

East Coker Parish Council Minutes 13th September 2023

Attendees: Cllr Cowen, Cllr Hodge, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Wakely, Cllr Hall, Cllr Comstive, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Warwick-Mortimer, Cllr Carter-Uren, Cllr Walker & Clerk J. Heggarty.

Public Attendance: 1 members of the public.

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

23/156 To receive apologies and reasons for non-attendance

No apologies as all Councillors were present. Cllr Cowen advised that sadly Cllr Wilkins resignation had been received, as she is moving out of the area. Her final meeting will be on October 11th. She has sat on the PC for three and half years and will be very much missed. There are now 2 available seats on the PC, one of which is Wraxhill. Clerk will advertise the vacancies in the newsletter and Cllr Wintersgill will send out a Parish Communication.

23/157 To receive declarations of interest in items on this agenda. No declarations of interest were received.

23/158 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th July 2023. There was an amendment to numbering on item 23/146.9 should read 23/146.4 and not 23/145.4

Meeting minutes for the 9th August 2023 were approved. **Proposed:** Cllr Hall **Seconded:** Cllr Wintersgill **Vote:** 11 in favour, 1 abstention (Cllr was not at August meeting). **Action:** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish on website and boards.

23/159 Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public.

(2) UC None U Cllr Hewitson delivered his monthly report.

7.20pm Unitary Cllr Hewitson left meeting.

23/160 To discuss and make observations on SC - Planning Applications

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

23/161 Finance. To approve the following items of expenditure and those paid under delegated Powers.

Clerk advised that the following invoices had arrived since agenda publication
Ranger £1,056.00 and S W Signs £306.00 totalling £1362.00.

There is also an EDF bill due to arrive for payment this month. Cllr Cowen ran through the budget figures for this quarter. Cllr Hodge said that she was in the process of seeing if she could get the Xero Account system down from the current tariff of £29.40. She hopes to feedback at the October meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Carter-Uren **Seconded:** Cllr Hodge **Vote:** All Agreed **Action:** Finance accounts approved for the month and Clerk to pay all invoices.

This item was moved forward 23/167

1. The Pavilion Modernisation

Cllr Comstive advised that the working group had met and proposed minor amendments to the current planning drawings. Clarification of the current proposed changing room facilities meet FA standards is being sought. Cllr Comstive advised that he had identified a "Cricket Champion". This person could visit playing fields site and provide advice and guidance as to what needs to be done to the area to bring it up to standard and possible costs, they could also find a team/ teams to play there. He asked for a PC Cllr to volunteer to liaise with the Cricket Champion directly. Cllr Walker volunteered to do this.

23/162 Memorial Requests:

None received

8.05 pm Cllr Comstive left meeting.

23/163 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. SIDS & post locations

Cllr Walker gave an update on post location for the village SIDS. He advised that

he felt that the post at Coker Marsh would be best located just along from the junction with Stoney Lane on the south side. He advised that he had spoken to the land owner and they had no objection to this. Traffic have suggested the best location for the post on Halves Lane will be sited beside the Village Hall. The post at the top of Burton will be sited on the left hand side of the road almost opposite the Broadacres turning. There is an existing post already there and this may be able to be used. The site of the post on Yeovil Road is still being negotiated as Cllr Walker believes it would be better off sited before the bottle neck by Tellis cross rather than after it. He advised that he was trying to set up another meeting with Somerset Traffic to get these locations agreed. He also advised that he had reported that the School Wig Way on Yeovil Road was not working and needed repair.

Cllr Cowen had circulated the "memorandum of understanding" for submission to Somerset Council. He asked if everyone was happy with this document. Cllr Hodge asked if the Parish liability insurance was cover as per the guidelines. Cllr Cowen confirmed that it was. Cllr Cowen advised that the SID would cost £2350.00 plus Vat and each post would be £200.00. The costs for training someone is £400 but at present the village ranger is qualified to do this.

Proposal: Cllr Walker will arrange a meeting with Somerset Traffic to confirm post locations. Once post location has been confirmed Cllr Cowen will be able to submit "memorandum of understanding."

Proposed: Cllr Wakely **Seconded:** Cllr Hodge **Vote:** All in favour **Action:** Cllr Walker to arrange meeting with Somerset Traffic.

2. PC plans for Christmas

Cllr Sugg advised that they were looking at starting to fundraise for the Pavilion Modernisation. The first fundraiser is proposed for the 17th December from 3pm to 5pm in The Paddock. This would be a live nativity play, with animals and humans joining in the festivities. Cllr Sugg advised that there would need to be fencing erected along the stream and this is going to cost around £100. There will be food and mulled wine and soft drinks sold. Tickets will be sold at £5 per adult and children under 12 are free. All Sugg asked for a budget for this was set at £200. This figure was agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mead **Vote:** All in favour **Action:** Clerk to apply for a temporary events license and Cllr Wintersgill will forward Clerk information to put in the newsletter.

3. Kingspring Lane Curtilage

Cllr Sugg advised that the new property which had been built at the far end of Kingspring Lane "Badger Wood" has incorporated part of the byway in their drive by placing shrubs and sleepers on to it. Cllr Wintersgill and Cllr Warwick Mortimer visited that location and whilst they were looking, the owner of the property came out and advised them that he had done this to try and divert any run off water from the field away from his drive. Clerk advised that the Somerset Footpaths Coordinator is aware of this and will go out and look at this area and report back. Cllr Cowen will also go out and take a look.

4. LCN feedback from meeting

Cllr Wakely advised that he had attend the first LCN meeting. He said that the members were made up Parish Council members from all over the LCN 9 area, police, fire services and other community groups. There are 18 different LCN areas in Somerset. Mike Hewitson was voted on as Chairperson and Robert Stickland as Vice Chair. Cllr Wakely advised that the idea of LCN was to act as a conduit between PC's and Somerset Council where issues can be raised and discussions had. There will be a hand book produced and meetings will be held every 2 months.

5. Discuss quotes for pollarding tree at the recreation ground. Cllr Cowen advised that 3 Tree surgeons had attended the recreation ground and looked at the tree which stands between the children's play area and the Scout hut. They all advised that it needed pollarding. Clerk

received 3 quotes. One for £1,600+vat, one for £1,870+ Vat and the other for £930 Cllr Wintersgill also proposed a further tree surgeon who may be able to provide competitive quote. It was agreed that she would forward his details to the Clerk to obtain another quote however if he was still more expensive, we would use ARB who quoted £930.

Proposal: Obtain another quote but if cost exceeds £930 the Parish Council will engage ARB to undertake the work.

Proposed: Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Mead **Vote:** All in favour **Action:** Clerk to obtain another quote and should cost exceed £930 she is to engage ARM.

6. **Updating of the PC website.** Cllr Cowen said he thought the website needed revamping. Cllr agreed.

Proposal: Cllr Cowen and Clerk will meet and go through the web site and organise for this to be updated.

7. **Village stone license.** Clerk advised that there needs to be another license in order to replace the broken Village stone on Yeovil Road. This would cost £210. Cllr Sugg advised that she had visited Harvey Stone but they had still not made a start on the 2 outstanding stones or on the broken one. They were not able to give a time scale. Cllr Sugg will keep pursuing.

Proposal: Clerk to apply for new Stone Licence at a cost of £210.00 and Cllr Sugg will pursue Harvey stone for a completion date for outstanding stones **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Hodge **Vote:** All in favour **Action:** Clerk to Apply for License, Cllr Sugg to pursue completion date.

23/164 To receive the Clerk's report.

1. **Bus on Halves Lane.** Clerk advised that this issue had been reported to the police as requested and awaited a response. She advised that the vehicle was taxed and was not causing an obstruction so she thought that very little could probably be done.

23/165 Correspondence from the Somerset Council.

1. Somerset Code of Conduct had been circulated prior to meeting. It was agreed and Adopted **Action:** Clerk to update website.
2. An email was received from Abbey Manor Homes re Bunford Hollow phase 2 Public consultation. This email was received on the 5th September and a response was requested by the 8th September. This left no time to add this to the agenda for discussion. An extension was granted until the 15th September. PC will submit the following comments. "Although this development is not quite in our parish it was felt strongly that it would impact it, especially in terms of a traffic volume increase and probable increased numbers wanting to enrol at our village primary school. Neither of these effects is welcome: increased traffic for obvious reasons (especially as we are already trying to deal with speeding, dangerous driving and inconsiderate parking) and the school is already at full capacity. In addition the council noticed that the proposed road layout appears to offer an unsafe route for vehicles wishing to turn south (i.e. to the right) when leaving the Phase 2 site. The A3088 is a very busy road already and as it's on a hill it will require a reasonable break in the traffic in both directions to enable a safe exit. In our view this will inevitably lead to long delays at peak traffic times and frustrated drivers trying unsafe manoeuvres. There is a lack of sufficient and safe cycleways incorporated in the plan. The land in this area is listed as Grade 1 agricultural land and as a council we are opposed to losing such valuable resources".

Action: Clerk to submit comments to Abbey Manor Homes.

23/166 Parishioner Correspondence.

1. **Overgrown bushes in Burton mail drop.** Clerk advised that she had received an email from a parishioner regarding overgrowing bush's down through Burton. Cllr Hall said that he would do a mail drop in that area to all houses. **Action:** Cllr Hall to draft a letter and have it proofed by the Chairperson, then distribute to all properties in the area.

2. **Email received from a Parishioner regarding road markings near school.** The contents of this email were distributed to all Cllr prior to the meeting. Parking restrictions in North Coker were discussed. It was felt that whilst yellow lines may stop people parking along the road thus making pedestrians more visible, it can equally be argued that having parked cars there reduces the road width to a single lane and thereby automatically causes drivers to slow in both directions as they have to wait for oncoming vehicles. As a secondary consideration, in previous parish council discussions, the views of those parishioners who live in that vicinity have been mentioned and apparently the general consensus was that, in the absence of an obvious safety case and for various reasons (lack of places to park in North Coker especially for residents and café visitors, for example), parking restrictions would not be welcome.

Action: Clerk to update Parishioner.

23/167 Discuss Working Groups

1. The Pavilion Modernisation

a. **Fund raising -100 club.** Cllr Wintersgill suggested that a 100-club draw was started up to help raise funds for the Pavilion Modernisation Project. This would involve getting a gambling license from Somerset Council, The Clerk advised that we had a lottery license already but she was waiting on confirmation to make sure this was the correct license. Cllr Hodge said that there needed to be more discussion on this as there would be a lot more administration each month. She also advised that a new bank account would need to be opened purely for these funds. **Proposal:** Clerk to seek clarification on lottery license and open a new bank account, Cllr Wintersgill to bring a full proposal and when complete bring to PC meeting. **Action:** Clerk to open up a new bank account and Cllr Wintersgill to put a proposal together and bring to PC meeting for approval.

2. Parish Communications. Cllr Wintersgill requested permission to send out information about the PC Pumpkin Competition and Live Nativity Play in the paddock. **Vote:** All In favour

3. Cemetery Working Group

a. **Tree survey report** findings (this item was discussed prior to Cllr Comstive leaving the meeting) Cllr Comstive advised that the tree report had arrived shortly before the meeting so he had not yet had time to review it, but said at a glance it looks like there is a lot of scope to remove certain trees to free up burial plots. He also said that some of these trees could be replaced with small prettier trees. **Action:** Cllr Comstive review and circulate report prior to next meeting when its finding can be discussed further.

b. **Topographical survey** was carried out at the end of August. This has revealed that there should be a large amount of land which can be used for burial. Cllr Comstive will confirm the legals with the diocese and Cllr Wakely will investigate the best way forward for grave marking so there is no land wasted.

c. **Cemetery Policy** Cllr Wakely advised that he is still working on this and hopes to have this document available for the October meeting.

4. Wellbeing

23/168 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren

Alms Houses – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer. Cllr Sugg advised that she had spoken to the Chairperson of the Alms Houses committee and he had advised that they did not need a representative from the Council sitting on the committee.

Primary School – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer advised that the school had been experiencing a lot of internet problems resulting in not having access to working on line.

23/169 Highways Issues

23/170 Identified works for the Village Ranger

23/171 To discuss and resolve the following topics;

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

23/172 Agenda items for the next meeting.

100 Club, Football Club fee review, Cemetery Policy.

Meeting ended at 9.59pm

Clerk..... Chair

Date.....