

East Coker Parish Council 14th June 2023

Attendees: Cllr Bennett, Cllr Mead, Cllr Hodge, Cllr Warwick- Mortimer, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Carter-Uren, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Wakely, Cllr Cowen & Clerk J. Heggarty. **Public**

Attendance: 2 members of the public. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

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

23/55 To receive any apologies and reasons for non-attendance. Cllr Hall and Cllr Comstive.

23/56 Declarations of interest received: Cllr Sugg, Cllr Mead, Cllr Hodge and Cllr Wintersgill on item 23/88. D & E.2 of the agenda. Cllr Bennett on item 23/88.C

7.07pm Cllr Mike Hewitson arrive

23/57 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting which was held on the 10th May 2023 **Proposed:** Cllr Wintersgill **Seconded** Cllr Warwick Mortimer A vote was taken and all agreed.

23/58 Public Question Time. 4 members (including 2 councillors) of the public spoke in support for agenda item 23/88 D & E. They said that these were family self builds and had been reduced in size from original plans. There are also now only two properties proposed for that area rather than four. They advised that they had been very disappointed to see Unitary Councillor Patrick's comments on East Coker Past and Present FB page about this application and felt very hurt by this and felt it unprofessional.

Unitary Cllr Mike Hewitson delivered his report. He advised that The A30 road closure is still scheduled to go ahead in the summer and that any businesses who were worried about losing trade should contact him and he could pass on information of possible help.

7.09 Cllr Wakely arrived.

7.12 Unitary Cllr Hewitson left meeting.

23/88 To discuss and make observations on SC - Planning Applications

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

B **23/01090/HOU Location:** 13 Helena Road East Coker Yeovil Somerset BA20 2HQ.

Application. Erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwelling. It was felt by all that this was a small extension and was in keeping with the area. **Proposal:** ECPC are happy to support this application. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mead. A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update planning.

7.18 Cllr Bennett arrived and stood down

C **22/01500/OUT Location:** Land Rear of Long Acre, 137 West Coker Road, BA20 2H

Application: Outline application with access for the erection of 1 dwelling and associated infrastructure with all other matters reserved.**1/02947/FUL.** This application was discussed and councillors felt that this was still back filling which goes against the ECPC Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council's view on this application remains the same as those submitted to SSDC in July 2022. **Proposal:** This application does not meet ECPC Neighbourhood Plan policies ECCN2 (General Design) or ECH3 (General Housing Consideration) and should this application be approved; it would be back filling in a rural setting as defined in the SSDC local plan. **Proposed:** Cllr Wilkins **Seconded:** Cllr Cowen A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 3 abstentions, motion carried. **Action:** Clerk to update Planning.

7.23 Cllr Bennett rejoined the meeting.

7.24 Cllr Mead & Cllr Sugg left the room and Cllr Hodge and Wintersgill stood down from meeting. These items were discussed together and Cllr Cowen took over as Chair for them both. Clerk advised that she had duplicated the application numbers and item D should be 21/02947/FUL

D 21/02947/FUL Location: Plot 1 Land Os 4221 Main Street East Coker **Proposal:** Amended Plans erection of 1 self-build dwelling , vehicular access and associated works.

E 21/02950/FUL Location: Plot 4 Land OS 4221 Main Street, East Coker **Proposal:** Amended E Plans erection of 1 self-build dwelling , vehicular access and associated works. Cllr Cowen opened the floor for discussion. It was noted that whilst the number of dwellings had with only two houses now proposed , the original objections still stand.

Proposal: East Coker Parish Council object to this application. East Coker is identified as a rural settlement under SC Policy SS2. This policy limits development in rural settlements and, in the context of the Somerset Councils Settlement Strategy, development in the village is to be limited to sustainable development meeting local need. In addition, all proposals for housing will need to address general planning considerations as set out in East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Policy ECH2. ECNP states that 32.3% of properties within the district are detached plus, by the applicants planning statement (policy Page 18 6.13) a total delivery of 72 properties is already available, so there is no local need either. **Proposed:** Cllr Wilkins **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer A vote was taken 5 in favour 1 abstention. Motion carried. **Action:** Clerk to update planning

2 members of the public left.

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

F 23/01281/HOU Location: Pinwood White Post West Coker Road Yeovil Somerset BA22 9NA **Proposal:** Proposed single storey rear extension and loft conversion inclusive of roof alterations. This application was discussed, and it was said that the proposed changes would improve the property turning it into a family home which the Parish Council support.

Proposal: ECPC have no objection and support this application. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg

Seconded: Cllr Mead A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update planning.

23/89 Finance

1. To approve the following items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers. Clerk advised that there had been a late invoice of £1,364.00 for the decoration of the Pavilion. The invoice for the village stones was discussed and it was decided that nothing would be paid until all 4 were in situ. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Bennett **Action:** Clerk to pay all invoices apart from Harvey's stone. Clerk to speak to Harvey's stone and advise accordingly

Audit

1.a Review and approve the Year End accounts 2022/23. Year end accounts had been sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodge ran through all the figures and asked if anyone had any questions which they did not. **Proposal:** ECPC is happy to sign off the Year End Accounts. **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Bennett. A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to post on notice boards, website and submit to external Auditor.

2.b Review Internal audit report 2022/2023. The internal audit report had been sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodge advised that an internal audit had taken place involving a detailed review of income and expenditure for 2022/23. The Internal Auditor was happy that our internal control objectives had been met and that there is a sound internal control system in place.. Cllr Hodge asked if anyone had any questions, which they did not.

Proposal: ECPC is happy to sign off the Internal 2022/2023 audit report. **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Bennett. A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to submit to external Auditor

3.c Review Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 Annual Governance statement had been sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodge ran through all the figures and asked if anyone had any questions which they did not. **Proposal:** Cllr Hodge proposed ECPC approve the Annual Governance statement. **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Bennett. A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Cllr Hodge to Sign as Chair Clerk to post on notice boards, website and submit to external Auditor

4.d Review and approve the Accounting Statements 2022/2023. Accounting statement had been sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodge went through all the figures and asked if anyone had any questions which they did not. **Proposal:** Cllr Hodge proposed ECPC approve the accounting statement. **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Bennett. A vote was taken, and all agreed. **Action:** Cllr Hodge to sign as Chair and Clerk to post on notice boards, website and submit to external Auditor

23/90 Memorial Requests and correspondence. Proposal for additional inscription to remember the late Norman Collins & also Geoffrey Doye. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mead A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update stone masons.

23/91 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. Parking at school. Clerk circulated an email prior to the meeting from a parishioner who was concerned over the parking at the school. They said that although the school is in a conservation area why are there not double yellow lines painted on the roads, as there are lines directly outside school. Cllr Mead advised that all schools have to have road markings directly outside of the entrance regardless of whether they are in a conservation area. However, markings in further areas is not allowed. **Action:** Clerk to update parishioner.
2. Devonshire Cottage Wall Cllr Mead said that he had been contacted by a parishioner regarding a very large crack in the wall at Devonshire Cottage. It was felt by all that the Clerk should write to the homeowner and bring it to their attention. **Action:** Clerk to write to homeowner. Cllr Warwick-Mortimer will also speak to property owner as she knows them.
3. Notice board at the bus shelter repairs. Clerk advised that the contractor was now going to dress a strip of lead over the top of the notice board and not attach it to the wall.
4. Cemetery Extension. Cllr Wakely and Cllr Cowen advised that they had had a site meeting and felt that there was land within the current cemetery boundary that could be utilised, and that this was being investigated.. **Action:** Working group to report back once investigations are complete.
5. Access to recreation ground from adjoining field. Clerk advised that Cllr Comstive had been in touch with the Landowner, and he was happy for the Parish Council to create a "permitted access" into the recreation ground along the hedge line to save people having to walk along Long Furlong Lane, but any costs incurred would fall to the PC. Townsend Developments quoted £580.00 plus VAT to put the necessary fencing in. **Proposal:** Accept offer from Landowner to put a permitted access in and accept Townsend Development Quote and instruct them to proceed. **Proposed:** Cllr Wakely **Seconded:** Cllr Cowen A vote was taken, 9 agreed and 1 abstention. **Action:** Clerk to contact the Landowner with acceptance update and also to contact Townsend Developments to accept fencing quote.
6. Village Stones. Cllr Sugg advised that 2 village stones had been placed in June and the others were in the process of being made. Cllr Sugg advised that she thought the remaining 2 stones would not be finished and put in until late July at the earliest. **Proposal:** Any payment would be made once all stones were in place. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Wintersgill. A vote was taken and all agreed.

7. Local Community Network (LCN) representation was discussed, and Cllr Hodge requested a volunteer to be the ECPC representative at the inaugural LCN meeting on 20th July. Cllr Wakely volunteered.

8. Bus Shelter This item has been moved to next month's meeting. **Action:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer to draft a proposal for improvements.

23/92 To receive the Clerk's report.

1. Burton traffic speed Survey findings. Clerk advised that a road survey had been carried out through Burton and that we were waiting on the full report. **Action:** Clerk to agenda this item for July.

23/93 Receive correspondence from the SC

23/94 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence. Clerk advised that she had received an email regarding inconsiderate parking around the school at drop off and pick up times. It also asked if consideration could be given to putting double yellow lines in the school area. Cllr Mead advised this could not be done, as it was in a Conservation Area and although there are road markings directly outside the school this is mandatory for all school entrances regardless of being in a conservation area or not. **Action:** Clerk to email Parishioner.

Clerk advised that she had several reports of speeding though the village. She said that she was engaging with Avon and Somerset Police and also Somerset Traffic and was waiting for their responses. Clerk advised that there was an Avon and Somerset speeding report link which she had and that she would add this to the newsletter and also forward to Councillor Wintersgill to send out in the Parish Communications.

23/95 Discuss Working Groups

1. The Pavilion Modernisation Working group meeting report. Clerk had forgotten to send out the minutes from the May Pavilion Modernisation Group meeting which Cllr Wintersgill had sent her, so Cllrs had not had an opportunity to read them. Cllr Hodge advised that they are waiting on costs which Cllr Comstive is chasing, so the group hope to be able to report more at the next PC meeting. **Action:** Clerk will send out Working Group minutes asap.

a. Fundraising: Cllr Wintersgill advised that all Councillors would have to pitch in to help fundraise for the Pavilion Modernisation Project. At this stage we still do not have a total project cost but as soon as this has been obtained a fund-raising programme will need to be created.

2. Parish Communications. Cllr Wintersgill confirmed with all Cllrs that it was ok for her to put a communication out about the forthcoming A30 closure. All agreed, once we had received confirmation that works contract had been awarded

1. Cemetery Working Group see 23/91.4

3. **Wellbeing** Cllr Wintersgill asked for a budget of £30.00 for prizes for a Pumpkin Carving competition in the Autum. This was agreed. They also would like to try and organise a Christmas Raffle to raise monies for the Pavilion Modernisation Project but this is still in the early stages. and Cllr Wintersgill requested that all Cllrs get involved in securing prizes.

23/97 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren advised that she had not received any responses to the emails sent to the secretary of the village hall regarding attending their meetings. It was suggested that she tried calling them..

Alms Houses – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer. Cllr Sugg advised the Clerk that she should forward Cllr Warwick-Mortimer's details to Simon Lee Dicker who sits on the Committee so he can send all relevant meeting dates through.

Primary School – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer reported that the school had lost another class and it was sadly now down to 7 classes. This is due to a significant reduction in birth rate which is currently affecting all schools. The birth rate has dropped by 8.6%.

23/98 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve.

23/99 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger. Cllr Sugg said the footpaths in the village should have been cut by Somerset Council, however this has not been done. Clerk to send email to Unitary Cllr Mike Hewitson with a list of the footpaths which need attention. Cllr Wilkins advised that the vegetation around the Tellis Cross park area was getting overgrown.

23/100 To discuss and resolve the following topics;

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

23/101 Agenda items for the next meeting, Wednesday 12th July 2023. Bus shelter repairs, Speed Survey report and SID information, Christmas Raffle and Rose Parsons Memorial application.

Clerk..... Chair