

## East Coker Parish Council 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Attendees:** Cllr Bennett (**chair**), Cllr Hodge (**vice**), Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Cowen, Cllr Warwick-Mortimer, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Hall, Cllr Mead, Cllr Carter-Uren, Clerk J. Heggarty. **Public Attendance:** 19 members of the public. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

**23/37** Clerk had previously received Cllr Comstive's Chairs resignation via email so a Chair and Vice Chair were elected. Cllr Bennett was proposed as Chair by Cllr Warwick-Mortimer and seconded by Cllr Carter-Uren. A vote was taken and all agreed. Cllr Warwick-Mortimer proposed Cllr Hodge to be Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Mead, a vote was taken and all agreed.

Cllr Bennett read out the statement from the risk assessment which was relevant to the possible banning of dogs on the recreation ground.

It read:- "The site is used for football, cricket and dog walkers. As the fields are used by children it is highly recommended that dogs are always kept on a lead, the dog walkers only walk their dogs on the perimeter of the fields. It is also recommended that the dog owners pick up any dog mess and it is disposed of in the bins provided, due to associated hazards."

**23/38** To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. Cllr Comstive and Cllr Wilkins.

**23/39** Declarations of interest received: Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Mead and Cllr Hodge on item 23/27.4 Tree planting at Pincushion Corner. Cllr Mead & Cllr Sugg on 23/24.b planning application at Townsend Farm.

**23/40** To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting which was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 **Proposed** Cllr Sugg **Seconded** Cllr Hall. All agreed.

### **23/41 Public Question Time**

1. County Councillors M Hewitson delivered his report. Cllr Sugg asked him if there was any scope to add Lodge Hill and Primrose Hill to the gritting route. The Clerk also asked if road between the Helyar and past Ten Houses could be added. Cllr Hewitson advised that it could be requested but if these roads are added then we would probably have to forgo gritting on some of the other roads in the village. Clerk will email request to County roads never the less.

2. 19 Members of the Public were present. 7 members of the public spoke on item 23.27.1 Recreation Ground Risk assessment. They were all against the possible banning of dogs on the recreation fields. One member of the public advised that some weekends when there are football matches being played residents local to the field have to endure traffic congestion, inconsiderate parking, rubbish plus having to hearing shouting, screaming and cursing. They also asked how any possible ban would be monitored and how the Parish Council might enforce it? Another member said that the field was ideally suited to people walking their dogs to not only the able bodied and the young but also those with a disability and elderly residents. They are able to walk in a safe and a level area without having to negotiate the footpaths which are not always easy to walk and the roads which are busy and narrow. Another Parishioner spoke and advised that he often walked his dog, along with small children, something he feels he cannot do on the roads and lanes around the village. Another Parishioner spoke and said that for some elderly residents it was the only time they get to speak to other people and was a very sociable place to spend time. Everyone who spoke was passionate that dogs should not be banned from the recreation ground.

One member of the public spoke and advised that the grit bin at the end of long furlong lane had grit in it but this was solid. Cllr Sugg advised that unfortunately grit can go hard if it gets damp. One member of the public spoke and complained that a gap at the far end of the recreation ground where people had always walked through had been blocked up by the new land owner. Another member of the public advised that that gap had only been made so the Cricket and the football club can retrieve lost balls and it was never intended for public access.

### **23/42 To discuss and make observations on SSDC - Planning Applications**

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

8.35 Cllr Mead and Cllr Sugg stood down.

B **22/00704/HOU Location:** Townsend Farm Main Street (**GR:354245/112181**)

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of new single storey extension together with exterior and interior alterations. Demolition of existing wood store. This application was discussed. It was felt that the amended plans demonstrate high quality design and are compatible with the character of East Coker. This adheres to the ECNP Policy ECH2. It was also noted that the conservation officer has made no objections. **Proposal:** ECPC are happy to support this amended application which adheres to ECNP Policy ECH2. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Cowen A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update SSDC planning.

### 23/43 Finance

The January finances were circulated prior to the meeting. (Please see attached reports.) The Clerk advised there has been a KM Dike invoice for £968.94 January Maintenance which has arrived since the agenda publication which will need to be paid. **Proposal:** Approve the items of expenditure. Proposed: Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Bennett.

**23/44** There were no memorial requests:

### 23/45 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. Review of the Recreation Ground Risk Assessment, incorporating dog access. Cllr Bennett read out January minutes comments from a parishioner. They read:- "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 that 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".

Cllr Bennett open up the floor for discussion. Cllr Cowen thanked so many members of the public for attending and said that there was obviously a huge amount of emotion felt at the possible ban. But whilst this is admirable, it was his opinion that we should follow the recommendation of the risk assessment, Cllr Hodge agreed with him. Cllr Wintersgill suggested that dogs should only be kept on leads when football matches were being played. It was felt by all Cllrs that there was no reason why there should be an outright ban of dogs. Cllr Mead questioned how much could people be fined for not cleaning up their dog mess. Cllr Sugg suggested new signage with wording "dogs must be kept under control at ALL times, and you MUST clear up after your dogs".

**Proposal one:** Dogs to be kept on leads at all times **Proposed:** Cllr Cowen **Seconded:** Cllr Hodge. A vote was taken 3 in favour and 6 against **Proposal 2:** Dogs to be kept under close control all the times with erection of new signage. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mead 6 in favour 3 against. motion carried. **Action:** Clerk to speak to SSDC about amounts people can be fined for not clearing up after their dogs and to arrange signage.

The other findings from the risk assessment were discussed at the end of the meeting and ratings were discussed along with actions. (risk assessment can be found online)

**Actions:** Page 18 4.2/1 Contactors – Clerk to email K M Dike.

Page 18 4.2/2 Clerk To email electrician and ask for works to be carried out as soon as possible.

Page 18 4.2/3 Clerk advised that an official inspection was conducted annually, and the Ranger did checks weekly.

Page 20 4.2/6 Cllr Mead will look at and see if this can be fixed or remove it.

Page 20. 4.2/7 Cllr Mead to remove.

Page 21 4.2/8 Clerk to purchase a grit bin

Page 22 4.2/10 Cllr Sugg to request Ranger to clean

Page 23 4.2/11 Drain has already been cleared of leaves and is running freely

Page 24 4.2/12 Cllr Mead & Cllr Bennett to look at fence and report back at March meeting

2. Gritting of road in the Village. Cllr Sugg reported that there had been terrible conditions on both Primrose Hill and Lodge Hill when we had the cold snap in January. She suggested that there is someone in the village with a gritter who may be willing to grit both these hills. She asked if Cllrs were happy for her to approach him to see if this would be possible and what would the cost be? A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Cllr Sugg to get costs and report back.

3. Grit bin for recreation ground. The pre-school emailed the clerk and requested that a grit bin was purchased and put in the recreation ground car park. This was one of the actions that the risk assessment suggested so the Clerk will go ahead and order one.

Cllr Sugg, Cllr Mead, Cllr Wintersgill and Cllr Hodge stood down.

4. Tree Planting at Pin Cushion Corner Lease was discussed. There are a few amendments that need to take place. Cllr Cowen suggested that a break clause was put in. A 4 yearly update was suggested that 4 years to coincide with new Councils. It was also suggested that any contractor working there must have their own insurance. The action group spokesman was at the meeting, and he agreed to take our comments back to the committee members and discuss then contact the clerk.

Cllr Sugg, Cllr Mead, Cllr Wintersgill and Cllr Hodge re-joined the meeting.

5. The possibility of a no through road sign being put up at the Helyar was discussed. This was after Councillor Wintersgill had a Parishioner approach her about vehicles travelling down that lane, thinking it is a through road rather than a dead end. Both Cllr Mead and Cllr Sugg said that they had had parishioners speak to them and object to this due to it being in a conservation area. **Action:** Cllr Wintersgill said she would speak to the Parishioner in question and find out if lorries and vehicles are still going down that lane in error. She will report back at next meeting

6. Clerk Advised that 2 quotes for notice boards had been received. 1 from Metrosigns which was £1,180.00 plus poles, fittings and carriage, totalling £1,625.00 and another from Fitzpatrick Woolmer for £1,288.00 but this excluded poles and carriage. Cllr Cowen said he thought that the notice board at the bus shelter did not need replacing but just needed some work, it would then last for a few more years. Cllr Sugg advised that she knew the person who made the cabinet originally and that she would speak to him and see if it was possible to tidy it up.

7. Clerk advised that she had not received a quote for the replacement bin lids.

#### **23/46 To receive the Clerk's report.**

1. The Clerk was asked to arrange a Pavilion user meeting with the Scouts, Pre School and Football Club. This could either take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> February or the 6<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm. Clerk to email all above groups and advise Pavilion Modernisation Working group of date.

#### **23/47 receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC**

#### **23/48 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence.**

1. Clerk advised there had been an email received from a Parishioner expressing an interest in becoming a Councillor. This email will be circulated prior to the March meeting.

2. An email was received from the organisers of the Od Arts festival requesting use of Chapel between 24<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> May for an exhibit. Cllrs felt that as long as the exhibit was respectful that they are happy to support this. The Clerk was asked to advise the organisers that if there was a funeral on one of those days, that they would need to close the exhibit for that period whilst service takes place. **Action:** Clerk to update OD Arts Organisers.

#### **23/49 Discuss Working Groups**

1. The Pavilion Modernisation. Cllr Hodge advised that the Clerk had submitted a claim for S106 monies to SSDC but had been informed that no claim can be made until work commence. We have responded to SSDC and challenge this and await an answer.

2. Parish Communications. Cllr Wintersgill suggested that ECPC have a Facebook page. She is going to look at the different FB settings as it is felt that it would not be advisable to have a page where comments could be left. She will report at next meeting.

#### **23/50 Group Representative Reports**

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren. Nothing to report.

Alms Houses – Cllr B. Sugg. Nothing to report

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

**23/51 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve.** Clerk to report large pothole at the entrance to Tellis cross and also a large pothole on Yeovil Road on the far side of Foxholes.

#### **23/52 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger**

#### **23/53 To discuss and resolve the following topics;**

Resolution sought to exclude the public (*Non Parish Council Members*) Nothing to discuss.

#### **23/54 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Possible Co-option of new councillors, Kings Coronation, Possibility of a ECP Facebook Page. Boundary Fence at the recreation Ground, Lottery License, Yeovil Local Community Network Meeting ended at 10.03pm

Clerk..... Chair .....

**Aged Payables Feb 2023**

Clare's Cleaning	£225.00
Clerk wages	£815.29
EDF	£479.81
Peninsula Pensions	£225.41
SSDC - Ranger Dec	£384.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,129.65</b>

The above figures are subject to change due to invoicing dates

**Bank Accounts Summery**

ECPC CURRENT £29,527

ECPC PAVILION £82,940

ECPC PROJECTS £8,517

**Total £120,984**

**January 2023 Current Account Transactions****Paid Out**

Electricity for Christmas tree	£60.00
Viking Stationary	£43.36
Old Mill Xero Fee	£75.60
Amazon	£8.99
SSDC	£70.00
Tetra	£372.00
SSDC	£960.37
Clare's Cleaning	£180.00
Kathryn Sturtridge	£150.00
Peninsula Pensions	£225.41
Clerk wages	£813.79
K M Dike	£968.94
Dag design	£150.00
SSDC	£768.30
ECPC transfer to Pavilion Fund	£5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,846.76</b>

**Paid In**

Amazon	£8.99
HMRC VAT	£1,344.92
East Coker Pre-School	£487.00
<b>Total In</b>	<b>£1840.91</b>