

## East Coker Parish Council 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Minutes 6pm

**Attendees:** Cllr Cowen (**chair**), Cllr Hodge (**vice**) Cllr T Wilkins, Cllr D Mead, , Cllr Snelling, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Warwick- Mortimer, Cllr Carter- Uren Cllr Sugg, Cllr Comstive, Clerk J. Heggarty. **Public Attendance:** 7 members of the public. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

**22/141** Receive apologies and reasons for non-attendance., Cllr Bennett, D Cllr Seaton, C. Cllr Patrick.

**22/142** Declarations of interest. Cllr Mead, Cllr Wintergill, Cllr Hodge on item 22/132.2 Pincushion Corner Field lease.

**22/143** To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting: Held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Proposed: Cllr Wilkins Seconded: Cllr Carter-Uren All Agreed

### **22/144 Public Question Time**

1. Members of the Public: One member of the public spoke in objection to the possible ban of dogs from the recreation ground and suggested that an "Impact Assessment" is carried out prior to any decision being made. Robert Mead spoke about a peppercorn lease agreement for the "Field at Pincushion Corner".
2. County / District Councillors: C.Cllr Hewitson delivered his report.
3. PCSO and the Rural Crimes office were present, and spoke about the importance of reporting any suspicious activities, thefts or killing of livestock, these can be reported on 999 or 101 or on web site <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/rac>  
A large number of sheep were killed in the village at the beginning of November, and they said that this was thought to be linked to organised crime, not just sheep worrying. The Rural Crimes Officer will send the Clerk lots of information and links which can be put on the Parish Website. The PCSO advised that she could be contacted via email or phone if we had any questions or concerns.

6.24pm 3 members of the public left

### **22/145 To discuss and make observations on SSDC - Planning Applications**

**A 15/01000/OUT Location:** Keyford. There was nothing to discuss.

**B 22/02682/HOU Location:** Oakdene, Long Furlong Lane, **Application:** Erection of first floor extension to existing bungalow. This application was discussed, Cllr Mead and Cllr Sugg said that it was a very large extension and felt that it was overbearing and would overlook 2 bungalows situated to the West of Oakdene, on Meadow View, Cllr Comstive said it will impact the privacy of the neighbours badly. Cllr Mead, also said that it is not in keeping with the properties in that area with use of grey plastic cladding being suggested. The materials are not in keeping with the vernacular. It was noted that the tree officer has concerns regarding the very large oak tree which sits to the front of the property, and has a tree preservation order on it. **Proposal:** ECPC object to this application for the following reason. 1. Overlooking 2. Not in keeping with the area 3. Tree officers concern regarding the large oak tree. **Proposed:** Cllr Cllr Comstive **Seconded:** Cllr Mead. A vote was taken 9 in favour of the above proposal 1 against. **Action:** Clerk to update planning.

**C. 22/03266/S73 Location:** Yeovil Court Hotel. **Application:** S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of approval: 22/01888/FUL (Alterations and improvements to hotel, including reduction of number of first floor letting rooms (loss of four rooms), open sided canopy to west side and construction of single storey rear extension comprising of 3 no bedroom suites) to add a single storey extension to provide a plant room for the extended property. This item was discussed, and it was felt by all that ECPC have no objection. **Proposal:** ECPC are happy to support local business and have no objection to this application. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mead **Action:** Clerk to update Planning. A vote was taken and all agreed.

**D. 22/03338/TPO Location:** The Spinney, Yeovil Road, **Application:** The removal of a multi stemmed Sycamore tree. Clerk advised that the Parish Council did not need to make comment but wanted to advise that this application was in. Cllr Warwick Mortimer advised works had already been carried out. **Action:** No further action

### **22/146 Finance**

All expenditure and balances were sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting and also uploaded on to the website and placed on the notice board. Finance sheet had been circulated and displayed. Cllr Hodge asked what the payment to Simon Lester was for? Clerk advised he was responsible for catching moles at the recreation ground. **Proposal:** Approve item of expenditure. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive A vote was taken all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to pay invoices.

**22/147 Memorial approval,** was requested request to remember the late David and Jean Carter and a late application came in for a memorial for the late John Arthur Mitchell. Cllr where happy with both applications. **Proposed:** Cllr Wilkins **Seconded:** Cllr Wintersgill All agreed. **Action:** Clerk to advise applicants.

**22/148 Matters for discussion and resolution:**

1. (This item was brought forward to 6.25pm) **Co-option of new Cllrs:** Steve Hall had previously sent a letter of intent to the Clerk which she had circulated with all Councillors prior to the meeting. Steve spoke briefly about himself and then left the room at 7.28pm, all members of the PC thought he would be an asset to the PC and would make a good Councillor. **Proposal:** Co-opt Steve Hall onto the PC. **Proposed:** Cllr Wintergill **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg. A vote was taken and all agreed. Steve returned to meeting at 6.30pm and was welcomed onto the PC. **Action:** Steve Hall to complete all relevant paperwork and return to Clerk for her to forward to SSDC. Clerk will also arrange a ECPC email address.
2. Pincushion Corner Field Lease was discussed. Clerk will circulate the draft lease which Robert Mead had brought, with all Councillors. It was suggested that a Cllr Rep was needed and should meet with Robert after the lease had been looked at, to discuss the fine tuning. This would then be drawn up, circulated and brought back to the February meeting for approval. Cllr Carter-Uren volunteered to do this. Robert Mead confirmed that the peppercorn rent would be £5 per annum. **Action:** Clerk to circulate draft lease and Cllr Carter arrange a meeting with Robert Mead.

6.35 A member of Public left meeting

3. Work being carried out on Isle Lane by Wessex Internet: Cllr Mead reported that Wessex Internet where currently laying fiber cables on Isle Lane. Path is a bit messy but not to bad.
4. Village Stones. Cllr Sugg advised that after the last meeting she and Cllr Bennett met to look at the sand stone inlay which had been decided on at the November meeting. Cllr Sugg then took it up to Harvey Stone to see what it would look like. Harvey stone said they thought it looked terrible and out of place on the Ham Stone and Cllr Sugg agreed. Cllr Sugg got a new quotes.

**Proposal:** Cllr Cowen firstly asked all councillors if they were happy to raise the original budget of £6285.00. **Proposed:** Cllr Comstive **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg A vote was taken with 2 abstentions and 9 in favour. Motion carried to raise budget.

Then Cllr Cowen asked all Councillors which quote they felt should be accepted. He also pointed out these figures where VAT inclusive which could be claimed back.

Cllr Cowen asked for a vote on the wording going directly onto the sign boulders or being put on a tablet which would be laid in. Cllr Comstive thought directly onto boulder, but other Cllrs thought on a tablet would be better just in case any wording had to be changed in the future.

A. Ham stone plaque with same lettering. "In my beginning is my end In, my end is my beginning". This would cost £1688.00 plus VAT = £2025.60 per stone. Total for 4 stones £8102.40 inc VAT.

B. Letting direct on to ham stone sign boulder. In my beginning is my end, In my end is my beginning". This would cost £1887.50 plus VAT + £2265.00 per stone. Total for 4 stones £9060.00 inc VAT

It was agreed that quote **A** would be the one that the Parish Council would like to go accept

**Proposal:** Accept quote **A** and proceed to get the plaque engraved **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive a vote was taken with 2 abstentions and 9 in favour. **Action:** Cllr Sugg to contact Harvey's Stone to proceed with Quote A.

5. Pre School lease was discussed. Cllr Cowan advised that he and Cllr Comstive are working on this and will send a draft to all Councillors one it is completed.
6. Clerks advised that she wished to go away in the first week of January however that is when the agenda gets published and asked if anyone could publish it on her behalf. Cllr Cowan volunteered to publish and Cllr Warwick-Mortimer agreed to be the emergency contact on the out of office email. **Action:** Clerk to forward all publication details to Cllr Cowan and

advise the Web Master for Cllr Warwick Mortimers email address for the out of office notification.

**22/149 To receive the Clerk's report.**

1. **Tellis Cross.** Clerk advised that she had spoken with SSDC and they had said that the planning application had still not been decided due to the ongoing phosphates issues. They did advise that they could not guarantee that the previously offered funds for play equipment would be available after April 2023 so they will be installing a basket swing, new goal posts and some form of roundabout prior to April 2023 so we do not lose out.
7. **Pre School Inspection:** Clerk advised that Cllr Cowen and herself had carried out a inspection at the preschool. She advised that they currently had 18 families registered and they were hoping for some more in the Spring. Both inside and outside areas were tidy including the sheds. No further action.

**22/150 receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC.** Nothing to report

**22/151 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence.**

1. Clerk reported that she had received multiple emails from Parishioners in regards to the possible banning of dogs from the recreation ground. These have been circulated with Councillors and we now await the risk assessment report to come through.

**22/152 Discuss Working Groups**

1. The Pavilion Modernisation nothing to report. But Cllr Hall was asked if he would like to join the working group and he accepted.
2. Future Finance. Nothing to report
3. Well, Being Cllr Snelling asked for a volunteer to look after the village projector and Cllr Carter Uren volunteered
4. Parish Communications. Cllr Wintersgill advised that she had sent out some Parish communications out and the system was working.

**22/153 Group Representative Reports**

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren Nothing to report

Alms Houses – Cllr B. Sugg advised that she would be stepping down after April as the ECPC rep. She advised that someone was sadly being evicted from the Alms Houses.

Primary School – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer had circulated the report from the Head. Sadly, it was brought to our attention that there are families in our community that are struggling to feed their families. Cllr Warwick Mortimer asked for the donations for food bank to be put on the next news letter and encouraged people to place donations of none perishable foods in the bank located at the Village Café. Cllr Carter Uren suggested opening up the Pavilion as a warm space but was informed that this is not possible due to the Pre School and lack of hygiene license. Cllr Sugg suggested that Cllr Carter Uren she speak to the Village Hall to see if they would be willing to help.

**22/154 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve.** Clerk reported the wall near Townsend Mead has still not been fixed. This is on Highways list of jobs but possibly won't be done until new financial year.

**22/155 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger.** Cllr Sugg advised that the Ranger had had to remove various rubbish including hypodermic needles from the track/gateway on the first corner you meet coming down from Whitepost Garage towards Gulliver's Grave. She requested the clerk contact the landowner and asked for that gateway to be blocked with large stones or something similar in order to stop antisocial behaviour happening. **Action:** Clerk to contact land owner.

**A Sad Day:**

Cllr Cowan thanked Cllr Sandra Snelling for the huge amount of work that not only she but John (her husband) had put in over many years, From the neighbourhood plan, various village competitions, the Coker Corona (which was all undertaken by them) and also being instrumental in organising the Queen Jubilee Celebrations. Sandra will be greatly missed but we wish her all the best for the future.

**22/156 To discuss and resolve the following topics;**

7.50 all members of the public left meeting and clerk stepped out.

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

The matter of the Clerk's wages was discussed