

East Coker Parish Council 11th January 2023

Attendees: Cllr Comstive (**chair**), Cllr Bennett, (**vice**) Cllr Hodge, Cllr T Wilkins, Cllr Warwick- Mortimer, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Hall, Clerk J. Heggarty. **Public Attendance:** 2 members of the public. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

23/001 To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. Cllr Cowen, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Carter- Uren, Cllr Mead, D Cllr Seaton, D Cllr Clarke.

23/002 To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda. Cllr Comstive item 23/007

23/003 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council, meeting which was held on the 14th December 2022. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg a vote was taken 6 in favour 1 abstention.

23/004 Public Question Time

- (1) Members of the Public One member of the public spoke about the football pitches and the possible ban of dogs. He advised that he had been involved in local football for over 40 years, playing, coaching, and refereeing. He said that it has **always** been down to the coaches and referees to check the pitches prior to any match kicks off, to make sure it is fit for purpose. It would be then any dog mess would be spotted and picked up. He also stressed that it was not only dogs which messed on the playing fields but other animals such as foxes and badgers.

- (2) County / District Councillors Not present

- (3) PCSO / Rural Affairs officer. Not Present

23/005 To discuss and make observations on SSDC - Planning Applications

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

B 23/0004/TPO Location: 31 Nash Lane, East Coker Application: To carry out tree surgery work to No2 trees as shown within the SSDC (EACO 1)1993 Tress preservation order. This item was discussed, and it was proposed that ECPC are happy to support SSDC arborist. **Proposed:** Cllr Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer. **Action:** Clerk to update website.

23/006 Finance

To approve the following items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers. Clerk circulated report prior to meeting (see attached) she also advised that she has not paid the bus shelter rent for 2022 and would like to pay both 2022 & 2023 this month which would be £150.00. She also advised that there has been another invoice come in since agenda publication. This is for November Ranger £960.37. **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to make payments.

Cllr Comstive stood down and Cllr Bennett took over meeting.

23/007 Memorial request for a replacement stone to remember the late Douglas Cutler and a new stone request to remember Enid Comstive. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update stone masons.

23/008 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. Draft lease had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Sugg asked for annual inspection to be added. She also asked the clerk to contact the pre school and have them remove the bags of soil and sand which are at the back of the pavilion. **Proposal:** Annual inspection on lease and Clerk to ask for sand and soil to be moved. **Proposed:** Cllr Wilkins **Seconded** Cllr Bennett **Action:** Cllr Comstive to update lease with annual inspection and Clerk speak to Pre School staff re the removal of soil and sand.

23/009 To receive the Clerk's report. Cllr Comstive spoke briefly about the purchasing of extra land for the Cemetery. Draft letter was read out and Cllr Comstive will forward to the Clerk to send to landowner.

23/010 To receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC Nothing to report

23/011 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence.

Clerk advised that she had received an email from Robert Mead regarding dates for tree planting at pincushion corner. This will take place on the 21st and 22nd January between 8am and 4pm. All are welcome to come armed with spades. **Action:** Clerk to update website

Clerk Advised that she had received an email saying that they did not agree with the wording for the new stone signage for the village. **Action:** Clerk to email back to advise that this matter had been on

the agenda many times over the past 2 years and that the decision has now been made and voted on and the stones are now being engraved.

Clerk advised that she had received an email with a complaint about overhanging brambles and branches going up through Burton. The ranger will address this, and Cllr Mead is also going to go up with hedge cutter and trim what he can. **Action:** Clerk has already gone back to author and advised that the Ranger will cut back what she can.

An email received regarding dog Ban at recreation ground but this will be circulated with the February Agenda.

23/012 Discuss Working Groups

1. The Pavilion Modernisation Cllr Hodge advised that there was to be a meeting on the 24th January and Simon William will submit the 106 monies application to SSDC by then.
2. Future Finance
3. Well Being
4. Parrish Communications.

23/013 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

23/014 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve. Drain at Tellis Cross near railings is blocked **Action:** Clerk to request highways to jet. Cllr Hodge advised that the stones which boarder the stream near Townsend Farm have still not been repaired. **Action:** Clerk to report to Highways again but she said that she thought that there was no money left in their budget to do this and job would probably be deferred to April 2023.

23/015 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger. Overhanging brambles and branches up through Burton.

23/016 To discuss and resolve the following topics;

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

The matter of the clerk's wages was discussed by the PC without the presence of public or Clerk,

23/017 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 8th February 2023

This Meeting Finished at 8.05 and the Next meeting began.

11th January 2023 Precept Meeting

Attendees: Cllr Comstive (**chair**), Cllr Bennett, (**vice**) Cllr Hodge, Cllr T Wilkins, Cllr Warwick-Mortimer, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Hall, Clerk J. Heggarty. **Public Attendance:** 0 members of the public. Meeting commenced at 8.06 at East Coker Pavilion.

23/017 Review, discuss and agree budget for 2023/2024

Cllr Hodge had circulated the Predicted Income/Expenditure Position as at 31 March 2023 spreadsheet prior to the meeting. The actual figures to 31 December 22 were taken from the Xero accounting system, and an estimate was then undertaken to predict the expenditure between 1st January and 31 March 2023. Each Income and Expenditure line was reviewed and discussed, and a proposal was put forward for the 23/24 budget. Cllr Hodge will update the report with the amendments and will recirculate.

Regarding the 23/24 Budget, Cllr Sugg requested that 2 new notice boards are purchased and that this cost should be included in the 23/24 budget **Action:** Clerk to get quotes. Cllr Comstive requested that an allowance for the possible purchase of land at the cemetery should also be included in the budget.

It was decided that no rent increase should be made for the preschool for 2023/2024 period.

Cllr Hodge requested that the Clerk transfer £5,000 from the ECPC current account to Pavilion Account. This had been agreed and allowed for in the 21/22 budget.

Budget Proposed: Cllr Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer. All Agreed

23/018 Discuss and agree the 2023/2024 Precept

The precept was discussed, and it was advised that the 2021/2022 precept increase was 10%, Cllr Hodge advised that in 21/22 the PC income did not cover all the expenses. However, there were

monies set aside in the Project Account to help towards the paddock path which is not reflected in the figures in the report. The predicted end position in March 2023 is excess expenditure of c. £3,000 which is largely down to the unbudgeted expense of the playground repairs and maintenance (soft surface replacement).

Cllr Sugg said that although these were difficult times it was important the precept is increased.

Cllr Comstive suggested that we increase the precept using the CPI inflation rate of 10.2%. This would result in an increase income from £62,000 in 2022 to £68,324 in 2023.

All Councillors agreed that this was a necessary increase as the expected expenditure in 23/24 remains marginally higher than the expected income, however this small shortfall can be covered from cash reserves. **Proposed:** Cllr Bennett **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer. All Agreed Action: Clerk to complete precept form and return to SSDC prior to the 1st February.

Meeting ended at 9.03

Bank Accounts Balance as of 31st December 2022

ECPC CURRENT	£38,001
ECPC PAVILION	£77,940
ECPC PROJECTS	£8,517
Total	£124,457.00

January 2023 Aged Payables

Clare's Cleaning	£180.00
Clerk wages	£813.79
Dag design	£150.00
K M Dike	£968.94
Mr & Mrs Beardsley	£60.00
Peninsula Pensions	£225.41
Tetra	£372.00
Total	£2,770.14