advised that she could set up the group on her own, but would prefer

the backing of the Parish Council. Cllr Hodge asked if this was agreed would the PC be exposing themselves to risk. Cllr Snelling said that according to Sparks there are no risks. Cllr Mead is concerned that giving advice to people, possibly with mental health problems was a very difficult thing to do and said it should be done by a qualified person. Cllr Cowen said that he thought it was a wonderful idea. Cllr Shepstone suggested that Sandra got a Sparks representative to speak at the next PC meeting and get a bit more information together.

21/049 Highways Issues and resolve.

21/050 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger. Style opposite gate house on Yeovil Road needs fixing. Ranger will be instructed.

21/051 To discuss and resolve the following topics;

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

21/052 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 14th April 2021.

21/053 Finance

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

Description	Amount Inc VAT
Previous Balance	£26,889.41
Funds as of 28 th February 2021	£23,043.73

Monies Paid to ECPC in February **£0.00**

Paid Out in February 2021

KM Dike	£922.26
Claire's Cleaning	£125.00
Salc (Councillor Training)	£50.00
Clerk Wage/ Overtime/ office/broadband/ Amazon reimbursement	£989.42
Design on Iron (Scout hut gutter protection)	£920.00
CCM (instillation and removal of Christmas tree lights)	£300.00
S Snelling (Poetry comp Prize and stationery)	£39.00
Grant Payment	£500.00
Total	£3,845.68

To be Paid in March

Water to Business (Pavilion)	£119.42
Ranger Scheme (July, Aug, Sept 2020)	£2,164.50
Ranger Scheme (Oct, Nov, Dec 2020)	£1,831.50
Clair's Cleaning	£100.00
KM Dike	£922.26
Clerk Wage/ office/broadband/ Stationary	£807.64
South West Signs	£270.00
CCM (Pat Test)	£96.00
Electricity Bill	£1,004.10
Yearly Xero Charges	£161.28
Total	£7,578.16
Balance Carried Forward	£15,465.57

Projects Account Balance £59,910.00

Proposed: Cllr Shepstone

Seconded:

Meeting finished at: 9.39pm