

## East Coker Parish Council 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Annual Meeting

**Attendees:** Cllr Cowen (Chair), Cllr Hodge (Vice Chair) Cllr Comstive, Cllr Mead, Cllr Warwick-Mortimer, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Wakely. **Public Attendance:** 2 members of the public and Unitary Cllr Mike Hewitson. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion. Minutes taken by Cllr Wilkins.

Cllr Comstive tendered his resignation from the Chair so a Chair and Vice Chair were elected. Cllr Cowen was nominated as Chair. **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive. A vote was taken, and all agreed. (no formal resignation for VP from Cllr Sugg and no formal adoption of Cllr Hodge as VP)

**23/059** To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. Cllr Carter-Uren- illness, Cllr Hall – away for work, Clerk J. Heggarty – flooded in.

**23/061** No Declarations of interest received

**23/061** Chairpersons Annual report delivered by Cllr Cowen.

Good to remember our successes.

1. Platinum Jubilee – took place over 4 days, many different events including walk, tea/coffee café, history exhibition and talk. Inauguration of Natter Corner. Main event picnic. Large number of people despite the weather. Great positive feedback. No major problems. Raised nearly £2000 for pavilion fund.
2. Installation of the village signs – 2 already installed, positive feedback. Thanks largely go to Cllr Sugg for the initial idea and determination to see the project through.
3. Installation of the Paddock path – made possible by grant for nearly 50% of cost by CC. Was a long-winded process due to contractor difficulties but good positive feedback.

Many other smaller but important work particularly footpath upkeep and drainage problems and putting the ECPC accounts on a much-improved system.

Looking forward:

1. Pavilion. Now we have the planning approval we really need to concentrate on this as the clock is ticking. No. 1 priority. Fundraising. Hope to hear later from Cllr Hodge what likely cost envelope is, grant applications, lottery funds, EH funds etc.
2. Cemetery extension.
3. Other projects, ie Christmas lunch

We are nearly a full council, 12 out of 13 places filled. We have good diversity in terms of men/women and range of backgrounds and areas of parish covered. Great experience/knowledge in planning, accounting, cemeteries, history/people in area and agriculture/land use.

**23/062** Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. No single volunteer for either position, however the 4 current rotating chairs, Cllr Cowen, Cllr Comstive, Cllr Bennett and Cllr Hodge are happy to continue in this capacity with a rota being set up so that the VP from the previous meeting moves into the Chair for the next meeting as much as possible. **Proposed:** Cllr Wintersgill **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg. A vote was taken, and all agreed.

**23/063** Election/ Co-option of new Councillors. – none

Cllr Bennett joined meeting at 7.13pm

**23/064** Items for discussion and agreement

1. To agree to use email as notification of meeting summons – all agreed to continue with this method.
2. Roles and responsibilities – reviewed list and following changes to be made. Cllr Comstive to be removed as contact for Footpaths South. Cllr Warwick-Mortimer has agreed to take on the Alms Houses representation. Cllr Comstive has been added to the Pavilion Modernisation working group. Cllr Hall to be added to HR working group.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm if Dr Summers happy to continue with Defibrillator monthly checks.

3. Renewal of all Councillors declarations of interest – forms collected by Cllr Cowen to be passed onto Clerk.

4. Claiming of Councillor Allowances – forms collected by Cllr Hodge to be passed to onto Clerk.

Annual General Meeting closed 7.20pm.

## **East Coker Parish Council 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**23/65** Election of Chair and Vice Chair for this meeting – covered in AGM

**23/66** To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. -covered in AGM

**23/67** To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda – Cllr Mead, Cllr Wintersgill and Cllr Hodge on item 23/73.5 of the agenda.

**23/68** To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council, meeting which was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Proposed: Cllr Warwick-Mortimer Seconded: Cllr Mead. A vote was taken 6 in favour with 3 abstentions.

### **23/69 Public Question Time**

Mike Hewitson, Unitary Councillor, spoke about the West Coker resurfacing road works. The contract is currently out to tender and should hopefully attract more bids as materials have been amended. Official diversion routes will be properly signposted and any concerns regarding rat runs etc please pass on to Olliver and Mike. Local businesses, surgery, residents and emergency services will still have access. The works will be a phased closure and a site manager will be onsite. Cllr Mead asked about potholes along the A30, which Mike responded that these were marked up and filled by a contractor but was aware of the issues. Mike also informed the council that the Local Community Networks (LCMs) were progressing and that an informal meeting was due to be held in the summer with an invite to come. Had ECPC thought about a representative yet? Mike asked if we were clear on the new planning structure at Somerset Council. There would be 4 planning committees, roughly following the former district council boundaries. We would be part of South Planning Committee. Cllr Bennett asked about the makeup of this committee and their experience/expertise. Mike informed us that all councillors on the committee go through specific training, also that more applications were being dealt with by planning officers than would go through to the committee, Mike will arrange for a summary of the this to be sent through to clerk. The drains at Burton were asked about and Mike referred these questions to Cllr Patrick he was dealing with this issue. Unitary Councillor left meeting at 7.20pm.

### **23/70 To discuss and make observations on SSDC - Planning Applications**

**A 15/01000/OUT** Location: Keyford – Cllr Bennett mentioned that the length of lorries was reported to be increasing by two metres, which would have an impact on sweep areas. This may be something that can be used in future correspondence regarding the impact this would have on Hendford Hill .

**B 23/01079/ TCA** Location: Mead End, Coker Marsh Application: Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to No.02 trees included within Conservation Area - agreed to leave this to Tree Arborist recommendations.

**C 22/02682/HOU APPEAL** Location: Oakdene Long Furlong Lane East Coker Yeovil Somerset BA22 9LQ Application: Erection of a first floor extension to existing bungalow. Discussed and agreed that we fully endorse the SSDC's rejection of the application. Cllr Bennett to provide Clerk with specific wording. Proposed Cllr Bennett Seconded Cllr Wintersgill. A vote was taken 9 in favour and 1 abstention.

### **23/71 Finance**

To approve the following items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers. Please see attached reports. - reports were not circulated prior to meeting or available at meeting. To be carried over to June 23 meeting.

1. Review and agree if any surplus monies are to be transfer to Project and Pavilion Modernisation accounts. - Cllr Hodge provided council with an overview of the 22/23 end of year position. At this point time it looks like we have come in £19500 under budget, mainly due to the £6000 unused towards legal fees and £3000 unused towards drains, however, we will have the village signs to be paid for (approx £7500). It was also noted that KM Dykes has increased their invoice and the Ranger invoices were under budget. Cllr Hodge raised that these types of invoices need to be more closely looked at to make sure we are charged correctly. **Action** – Clerk to look at KM Dyke contract T&C's regarding notice period for increasing fees.

Cllr Hodge suggested that further discussion regarding the transfer of surplus monies to Project and Pavilion Modernisation accounts be held off for 4-6 months . Proposal – that discussion for transfer of surplus monies be put on the agenda for the September meeting, in line with the next Finance Budget review update. Proposed Cllr Comstive, Seconded Cllr Warwick-Mortimor. A vote was taken 8 for and 2 against. Proposal carried. Action. Clerk to add this item to the September agenda.

2. Audit – Cllr Hodge informed council that we were awaiting guidance from Slcc00 regarding some discrepancies in how to report the Platinum Jubilee income and outgoings. **Action.** Clerk to move Audit to June 23 agenda.

### **23/72 Memorial Requests: none**

### **23/73 Matters for discussion and resolution:**

1. Scarecrow competition feedback – Cllr Warwick-Mortimer confirmed that there were only 6 entries in total, 3 adult and 3 children. Judging took place prior to meeting and winners would be informed. Cllr Wintersgill to announce winners in Coker Post. Feedback received from parishioners felt that not enough notice had been given of this event.

2. Coronation Picnic feedback – Cllr Comstive felt that it was a great day with over 100 people attending. Parking was not an issue and in future it would be advertised as first come first served. Again, feedback from parishioners was that not enough notice had been given of this event.

3. Notice board at the bus shelter repairs – Cllr Sugg has asked that Clerk contact contractor to look at alternative ways of waterproofing the notice board considering owner of the wall not being happy with the original solution. Cllr Cowen to contact owner to see if they might have some suggestions.

4. Possibility of new style into recreation ground – positive response from landowner to the council's proposal. Proposal – to approach Robert Mead about building the style. Commission a sign stating the purpose and limits of the permissive pathway. Cllr Bennent provided wording to the effect ' The landowner has proposed this permissive path link to access footpath only. Any persistent abuse of this arrangement would lead to closure.' Proposed Cllr Mead Seconded Cllr Comstive. A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action** – Clerk to write back to landowner to confirm outcome.

5.. Signing of the Pin Cushion Wood agreement – Cllr Cowen read out final wording of agreement and signed as Chair and Cllr Warwick-Mortimor signed as Councillor. **Action.** An original copy of signed contract to be held by both parties, also the title plan needs to have the boundaries of the site more clearly outlined and appended to both copies of the contract.

### **23/74 To receive the Clerk's report.**

**Action.** As Clerk not available items to be moved to June agenda.

1. Withdrawal of comments made on application 23/00557/s73A 20 Wraxhill Road.

2. Planting of the triangle

### **23/75 Receive correspondence from the Somerset Council (wording to be updated on future agendas)**

### **23/76 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence.**

1. Cemetery land purchase – Cllr Cowen noted that the landowners were present and went on to outline 4 possible outcomes regarding the cemetery.

- a. do nothing, full is full
- b. delay the need to increase size of cemetery by restricting plots to parishioners only.
- c. continue with Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) or buy land
- d. look at alternate sites.

Cllr Wakely also suggested no prepurchasing of plots and that common graves were now used at Yeovil Cemetery.

There was some confusion regarding the correspondence received by the landowners and ECPC.

**Action** - Clerk to check back over correspondence/email trail to ensure that all replies from the landowners had been received.

Proposal: Cemetery Land Purchase working group to do an analysis on the different options and ways of maximising the existing site and report back to the full parish council for the June meeting.

Proposed: Cllr, Seconded Cllr Comstive. A vote was taken and all agreed.

Cllr Cowen confirmed with the landowners that they would be amenable to further discussion on the is subject and thanked them for their time.

2. Possibility of planting a wild flower area in the village. **Action.** Clerk to respond that this has been forwarded to a potentially interested party and we will come back to them in due course.

3. Email received regarding parking at the school. **Action:** no email available for discussion, carried forwarded to June meeting.

4. Car accident at Yonder, Yeovil Road. Proposal: Clerk to respond to parishioner confirming that this is a Highways issue and provide Unitary Councillors details if they wish to pursue further. Proposed: Cllr Wintersgill, Seconded Cllr Warwick-Mortimor. A votes was taken 5 for, 1 against and 3 abstentions. Proposal carried. **Action:** Clerk to respond as detailed.

### **23/77 Discuss Working Groups**

1.The Pavilion Modernisation meeting feedback. Have spoken to a builder for input into costings, who provided information on putting up the structure only. Group have gone back to ask them to flesh out with estimates to cover the internal works. Also need to rethink aspects of the design etc to look for any cost savings. Cllr Hodge to liaise with West Coker for guidance/information on Public Loan funding. Hopefully more detail by the time of the next meeting.

9.10pm - Vote taken to extend the meeting until all matters discussed. All agreed.

2. Parish Communications – Agreed that communication regarding road closure in West Coker to be sent once confirmation received from Unitary Cllr Hewitson. Scarecrow winners to be announced.

3. Cemetery Land Purchase – see agenda item 23/76.1

### **23/78 Group Representative Reports**

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren – no report

Alms Houses – Cllr B. Sugg – There is a new tenant in No.6 and currently one empty house.

Primary School – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer – SATS have been ongoing this week.

### **23/79 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve.**

Cllr Mead bought up that the verge trimming usually takes place late May/early June and did we want to go ahead with this. Agreed to contact usual contractor.

Awaiting S&D to come out to do the jetting.

### **23/80 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger**

Leaves near the church, strim around the kissing gate at Tellis Cross entrance to footpath. Plank of wood has been moved from the mud patch near kissing gate at far end of Tellis Cross footpath as considered unsuitable due to barbed wire.

### **23/81 To discuss and resolve the following topics;**

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

Two last minute Planning Applications were discussed as Somerset Council had denied an extension for comment.

23/00971/COU Location: East Coker Village Store Burton East Coker Yeovil Somerset BA22 9LB

Application: Change of use of former village store into residential. The portion of the building

previously used as the village store to be incorporated into the existing residential dwelling Hollyhock Cottage.

23/01012/HOU Location: 4 Cross Cottages Main Street East Coker Yeovil Somerset BA22 9HZ

Application: Erection of single storey extension to side of dwellinghouse.

Cllr Bennett proposed that applications be added to June agenda. No Seconder.

Proposed: Delegate discussion and response to the Planning Working Group. Proposed Cllr Hodge

Seconded Cllr Cowen. A vote was taken 9 for and 1 against. Vote carried.

**23/82 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Representative for Local Community Network, Christmas Lunch, Clerk's reports, April expenses and Audit, Parishioner email regarding parking at school

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