

## East Coker Parish Council 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Minutes

**Attendees:** Chairperson B Sugg, Cllr. M. Beckerleg, Cllr H Cowan, Cllr S Snelling, Cllr J Bennett, Cllr D Mead, Cllr P Chant, Cllr T Wilkins, Cllr S Bridgford-Whittick, Cllr L Mills, Clerk J. Heggarty. Public Attendance: D Cllr G Seaton, and 12 members of the public 12

Meeting commenced at 7.01pm

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

**21/054** To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. Cllr R Comstive, Cllr P Hodge, D Cllr N Clarke

**21/055** To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda. Cllr J Bennett declared an interest on agenda item 21/00679/HOU

**21/056** receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council, meeting which was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. All Agreed.

### **21/057 Public Question Time**

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

Spark's representative spoke briefly about the support they offer in the community and what the Parish Council can do to help loneliness.

7.13pm member of the public left

Wessex Internet delivered a short presentation about the installation of fibre broadband.

In the village. Work will begin in August 2021 and connection should take place in January 2022. More information can be found at

<https://www.wessexinternet.com/connecting-devon-and-somerset/>

7.23pm Member of the public left

1 member of the public spoke in support of agenda item 21/00679/HOU.

3 members of the public spoke against agenda item 21/00246/OUT

1 member of the public spoke in favour of item 21/00246/OUT

1 Member of the public spoke in favour of agenda item 21/060.4

1 member of the public asked for ECPC support in speaking to land owner on agenda item 21/063.1

#### **(2) County / District Councillors. Cllr Seaton delivered her report.**

#### **(3) PCSO was not in attendance.**

### **21/058 Planning Applications**

**A 15/01000/OUT Location:** Keyford Cllr Bennett emailed a draft copy of a letter concerning the proposed changes to the road layout on Hendford Hill. He advised this letter also needed to be agreed with Barwick and Stoford PC at their next meeting, and then would be sent. 8 ECPC councillors agreed with content of the letter with 1 abstention as Cllr had not read document.

**B 20/03687/HOU Location:** Hunts House, Holywell, East Coker. **Application:** Erection of a two-storey extension at the rear, to include a balcony. This item was discussed and there were no observations to make. **Proposal:** ECPC, are happy support this application.

**Proposed:** Cllr J Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr L Mills. A vote was taken and all agreed.

**Action:** Clerk to email SSDC Planning.

**C 21/00679/HOU Location:** 32 Nash Lane East Coker Yeovil BA20 2HY **Application:** Demolition of Existing Detached Garage & Conservatory. Removal of Existing Bungalow Roof. Erection of New Roof to Create First Floor Accommodation, Rear Extension and Porch Extension with Internal Alterations.

Cllr Sugg advised that Councillors had visited the site (land side). It was felt that the existing bungalow was in need of improvement and that the submitted application, was in keeping with the local area.

7.54 1 member of the public left

**Proposal:** ECPC are happy to support this application, as it is in keeping with local area. A vote was taken 8 agreed with 1 abstention. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mills **Action:** Clerk to email SSDC Planning.

**D 21/00246/OUT Location:** 19 Helena Road, East Coker, BA20 2HQ **Application:** Outline application to construct a single storey dwelling/ bungalow to the rear of existing property with retention of existing drive and creation of 2 new parking spaces. Cllr Sugg advised that there had been a site visit and said it felt that this application would be a direct form of backfill which is not found in the area and so would have a negative effect upon the character and the appearance of the area. Cllr Bennett was also concerned about the living conditions of occupants of the adjacent dwellings with particular regard to outlook, noise and disturbance. **Proposal:** ECPC object to this planning application on the basis that this is clearly backfill and also concerns over disturbance, outlook and noise to adjacent dwellings. **Proposed:** Cllr L Mills **Seconded:** Cllr Bridgford-Whittick A Vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update planning.

8.04 4 members of the public left

#### **21/059 Memorial Approvals.**

1. Permission was sought to add an additional inscription a headstone to remember Mrs A Howe. **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Snelling. A vote was taken an all agreed.
2. **21/060 Matters for discussion and resolution:**
  1. Grants Information sheet amendments were sent out to councillors prior to the meeting and these were all agreed.
  2. Standing orders were moved onto the May meeting.
  3. "Parish Online" was discussed. Link had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Cowen, advised that he attended a tutorial on the "Parish Online System" and said that he thought it would be a very useful tool especially for gathering information about planning and TPO's. Annual membership for full access is £120.00 + VAT per annum. **Proposal:** Subscribe to Parish Online. **Proposed:** Cllr Bridgford- Whittick **Seconded:** Cllr S Snelling **Action:** Clerk to set up membership.
  4. Grant application for £500.00 was submitted by OSR for the "Od Arts Festival" which will be held in the village at the end of May. Cllr Mead asked if the Od Arts Festival "Alone With Everybody" artwork was ever sold. Member of the public advised that this was very unusual. Cllr Cowan asked how the grant money will be spent. Member of the public said that it would be used for a range of things, such as workshops for local people and advertising. **Proposal:** ECPC are happy to award this grant. **Proposed** Cllr T Wilkins. **Seconded:** S Snelling. A vote was taken 8 in favour and 1 abstention. **Action:** Clerk to arrange payment.
- 8.12pm 1 member of the public was excluded for disrupting the meeting and speaking over the Chairperson
5. Return of in person meetings was discussed and it was decided that providing nothing changes with Covid 19, the first in person meeting would take place at the Village Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. **Proposed:** Cllr M Beckerleg **Seconded:** Cllr Snelling. **Action:** Cllr Sugg to speak to Village Hall booking Clerk to book hall for June and July meetings.
6. Village Litter Pick was discussed. Cllr Snelling said that it was "Keep Britain Tidy" weekend on the 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> May and asked if the PC wanted to get involved. Cllr Sugg suggested that because it was the bank holiday weekend a lot of people may be away, however thought that it was a good idea. **Proposal:** Investigate further and see if there are flyers/ posters available and put this on the May agenda. **Action:** Cllr Snelling to investigate further and bring details to May meeting.
7. Possibility of purchasing Remembrance Soldiers for the village was discussed but it was felt the costs of purchasing the soldiers is quite high, so this should go on to next year's budget. **Action:** Clerk to make note for Precept meeting
8. The placing of the 4 village signs into ham stone was discussed again. 2 prices were obtained with different wording. The one that all Councillors felt was better was £1,571.00 + Vat each.

This includes engraving T S Elliot'S "In my beginning is my end" Cllr Sugg advised that the "East Coker Society" had agreed to pay for one stone and she would be happy to ask different village businesses to see if they would like to make a financial contribution. However, if they do not want to, the PC would purchase them. Cllr Bennett, also said that there would be a license which would need to be obtained in order to place them at the road side.

**Proposal:** 4 signs to be purchased at a cost of £1,571.00 each + VAT one of which will be paid for by East Coker Society. Clerk to investigate license costs. **Proposed:** Cllr Snelling  
**Seconded:** Cllr L Mills

9. Cllr Sugg advised that the Village Ranger had very kindly (in her own time) taken the Village Signs home and refurbished them. It was felt that she should be thanked. **Proposal:** £50.00 of garden vouchers be purchased as a thank you. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Snelling. **All Agreed**

#### **21/061 To receive the Clerk's report**

1. Clerk advised that the Insurance would be paid this month. No quotes are needed as this is a fixed term contract for 3 years.
2. Clerk advised that she was relocating and is in the process of getting a new phone and broadband set up. She asked for Council's approval to purchase a landline answer phone and a BT Wifi Booster. There were no objections.

#### **21/062 To receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC**

#### **21/063 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence**

1. Parishioner complaint email was received regarding wire which has been put in gateway near church was discussed. Clerk had already responded advising that the farmer was entitled to block this gate as there was not a footpath there. The author was in attendance and asked that the PC support himself and other parishioners in objecting to gateway being blocked. Cllr Sugg advised that the farmer had written a letter which had been circulated to all councillors and also the complainant advising that there has been a huge increase of footfall in the village since the first lock down and sadly people are just wandering off designated footpaths, damaging crops, disturbing wildlife and sometime letting their dogs worry livestock. Both Cllr Sugg and Cllr Mead said that they felt it was unacceptable for anyone to walk on someone elses land, if there is not a designated footpath on it. **Proposal:** ECPC support the complaint and will speak to landowner about blocking said gateway. A vote was taken. 7 against and 2 abstentions. **Action:** None as Author of original email was present.  
8.31pm 3 members of the public left
2. Clerk advised that another email received re rubbish in paddock beside footpath, and she had updated the author, advising the environmental health had been contacted but are unable to enforce anything as the rubbish is on private land.

#### **21/064 Discuss Working Groups**

**Future Finance:** Clerks Pension was discussed **Proposal:** Award Clerk a local government pension. **Proposed:** Cllr J Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Beckerleg A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Cllr Hodge to organise getting this to be implemented.

**Pavilion Modernisation:** Cllr Chant sent out Architectural plans earlier in the month. Invoices should start to come in now for incurred fees so Clerk will investigate paying these with 106 monies. Cllr Chant has requested that clerk forwards plans to Football club just to keep them up to speed with plans.

Cllr Sugg advised Councillors the Vice Chairman Shepstone has sadly stood down. She thanked him for all his support over the years. Thank you, Murray you will be missed.

8.54 Cllr G Seaton left meeting.

#### **21/065 Group Representative Reports**

Village Hall –

Alms Houses – Chairman B. Sugg delivered her report.

Primary School – No report to give.

Health and Well Being –

1. Cllr S Snelling suggested that a village street party would be nice in early July. The village Café and Crystal Courtyard are happy to have it at that location. She asked for volunteers to help. However no one could commit so this will be moved to another time.

2. Cllr Snelling asked if she would have the Parish Councils support for running a loneliness phone call initiative. **Proposal 1:** The PC is reluctant to build a new initiative at the moment and to take something on of this nature is rather in excess of what the PC can do. **Proposed** Cllr Mills and **Seconded** by Cllr Mead. A vote was taken 5 in favour.  
**Proposal 2:** Support Cllr Snelling with the phone initiative **Proposed:** Cllr H Cowen **Seconded:** Cllr J Bennett. A vote was taken 4 in favour.  
Motion carried not to go ahead with PC phone call initiative.
3. Cllr Snelling advised that the Bunny hunt was a huge success and there were over 80 entries. The entire Parish Council thanked her for her commitment and hard work that she puts in!

Clerk thanked Cllr Cowen for drawing up a detailed plan for places where the Air Ambulance can land in an emergency. This was submitted to the Air Ambulance coordinator in early April.

#### **21/066 To discuss and resolve the following topics;**

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

1. To discuss and vote on Village Ground Maintenance Tenders. Tender were sent out prior to the meeting.  
Dikes quote was £10,052 per year. This would be increased by £220.00 per year if Cllr opt to change the current brief to include using a blower every time the grass is cut.  
SLL quote was £7981.00 per year. This would be increased by £760.00 per year if Cllr opt to change the current brief to include using a blower every time the grass is cut.  
Cllr Sugg advised that Dikes had always done an exceptional job and were always willing to go above and beyond and if we called them with any problem, they would always be in the village within 24hours.

**Proposal:** Cllr Mills said that as Dikes have done such a great job over the past years, that although they are more expensive, they have proved that they are very reliable and should remain the village contractor. A Vote was taken and all agreed **Proposed** by Cllr Mills **Seconded** Cllr Bridgeford-Whittick

**Proposal 1:** Don't Change brief to include grass blowing of the cemetery. **Proposed:** Cllr L Mills **Seconded:** Cllr D Mead A vote was taken all agreed

**21/067 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve.** Drain at Burton blocked again and this has been reported to highways.

**21/068 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger.** Back lane needs to be strimmed, of low hanging brambles. Cllr Wilkins reported wooden fence by Tellis Cross was broken, but it has fallen onto private land so this can be left.

**21/069 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** Standing orders.

#### **21/070 Finance**

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

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount Inc VAT</b>	
<b>VAT</b>		
Previous Balance	£23,043.73	
Funds as of 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	£12,113.80	
 Monies Paid to ECPC in March		
Cemetery Fees	£1,271.79	
EC Pre School	£575.25	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,847.04</b>	
 <b>To be Paid in March</b>		
Water to Business (Pavilion)	£119.42	
Ranger Scheme (July, Aug, Sept 2020)	£2,164.50	£360.00
Ranger Scheme (Oct, Nov, Dec 2020)	£1,831.50	£305.25

Clair's Cleaning	£100.00	
KM Dike	£922.26	£167.59
Clerk Wage/ office/broadband/ Stationary	£807.64	
South West Signs	£270.00	£45.00
CCM (Pat Test)	£96.00	£16.00
Electricity Bill	£1,004.10	£167.35
Litter Picking Kit	£309.67	£61.93
Old Mill Xero Fees	£161.28	£26.88
Dag Design	£40.00	
Artisan Plumbing (Pre School Tap)	£43.20	£7.20
SLL (Chapel Path)	£4716.00	£786.00
Fire Check	£83.40	£13.90
Burton Signs	£108.00	£18.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,776.97</b>	<b>£1,991.10</b>

#### **To Pay in April**

SALC Training	£30.00
SALC Training	£50.00
Claire's Cleaning	£100.00
Water to Business (Cemetery)	£105.88
Clerk	£743.37
Easter Egg hunt	£118.98
KM Dike Awaiting invoice	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,148.23</b>

#### **Balance Carried Forward**

**£10,965.57**

Projects Account Balance

£59,910.00

**Above figures will be subject to change due to receipt of any outstanding invoices.**

Finance all agreed

Meeting Finished at 9.58