

## East Coker Parish Council Minutes 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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

**23/122** Apologies were received from Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Hall, Cllr Comstive, Cllr Bennett for non-attendance. Cllr Hodge advised that Cllr Bennett had resigned with immediate effect. She said that this was a great loss to ECPC and that Cllr Bennett had served since 2009. He will be greatly missed.

**23/123** Cllr Sugg and Cllr Mead declared an interest on item 23/126.B & 23/126.C

**23/124** Meeting minutes for the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 where approved. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Carter- Uren

### **23/125 Public Question Time**

- (1) Members of the Public. One member of the public spoke in objection to the proposed footway on Halves Lane. One member of the public spoke in support of item 23/126 a & b.
- (2) UC Hewitson advised that the schedule summer bin strikes had been cancelled. He also advised that the road works on the A30 are scheduled to start for 6 weeks and there would be 24-hour manned gates at each end of the closure to allow people to access properties doctors, and businesses. There will also be a shuttle bus put on to help residence travel.

7.20 One member of the public left meeting

### **23/126 To discuss and make observations on SC - Planning Applications**

A **15/01000/OUT Location:** Keyford. Cllr Hodge reported that there was a letter being written by Barwick and Stoford & East Coker questioning the proposed road layout at the bottom of Hendford Hill.

Cllr Mead & Cllr Sugg stood down

B **23/01062 LBC Location:** Mill house and associated outbuildings **Application:** Restoration of existing Mill building and associated outbuildings.

C **23/01061/FUL Location:** Mill house and associated outbuildings **Application:** Restoration of existing Mill building and associated outbuildings. Cllr Warwick Mortimer said that she thought the proposal was very sympathetic to the building and would bring it back into repair. Cllr Hodge commented that the developer was known for renovating buildings to a very high standard which are always sympathetic to the building and their surroundings. This sits with the ECNP ECH2 and ECH5. It was also said that main futures of this listed building would not be lost. **Proposal:** ECPC support this application which will improve the building and provide housing. This application adheres to the ECNP ECH2 & ECH5. **Action:** Clerk to update planning.

Cllr Sugg & Cllr Mead rejoined meeting and one member of the public left.

### **23/108 Finance**

To approve the following items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers. Please see attached reports.

#### **Bank Accounts Balance as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

ECPC CURRENT	£80,235.00
ECPC PAVILION	£82,940.00
ECPC PROJECTS	£8,517
<b>Total</b>	<b>£171,692.00</b>

#### **July 2023 Aged Payables**

Clare's Cleaning	£180.00
Clerk wages	£863.15
Xero Fee	£29.40
Peninsula Pensions	£239.14
Ranger Scheme	£1,056.28

Total £2,367.97

June 2023 income

East Coker Pre-School £487.00

Grassby Memorials £40.00

Fine Memorials £119.00

**Total £646.00**

**June 2023 Expenditure**

Key contractors (verge Cutting) £1,200.00

Viking Stationary £88.74

South West Locksmith £115.00

Clares Cleaning may 2023 £180.00

Peninsula Pensions £221.43

KMDIKE £1,007.70

Clerk wages £813.49

Pavilion exterior decoration £1,364.00

**Total £4,990.36**

Clerk advised that there were 4 late invoices, £696.00 for fencing beside the Rec, £1,007.70 from KM Dike, £1478.78 Ranger Scheme May and June and ICO fee of £40.00.

**Proposed: Cllr Hodge Seconded: Cllr Mead All agreed**

**23/127 Memorial Requests and correspondence.**

1. Request received for an additional inscription to remember the late Rosemary Parsons and Bill Hawkins There were no objections **Proposed: Cllr Mead Seconded: Cllr Sugg** A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to email Stone Mason.

**23/128 Matters for discussion and resolution:**

1. **Proposed new footway on Halves Lane.** Cllr Mead said that he could not understand that the proposal was to put the pavement on the south side of the road from the village hall, as this is not what was requested some time ago when this issue was first discussed. It was felt that having the pavement on the south side of the road would not be beneficial as it would mean people having to cross the road twice in order to get to the school and few people would choose to use that route. Cllr Hodge said it was nonsensical to put a crossing directly on the Halves Lane and Main Street junction which is extremely a busy junction at the best of times, let alone when the school run is on. Cllr Warwick-Mortimer advised that the Head Teacher did not agree with the proposal and said that the school were thinking about asking the pupils to write to the Council with their views. Cllr Mead said that it would be better to have the pavement to the North as this would be far more used, less dangerous and there would be no need to remove any trees. Cllr Wakely agreed and said that it would easy enough to put drop curb stones in so the businesses at the Saw Mills could still access their buildings. **Proposal:** Whilst we recognise the need for a footway on this stretch of road, we believe to have part of it on the South side would not be the safest option. Not only would this involve parents and children having to cross the lane twice, but one of those crossings would be right on a busy T junction. Because of this we feel it is likely that this route would be ignored and therefore not only would time and money have been wasted but a significant number of trees would have to be sacrificed without improving the situation. We believe that it would be not only better but safer to have a walkway on the North side of the road. This would then obviate any crossing issues and also any removal of trees. **Proposed: Cllr Cowen Seconded: Cllr Mead.** A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update Somerset Council with our comments, Cllr Warwick-Mortimer contact the Head Teacher and suggest that she registered her concerns to this proposal.

2. **Village Stones.** Clerk reported that Harvey Stones had update that the 2 remaining stones would not be ready for at least another 6 weeks. Cllr Sugg asked if it was the Parish Councils intention to replace the stone on Yeovil Road which had been seriously damaged. Cllr Hodge advised that this was currently an insurance matter so nothing could be decided at this meeting. **Proposal:** Cllr Mead proposed that if it was to be replaced the sign should have wording of Kings Coronation 2023 rather

than the original Silver Jubilee 1977. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mead A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to chase insurance company and also get a quote from South West Signs to make a new sign.

**3. Bus Shelter.** Cllr Warwick Mortimer said that the bus shelter was looking very tired and thought it needed some sprucing up. She also asked who owned it. Clerk advised that the Parish Council owned the building but the Old School House owned the land it stood on. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for the needed works and that she would also contact the land owner to see if they had any objections to works being done. Cllr Sugg also asked the notice board had been repaired, but Clerk advised contractor was yet to do it. **Proposal:** Clerk to confirm ownership, get quotes for repair of bus shelter and also chase up works on notice board. **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer. **Action:** Clerk to contact contractor regarding repair of notice boards and try and get 3 quotes for sprucing up of the bus shelter. Also speak to the land owner and confirm they have no objections to possible works being carried out.

**4. Traffic survey and village speeds.** Clerk advised that she had not yet been able to secure a meeting with Somerset Roads and the Police but was still trying to do this. She is now hoping to schedule a meeting in late July and Cllr Cowen advised he would like to attend. Cllr Cowen proposed that we should investigate purchasing a portable SID. Cllr Mead suggested clubbing together with other Parishes to try and reduce costs. Cllr Sugg advised that she was 80% sure that the ranger was qualified to move them from place to place. **Action:** Clerk to contact other Parish Councils and gauge interest in jointly purchasing a SID, she will also try and firm up a date to meet Somerset Traffic.

**5. Discuss and confirm if there is to be a meeting in August.** Clerk suggested that there not be a meeting in August. She said very few other Parish Councils have August meetings. It was felt that there should be an August meeting so this will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**6. Tellis Cross play area.** Cllr Hodge asked if Cllrs still wanted to adopt the play area at Tellis Cross, as much time had passed since it was last voted on this. It was felt by all that we still wished to adopt the area. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg A vote was taken and all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update localities office at Somerset Council.

**7. Permission sort from East Coker Pre School** to erect a removable shade sail in the garden. It was felt by all that providing that a risk assessment had been undertaken and the relevant insurances for taking the sail and posts up and down had been thoroughly investigated, the PC are happy to approve the request. **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Action:** Clerk to update the Preschool

**8. Deuteration of the wall by millennium stone.** Cllr Sugg said that the field which boards the wall had recently been sold by Symonds and Sampson. She proposed that the Clerk contact them with a letter to forward to the new proprietor requesting that the deuteration is addressed urgently.

**Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Cowen **Action:** Clerk to write letter to Symonds and Sampson for forwarding.

#### **23/129 To receive the Clerk's report.**

1. Clerk advised that the preschool were running summer sessions through the holiday and would remain open from Monday to Thursday until the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023,

2. Updating of assets register. Clerk advised that she was in the process of updating the asset register. Cllr Carter-Uren requested the projector to be added.

#### **23/130 Receive correspondence from the Somerset Council**

#### **23/131 To receive and discuss Parishioner Correspondence.**

1. A request from the Chair of the Village Hall was received to relocate the Parish Council Projector to the Village Hall. This was discussed but it was felt that the projector should stay at the Pavilion and should anyone wish to use it, they are able to contact Cllr Carter-Uren. **Action:** Clerk to update Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

2. Clerk advised that a broken curb stone at the paddock had been reported and she had contacted highways to investigate.

3. Cllr Cowen advised that he had received a request from a parishioner to install a temporary East Coker sign on Yeovil Road until a new stone was put in situ, It was felt that, as the PC are hoping to replace the damaged sign as soon as the insurance company has agreed and the sign maker has completed one, it would not be an appropriate use of village funds to pay for a temporary sign. **Action:** Cllr Cowen to report back to Parishioner.

#### **23/132 Discuss Working Groups**

1. **The Pavilion Modernisation.** Cllr Hodge advised that there would be a meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and this will be reported at the next PC meeting.
2. **Parish Communications:** Nothing to report  
Cemetery Working Group. Cllr Cowen advised that Cllr Comstive requested permission to get a tree survey carried out at the Cemetery in the hope that some of the conifers are removed to free up more burial plot. It was felt by all that this would be a good idea. **Action:** Cllr Cowen advised Cllr Comstive to proceed and instruct a tree surveyor.
3. **Wellbeing :** Cllr Wintersgill was not present at the meeting but Cllr Sugg advised that if there was any possibility of having a "Christmas Lunch "there would need to be a substantial team of helpers as it was a huge undertaking. She also suggested that it may be an idea to investigate getting an outside caters in to do the cooking, however this would have to be reflected in the ticket price. **Action:** Cllr Warwick Mortimer was asked to feed back to Cllr Wintersgill and investigate options and costings for hosting this event

#### **4. 23/133 Group Representative Reports**

**Village Hall** – Cllr Carter-Uren advised that she still had not been able to get in contact with anyone from the Village Hall Committee. Clerk will attempt to make contact with someone from the group.

**Alms Houses** – Clerk had advised that she had been informed by a committee member of the Alms Houses that a new representative was not need from the PC. Cllr Sugg disagreed with this and requested Clerk contact Symonds and Sampson who manage the properties for clarification on this.

**Primary School** – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer advised she had had a meeting with the Head teacher were the following item were discussed.

**Parking** has been a continuous subject that the school are aware of and can only advise parents as it is not in their jurisdiction. Advisories are regularly put out to parents via newsletter and notices on the school website. **Halves Lane pavement proposal.** Parents have been commenting about the absurdity of this plan. Parents have intimated they will not be crossing the road and re-crossing on a junction to walk from the Village Hall to school. The head felt also that this was not the most constructive way of safely walking children to school, they will always take the easiest route that is along the road in front of the old saw mills. **Parish Councillors** asked the Head to write to Somerset County Council Infrastructure Programmes Group to pass on parents and heads comments. **Pupil reception numbers** for September is 28 that will give 7 classes of 30 children. East Coker School annual compliment is now at 30 in take, due to the reduction in population and the 2 new schools in Yeovil has had an effect on pupil numbers throughout the town. **Forest School** within the grounds are looking at building raised beds to grow vegetable crops. School would appreciate any green fingered villagers to lend a hand in helping the children to understand the need for weeding, mulching and feeding crops please. If contact could be made through the school office in September, **School** would like to be part of the village when events are being looked at, however, they do require at least half a term to get any proposals into the curriculum. **Next academic year's topic** is WWII. If there is anyone within the village who has any experience of the hardships or stories they can tell to the children, the Head would really appreciate this. Please contact the school office.

**23/134 To discuss and identify Highways Issues and resolve.** Clerk to speak to Highways again about drain at Tellis Cross which is constantly wet and also regarding the deuteriation of the bank on Yeovil Road by Cattery

**23/135 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger.** Banks at Pincushion Corner are very overgrown. Cllr Sugg will request the ranger cut these back

**23/136 To discuss and resolve the following topics;**

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

1. HR working group meeting had been postponed so this will be held and reported on at the August meeting.

**23/137 Agenda items for the next meeting.**

Cemetery Tree Survey, HR Committee feedback, SIDs and feedback from Meeting with Somerset Traffic, Village Stones Update.