

East Coker Parish Council 12th October 2022 Minutes

Attendees: Cllr J Bennett (**chair**), Cllr P Hodge (**Vice Chair**), Cllr T Wilkins, Cllr D Mead, Cllr Cowen, Cllr Snelling, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Warwick- Mortimer, Cllr Sugg, Clerk J. Heggarty. (Cllr Comstive joined meeting at 7.55pm.)

Public Attendance: 2 members of the public. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

22/108 Receive apologies and reasons for non-attendance. D Cllr Gina Seaton, C.Cllr Oliver Patrick

22/109 Declarations of interest in items on this agenda. Cllr Hodge on item 6 Od Arts Grants Application, Cllr Snelling on 22/114.6, Cllr Mead & Cllr Wintersgill on 22/114.7

22/110 The minutes from of the Parish Council, meetings which was held on the 13th July and the 17th August were approved.

July: **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer

August: **Proposed:** Cllr Snelling **Seconded:** Cllr Wintersgill

22/111 Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public 1 Member of the public spoke on item 22/114.7 Action Group.

They advised that they wished to plant trees in a 2-acre site known as the Gypsy Field to celebrate the Queen Platinum Jubilee and asked if the Parish Council would be happy to add the Public Liability to their insurance.

1 Member of the public spoke in favour of the Od Arts grant application.

(2) County / District Councillors where not present at the meeting.

22/112 To discuss and make observations on SSDC - Planning Applications

A **15/01000/OUT Location:** Keyford Nothing to report.

B **22/01378/HOU Location:** Placket Corner, Yeovil Rd, **Application:** construction of a double garage with storeroom above, within the existing /previous footprint of the old double garage (part retrospective) This item was discussed. Cllr Sugg said she thought this was beneficial as it would keep cars off a very busy corner of the lane. Cllr Wilkins expressed concerns about the close proximity to the neighbour's fence and water running off into neighbours' property if guttering was not fitted. Although Cllr felt that this application should have been submitted prior to commencement but providing it does not have a significant negative impact upon the immediate neighbours they have no objections. **Proposal:** Cllr Bennett proposed that this application should have been submitted prior to commencement but providing there is not a significant negative impact upon the immediate neighbours they had no objections. **Proposed:** Cllr Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg. A vote was taken 9 in Favour with 1 abstention. **Action:** Clerk to update SSDC Planning.

C **22/02588/ADV Location:** Keyford

Roundabout. Chevrons and directional signs with downlighters and advertising signs. Cllr's felt that this application was acceptable and had no comment to make.

D. **22/02535/HOU Location:** 53 Sandhurst Road, Earthworks to rear garden to create level terrain (retrospective). This item was discussed. The only observations that Cllrs had was that this was another retrospective application and should have been applied for prior to the works being done. It was felt that as long as there was no impact to neighbouring properties, they had no objections.

Proposal: ECPC feel that although this application should have been submitted prior to the works being undertaken, as long as there is no impact to neighbouring properties, they have no objections.

Proposed: Cllr Comstive **Seconded:** Cllr Mead A vote was taken and All Agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update SSDC planning.

22/113 Memorial Approvals. Clerk requested permission for 2 new memorial inscriptions to remember the late Patricia Audrey Radford and Joan Jullens. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Action:** Clerk to update Stone Masons.

22/114 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. Paddock path: Cllr Cowen submitted new quotes as original contractor let us down.

Cllr Cowan quickly ran through previous quotes and then the new quote from PSP Perma Stone Paving and Valletta which had been obtained for £11,059.31 including VAT. Only £630.00 can be claimed back on VAT as PSP are not VAT registered. This surface comes with a 21-year guarantee. It is permeable so there is no need for drainage gullies. It was felt that the new quote was acceptable taking into consideration that we are in receipt of a grant,

and we can claim VAT back. Councillor Cowen showed 3 colour samples of the surface and Cllrs chose Barley Butter. Cllr Cowen advised that there would be a deposit to pay, and the Clerk advised that she could pay this providing she was sent a pro former invoice.

Proposal: Cllr Cowen asked that ECPC accept Quote from PSP **Proposed:** Cllr Cowen

Seconded: Cllr Mead **Action:** Cllr Cowen to instruct contractor that quote has been accepted and request a proforma invoice be sent to Clerk and works to start as soon as possible.

2. Parish Christmas Party: Cllr Wintersgill proposed that the Parish Council organised a Christmas Party at the Village Hall on the 10th December. She requested a budget of £2000.00. This figure was to include hall hire, disco, food, sweats, drinks raffle tickets, food etc. Any profits would go to the Pavilion Modernisation Account. She also advised that in order to be able to go ahead all Cllr would need to help on the day. Sadly, Cllr felt that because of the time of year, they could not commit to this so it was decided that this would be postponed until possibly next year. **Proposed:** Cllr Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Mead **Action:** None
3. Father Christmas Tour. Cllr Snelling proposed that a Santa Tour was organised on the 17th December. This would be a car towing a decorated trailer and Father Christmas. Cllrs thought this would be a nice thing to do. Cllr Mead said that he would be happy to tow the trailer but suggested that costing were obtained for making the trailer look like a sledge. **Proposal:** Santa tour to go ahead on the 17th Dec and Cllr Snelling get materials costings. A vote was taken and all Agreed **Action** Cllr Snelling to get sledge construction costing and bring to November meeting.
4. Parish Communications (Coker Post) Cllr Wintersgill advised that she was happy to take on the Parish Communications now that the Coker Corona had stopped. For GDPR reasons, It was agreed that Cllr Snelling would send out an email to her entire email distribution list advising them that Cllr Wintersgill would be taking on future communication and if they did not want to be included in the new distribution list to email Cllr Snelling to opt out. Cllr Snelling also showed a header for the new newsletter called the "Coker Post". Cllr asked that East Coker Parish Council was placed under title, so it was clear that it was a parish publication. It was agreed that all updates would be agreed by Council prior to publication. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Action:** Cllr Snelling to send out to all on her distribution list
5. Future plans for the Natter Garden Cllr Snelling advised that Andrew Dodge had planted up the planters in the natter garden and free of charge and had requested that the clerk write to thank him. She also said that she would like to keep the garden looking lovely and asked for permission to plant for the Kings Coronation. It was suggested that she got advice as what to plant so it is in full bloom in May. Once she has got advice and costing, she will bring it to a PC meeting for approval. **Action:** Cllr Snelling to get planting advise and costings.
6. Grant applications. Cllr Snelling stood down.
EC Scout Group was discussed. It was felt that although the Scout group previously applied for a grant earlier in the year and then withdrew it, this application for new tents was a worthy cause and the full £500.00 could be rewarded. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer A vote was taken **Action:** Clerk to inform scout group and pay grant.
Cllr Hodge stood down

The Od Arts Festival

This grant application was discussed. The member of the public advised that the festival included both East and West Coker Communities, both local and further afield schools and universities. Cllr Mead was concerned about the name of the Festival "Stray off the path" he said it may encourage trespassing. The member of the public assured him that this was not intended. There were 2 proposals made. **1.** Do not pay grant. **Proposed:** Cllr D Mead.

Seconded: Cllr Warwick -Mortimer. A vote was taken and 3 in Favour. **2.** Pay full amount
Proposed: Cllr Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Wintersgill 3 In favour with one abstention. Cllr Bennett as Chair had deciding vote and voted in favour. Motion Carried. Action: Clerk to pay full £500.00 grant.

Cllr Hodge re-joined meeting

East Coker Living History Archive. Cllr Snelling spoke about the application and explained that this was for a living archive which would be held at The Somerset Heritage Centre. It would be made up of pictures books and literature of events and things that had gone on in the village historically and in recent years and kept for posterity. Hard copies of everything needs to be collated and logged. She advised that this was a huge job and that the £500 would go towards this. Cllr felt that this was a very good idea and are happy to award the grant. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Hodge **Action:** Clerk to pay grant

Cllr Snelling re-joined meeting

Cllr Mead and Cllr Wintersgill stood down

7. Jubilee Tree planting at Pin Cushion Corner Insurance request. The action group contacted the clerk via email, which was circulated prior to meeting to ask if ECPC would add the Gypsy Field to their current insurance to cover Public Liability if the action group purchase and planted the trees. The clerk reported that she has been quoted £56 per annum but this was for 1 acre and the site is closer to 2 acres so potentially would be around an extra £112.00 per year extra. Cllr's felt that this was a good idea and although it would never be accessible to the public it was of great benefit to the environment. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Action:** Action group to forward details to clerk as and when they need cover to start.
Cllr Mead and Cllr Wintersgill re-joined meeting
8. Somerset Bus Partnership timetables. Cllr Carter-Uren sent a proposal around prior to meeting to ask for a budget of £32.00 to get a bus timetable printed for distribution to all households. It was felt that as long as the timetable were valid for at least 3 months then this would be ok. **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer A vote was taken and all agreed **Action:** Clerk to advise Cllr Carter-Uren.
9. Cllr Sugg advised that the Pre School Garden had looked a bit untidy lately but she checked it on Tuesday and it had been tidied up and was looking a lot better and she would keep an eye on it.
10. Village speed limits: Cllr Carter- Uren sent round a proposal prior to the meeting asking for £40.20 to purchase 30 mph stickers so they can be placed on residence bins to try and discourage speeding. It was felt by councillor that this would have little effect as bins should be only put out once every 3 weeks. **Proposal:** This would not be an effective way of slowing traffic down, and it would encourage people to leave there bins out unnecessarily.
Proposed: Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive **Action:** Clerk to Update Cllr Carter-Uren
11. Coker Cockerels annual fee review was discussed and it was felt that given the current financial climate a fee increase would be unfair. **Proposed:** Cllr Cowen **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive **Action:** Clerk to invoice for annual fee and advise no increase will be applied.
12. Pre School annual fee review was discussed and it was felt that given the current financial climate a fee increase would be unfair. **Proposed:** Cllr Comstive **Seconded:** Cllr Cowen **Action:** Clerk to invoice for annual fee and advise no increase will be applied.
13. Required maintenance at the Pavilion and recreation ground. Cllr Sugg advised that she was not able to get the Ranger to complete the painting of the Pavilion as the job was too big. She advised that she had been in touch with a decorator called Iain Watson and he has quoted £980.00 (labour only) as paint has been previously purchased. It was felt that although this had not been budgeted for it was a fair price and needed to be done. **Proposal:** Accept quote of £980.00, and get works carried out. **Proposed:** Cllr Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Snelling. A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Cllr Mead to instruct Iain Watson

14. Kings Coronation was discussed. The Wellbeing group are going to meet to discuss plans for the 6th May and bring them to the January meeting. **Action:** Well being group to plan and make proposal in January meeting.

22/115 To receive the Clerk's report.

1. Use of WhatsApp. Clerk requested that Cllrs only contact her on Whatsapp through the ECPC Whatsapp group and not her personal Whatsapp.

22/116 Receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC

1. Warm Spaces email was received. This was asking if the Parish Council have anywhere suitable for people to come free of charge through the winter to stay warm. It was felt that the Pavilion could not be used for this, as it is also home to the Pre School and this would interfere with the day to day running and have safeguarding implications. It was felt that there was no other location suitable. Clerk to update SSDC that Unfortunately, there is not location suitable to use in the village.

22/117 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence

1. An email was received regarding a branch damaging a windscreen and the driver wishing to claim for damage. Clerk advised that she had responded to email advising driver that a claim for could be found on Somerset County Council Web Site.
2. An email was received from a parishioner about a fence being put up the Mill Close side field near Y9/38 footpath. This was discussed and Cllr Sugg advised that fence had been removed although she did not know who by. Cllr Mead also advised that the landowner was completely within his rights to place the fence there as there was not a Public Footpath in that part of the field. **Action:** Clerk to respond to email.
3. Request for "No Through Road" Signage at the beginning of Moor Lane. Clerk report that she had sent this enquiry to Highways and they had agreed to go out and look at it. She awaits a response.
4. Fallen tree near (Pavyotts Mill), Right of Way Y9/22 abutting land registration title number WS3153. The trunk is still blocking the designated footpath but it is possible if you use waste land to the edge. C Cllr Hewitson is aware of this and working on a resolution. Cllr mead will keep everyone informed of progress.
5. An email from a parishioner requesting dogs be banned from the recreation ground was received saying that they had concern regarding the safety of children as dogs are allowed to be off the lead and run loose, and they once witnessed them running onto a pitch when a match was on. This was discussed and it was felt that in light of recent events where a dog was killed by another, and also that the football team plays regularly on the pitches and dogs mess can cause blindness, that the Parish Council should organise for a professional risk assessment and make an informed decision once the report has been undertaken. Cllr Wintersgill proposed that rather than ban dog that signs are placed telling people to keep their dogs on leads at all times however no other councillor would second proposal. **Proposal:** Risks assessment be carried out and potentially ban all dogs from recreation ground, depending on findings. **Action:** Cllr Comstive will organise a risk assessment, and request for a risk assessment to be carried out and results reported to Clerk.
6. A complaint about the condition of a number of village stiles had been received. The Clerk had sent this to the Footpath Cllrs, and they are working with Ranger to get these fixed. Author of email has been updated.

22/118 Discuss Working Groups

1. The Pavilion Modernisation: Cllr Hodge advised that there had been a working group meeting and the project was building up momentum again. Gary Slade is doing costings. Jon Wintersgill is looking at Costings for making the building more green such as using solar. Cllr Comstive advised that if the aesthetic look is change then a Section 73 (minor amendment) would need to be applied for.
2. Future Finance Nothing to report, Cllr Hodge and Clerk have scheduled meeting at the end of October.
3. Well Being. All as above

22/119 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren Not present

Alms Houses – Cllr B. Sugg. Nothing to report

Primary School – Cllr. C Warwick-Mortimer Nothing to report

22/120 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve.

22/121 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger. Styles as per 22/117.6

22/122 To discuss and resolve the following topics;

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

22/123 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 9th November Christmas plans and Santa Tour, Village Sign Wording, Pre School Lease,

22/124 Finance As of the 5th October 2022

ECPC CURRENT	£41,669.11
ECPC PAVILION	£77,939.50
ECPC PROJECTS	£16,040.00
Events	£0.00
Total:	£135,648.61

Invoices for Payment as of the 5th October 2022

Clare's Cleaning	£180.00
Clerk wages (including broadband, office and travel)	£821.49
Dag design	£240.00
Little John	£360.00
Peninsula Pensions	£225.41
Sandra Snelling	£4.00
Total	£1,830.90

Please note there are two SSDC ranger invoices still outstanding and a K M Dike invoice

Meeting finished at 10.08

Clerk

Chair.....

There was also discussion about the wording of the new village signs. Cllr Sugg advised that the T S Elliott Group wanted to add the wording "In my end is my beginning" to the already agreed "In my beginning is my end". This would cost an extra £25 per letter and there are 20 letters. This item was not on the agenda so could not be classed as official business, so will be put onto the November agenda.