

East Coker Parish Council 12th April 2023

Attendees: Cllr Comstive(Chair), Cllr Sugg (Vice Chair) Cllr Mead, Cllr Warwick- Mortimer, Cllr Carter-Uren, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Hall Clerk J. Heggarty. **Public Attendance:** 3 members of the public. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

23/54 Clerk had previously received Cllr Hodge (Chairs) resignation via email so a Chair and Vice Chair were elected. Cllr Comstive was proposed as Chair by Cllr Mead and seconded by Cllr Sugg. A vote was taken and all agreed. Cllr Sugg was proposed by Cllr Wintersgill to be Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Mead, a vote was taken and all agreed.

23/55 To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. Cllr Cowen, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Hodge and Cllr Wakely.

23/56 Declarations of interest received: Cllr Wintersgill & Cllr Mead on item 23/27.2 of the agenda

23/57 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting which was held on the 8th March 2023 **Proposed:** Cllr Wintersgill **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer a vote was taken 6 in favour with 2 abstention.

23/58 Public Question Time

The Church Warden of St Michaels Church spoke about the Project Beacon. He advised that they want to work with the community to achieve the following objectives. Open up west back of the church by removing pews, instal a servery in open space, improve T S Eliot Corner, redesign the car park, refurbish church path to create wheelchair access, install electrical heating and provide accessible WC.

A representative from Sparks Somerset spoke and advised that they were there to help and give advice and support to any new community groups. They can also help with finding grants and have a small pot of monies which can go towards helping with startup costs. Representative is going to send some information to the Clerk who will then forward to Cllr Wintersgill to put out on the Parish Communications.

A member of the East Coker Action Group spoke. A proposed document for the tree planting at Pincushion Corner had been circulated prior to meeting (see 23/62.3) Representative asked for the parish councils support for this document.

7.22pm 3 members of the public left the meeting.

23/59 To discuss and make observations on SSDC - Planning Applications

A **15/01000/OUT Location:** Keyford No further updates.

B **23/00646/s73 Location:** Land Rear Of Furzy Knapp 139 West Coker Road **Application:** S73 to vary Condition 02 (approved plans) for minor amendments to the proposed fenestration and a small rear ground floor addition to allow the internal garage to meet minimum regulation standards relating to planning consent 19/03405/FUL; The erection of 1 detached residential dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. Cllr Comstive said that he didn't see any issues with this application and proposed that ECPC had no comment to make. A vote was taken 6 in favour with 1 abstention.

C **23/00635/LBC Location:** Burton Cottage Farm Higher Burton Road **Application:** Conservation and repair of thatch roof to front block, alteration of rear log store and porch, replacement front door, replacement of rear plastic rainwater goods, removal of cement renders and replacement with lime render and wash, and repointing works in lime to external walls and chimneys. Cllr Comstive said that it was bettering the property was being sympathetic to the listed building. Cllr Hall, Cllr Warwick Mortimer and Cllr Sugg all agreed.

Proposal: ECPC are happy to support this application. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg Seconded: Cllr Warwick-Mortimer. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and 1 abstention. **Action:** Clerk to advise Somerset Planning

D **22/01217/REM Location:** The Dairy House Nash Lane East Coker Yeovil Application: Reserved Matters application for erection of dwelling with approval of access, appearance, landscaping,

layout and scale following outline approval 20/01948/OUT. Retention of existing structure as temporary site office whilst dwelling is being constructed. Cllr Mead said this application was overdevelopment of a small plot. As previously stated by ECPC in our 14.8.2020 objection. Cllr Sugg said there is very little garden, and it lacks any landscaping. **Proposal:** ECPC feel this application is still over development of a small plot, there is only a small garden which lacks any landscaping in respect of visual amenities for neighbouring properties. **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg A vote was taken 6 in favour with 2 abstentions.

E **23/00557/s73A Location:** 20 Wraxhill Road, Yeovil **Application:** S73A Application to vary Condition 02 (approved plans) to amend the roof design due to rainwater drainage for planning consent 22/01328/HOU; Erection of an extension to existing detached garage to form annex accommodation. Cllr Mead said that this application is still back fill and said ECPC objected to the original application in June 2022 and August 2022 which SSDC subsequently approved but said he felt that nothing had really changed, and we should object again. Cllr Hall, Cllr Sugg and Cllr Wintersgill agreed. **Proposal:** ECPC still strongly object to this application as per our objection on both in June and August 2022. It is still classed as back fill. **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Wintersgill A vote was taken with 6 in favour and 2 abstentions. **Action:** Clerk to update Planning. **23/60 Finance** The March finances were circulated prior to the meeting. (Please see attached reports.) The Clerk advised there has been a KM Dike invoice for £968.94 for March maintenance and another from SSDC for the Ranger in February of £768.30, both arrived after the agenda had been posted. **Proposal:** Approve the items of expenditure. **Proposed:** Cllr Hall **Seconded:** Cllr Carter-Uren A vote was taken and all agreed.

23/61 Memorial Requests: Clerk advised that there had been an application for a new tablet to be placed in memory of the late Yvette Emslie and also for Gillian Gilshanan. **Proposal:** Allow both memorial. A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to contact stone mason.

Clerk Advised that a Parishioner who had previously purchased a cemetery plot for he and his wife but now wished to be interred elsewhere contacted her, and asked if it would be possible to have a refund of £300.00. PC members agreed that this would be in order. **Proposed** Cllr Warwick Mortimer **Seconded** Cllr Mead A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to contact Parishioners and arrange refund of £300.

23/62 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. **Recreation ground boundary fence** was discussed. Cllr Comstive advised that he had had a meeting with the new landowner of the boundary land. Cllr Comstive advised that the field next door to the recreation ground had been ploughed and a clear footpath boundary fence had been erected all the way down to the Mill. The land owner had left a small section at the Longfurlong end where we could possibly put in a style that leads to the recreation ground. Cllr Comstive said he would be happy to ask the landowners permission for this. He also proposed that the current gap in the fence of the recreation ground is now closed up as per the March meetings discussion.

Proposal: Cllr Comstive to speak to landowner about possibility of erecting a style into recreation ground, at Longfurlong Lane end of the fence and Clerk to speak to contractors regarding closing gap in fence. **Proposed** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Mead All Agreed. **Action:** Clerk to speak to contactor and Cllr Comstive to contact land Owner.

2. **The Kings Coronation** was discussed. Cllr Sugg said that she thought ECPC should put something in the Village to commemorate the Kings Coronation. Cllr Comstive said that the village stones were being placed around the time of the coronation and these could be it although there will not be anything written on them to commemorate the event. Cllr Wintersgill said that the Wellbeing Working Group would like to decorate the bus shelter and also run a Royal Scarecrow Competition and requested a budget of £100.00 for prizes and posters. **Proposal:** Wellbeing working group decorate bus shelter and organise a scarecrow competition with a budget of £100. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive a vote was taken and all agreed. Cllr Sugg proposed an informal picnic at the recreation ground on Sunday 7th May between 12 noon and 3pm. This would be put out via the Parish Communications and a few posters, just advising the village that they are

welcome to bring their families and picnic at the Rec on that day. The communication would state that this is an informal event and there will be very limited parking. The budget for this would be £150.00. Cllr Comstive and Cllr Sugg said they would be happy to be present and Cllr Sugg would try and organise some sort of music system. **Proposed:** Cllr Comstive **Seconded:** Cllr Hall A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Proposal :** Wellbeing working group decorate bus shelter and organise a scarecrow competition with a budget of £100. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Carter-Uren a vote was taken and all agreed.

3. **Tree planting at pin cushion corner.** Cllr Mead and Cllr Wintersgill stood down. Clerk had circulated five new points to the agreement which had been put forward by ECAG.

1. The ECPC will become a member of ECAG with a £5.00 joining fee.
2. There will be a representative from ECPC on the Committee of ECAG (we already have two)
3. ECPC will provide full public liability insurance for the duration of the new wood formed at Pincushion Corner.
4. Any works required will be discussed with ECAG and ECPC and any contractor will have their own public employment insurance cover in place, to include public liability.
5. In line with the public liability insurance cover the Pincushion site will have a locked gate and a sign saying no public access. The above was **Proposed** by Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Action group to write into contract and send to Clerk for signature. Cllr Mead and Cllr Wintersgill re-joined meeting.

4. **Clerks phone and broadband.** Clerk advised that the contract for broadband and phone was up for renewal. She suggested that she used an old mobile, and purchased a pay as you go sim for phone calls and that the broadband contract was switched at a cost of £28.00PCM. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to set up new broadband connection and purchase a pay as you go sim card and update Cllrs and Website with new Phone number.

Cemetery plot and interment pricing. Clerk advised that the prices needed to change as of April and asked what Cllr felt would be a suitable increase. The following increase were Proposed - Purchase of Burial Plot From £415 to £450.00, First Interment From £119.00 to £150.00, Second interment from £296.00 to £350.00. Purchase of Ashes Plot from £178.00 to £200.00, First interment from £61.00 to £75.00, Second interment from £119.00 to £150.00. Monument placement and first inscription from £119.00 to £130.00, second inscription from £36.00 to £40.00. Record search -basic from £18.00 to £20.00 Intensive from £40.00 to £45.00. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Hall A vote was taken and All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to update records and Web site.

Jubilee Garden

Cllr Wintersgill asked for a budget of £50.00 to plant up the Jubilee Garden and said that a Parishioner had kindly volunteered to do it. **Proposal:** Agree £50.00 budget for the planting of the Jubilee Garden. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Carter-Uren a vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Cllr Wintersgill to update Parishioner.

23/63 To receive the Clerk's report.

1. Somerset Traffic feedback. Clerk advised that she was in the process of trying to get a speed survey done from Burton Lane to the bus shelter. But was waiting on further details from Somerset Traffic.
2. Clerk reported that the new play equipment had be installed at Tellis Cross Park

23/64 Receive correspondence from the SSDC / SCC

23/65 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence.

1. Owner of the Old Post Office email was received asking to speak at April meeting but Clerk advise author to attend meeting once application had been submitted to Somerset Council.
2. Email received from the organisers of the Od Arts festival requesting use of the Paddock for a placement of a temporary sculpture between 24th to the 29th May. This was not discussed as exhibit is no longer going there.

23/66 Discuss Working Groups

1. The Pavilion Modernisation - Nothing to report
2. Parish Communications - it was discussed that no communication from outside groups are to be sent through the Parish Communications unless previously discussed at any monthly PC meeting.
3. Cemetery Land Purchase. Cllr Comstive reported that as yet we had not had a response to the letter sent to land owner in March. Cllr Warwick Mortimer suggest rather than trying to purchase the strip of land to the rear of the cemetery we should instead try and buy the field to the left of it, however she did not want to propose this so no vote was taken. This item is to be added to the next agenda.

4. 23/67 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren reported that she had still not had a reply from the email she sent to the secretary in March and will chase up.

Alms Houses – Cllr B. Sugg

Primary School – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer reported that the school had placed a new climbing Viking ship on their playing field. The Purchase and instillation was paid for by the PTFA.

23/68 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve. Cllr Mead asked if the village drains could be jetted again. Last time they were done by S and D Services who did a very good job and Cllrs agreed that providing it was going to be under the £3000.00 allotted budget to instruct them to go ahead. Cllr Wilkins asked if the drains on the Tellis Cross estate could be done but Cllr Sugg advised the large jetter would not be able to access so the Clerk will request that County Highways do them.

23/69 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger Cllr Wilkins requested that the Ranger cuts the bush by Hearn Cottage as it is obstructing the visual splay onto the road. Cllr Sugg said she would have a look as it is Private land and we may need to write to land owner instead.

23/70 To discuss and resolve the following topics;

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

23/71 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 10th May 2023. Boundary Fence at the recreation Ground, Cemetery Land Purchase, Coronation Feedback

Clerk..... Chair