

East Coker Parish Council Minutes 11th October 2023 7pm

Attendees: Cllr Cowen, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Mead, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Warwick-Mortimer, Cllr Walker, Cllr Carter-Uren & Clerk J. Heggarty.

Public Attendance: 0 members of the public.

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm at East Coker Pavilion.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Wakely, Cllr Hall, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Hodge and Cllr Comstive for not attending.

23/157 To receive declarations of interest in items on this agenda. None

23/158 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th

September 2023. Proposed: Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Mead **Vote:** All in favour **Action:** the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair. Clerk to put on notice boards and website.

23/159 Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public. No member of the public present.

(2) UC None. No Unitary Cllrs present.

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

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

B 23/01767/HOU Location: 28 Lower Wraxhill Rd, East Coker **Application:** Erection of a side extension, renovation of bungalow to include loft conversion. It was felt that this extension would improve the property and make it into a good size family home without markedly increasing its footprint or height. It was noted that the house is situated on a large plot so this extension would not look oversized. Cllr Mead said that there had been an objection from 26 Lower Wraxhill Road regarding being overlooked and this should be noted on our response. **Proposal:** ECPC are happy to support this application but would ask that Somerset Planning take the objection from 26 Lower Wraxhill Road regarding overlooking into consideration.

Proposed: Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Wilkins **Vote:** 6 in favour 1 abstention **Action:** Clerk to update Somerset Council Planning.

23/161 Finance.

To approve the following items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers.

Incoming payments September 2023

EC Pre School rent £487.00

EC Pre School Electricity £290.95

Total £77.95

Invoice to pay in October 2023 (subject to changes)

Clare's Cleaning £180.00

Clerk wages £824.29

GARDENING CLUB £18.73

HMRC £5.31

ICO £40.00

K M Dike £1,007.70

Old Mill £29.40

Peninsula Pensions £221.43

SALC affiliation fee £499.35

Total £2,826.21

Account Balances as of 30th September 2023

ECPC CURRENT £68,357.44

ECPC PAVILION £82,939.50

ECPC PROJECTS £10,511.37

Total £161,808.31

Clerk advised that 2 new invoices had been received since agenda publication: 1 for hedge trimming (£120.00) and another for Ranger Scheme (£845.02).

Proposal: Approve accounts for payment **Proposed:** Cllr Warwick-Mortimer **Seconded:** Cllr Carter Uren **Vote:** All in favour, **Action:** Finance accounts approved for the month and Clerk to pay all invoices.

23/162 Memorial Requests:

1. Request received for an additional inscription to remember the late Cecil Turner.

Proposal: To approve this memorial application **Proposed:** Cllr Wilkins **Seconded:** Cllr Walker **Vote:** All in Favour **Action:** Clerk to update stone mason

23/163 Matters for discussion and resolution:

SIDS & post locations. Cllr Walker advised that he had had a successful meeting with Andy Baron from Somerset Traffic. They met and decided on the locations for the SID posts. They are at: 1) Yeovil Road on raised east verge just north of Tellis Cross junction outside "Three Gables", 2) Burton Lane, on the junction with Higher Burton, 3) Halves Lane, on north verge outside the Village Hall car park, and 4) in a private field close to stone boundary wall south of Main Street and west of Stoney Lane opposite Willow Cottage.

There were no objections to the siting of the proposed posts so Cllr Cowen asked if he could update the SC memorandum of understanding to enable it to be submitted.

Proposal: Update the memorandum of understanding with location of posts and submit.

Proposed: Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Walker **Vote:** All in favour **Action:** Cllr Cowen to update site location on to the memorandum of understanding and submit to Somerset Council.

1. **Nativity Play.** Cllr Sugg advised that the date of the nativity play (17th December) clashes with the church carol service although the times did not. Cllr Sugg said that the Wellbeing Group suggested a possible change of date to the 10th December, however there had been a lack of volunteers for that date. Clerk advised the small events license had been granted already and the license was non-transferable. It was agreed that the Nativity would go ahead on the original planned date of the 17th December. Cllr Sugg mentioned that a large number of helpers would be required so asked if councillors (plus partners if possible) could attend.
2. **Football Club Annual Fee.** Clerk advised that the invoice for the football club was due to be sent out. She advised that in previous years (except last year when there had been no increase) the charge had increased with the inflation rate. The current interest rate is 6.3% making an increase of £168 per year.
Councillors agreed that this was a fair increase. **Proposal:** Raise fee in line with inflation of 6.3% from £2672 to £2,840 **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Carter-Uren **Vote:** All in favour **Action:** Clerk to prepare invoice and explanation letter and send to football club.
3. **Natter Garden.** Cllr Sugg asked if anyone was in charge of planting at the Natter Garden. This was unclear but Clerk said she would contact Sandra Snelling as she has organised this in the past. Cllr Warwick-Mortimer is going to approach Steve Fox from Somerset Council to see if they have any plants available.
4. **Pincushion Wood.** Cllr Mead advised that there would be a working party at Pinchusion Corner Wood on the 21st October between 9am and 1pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and lend a hand.
5. **Village stone.** Cllr Sugg advised that she still had not received a date for the completion of the Village Stones. Cllr Cowen said that he would visit Harvey's Stone and see if he could get an answer as to when they expect to complete them.

23/164 To receive the Clerk's report.

1. **Kingspring Lane Curtilage.** Clerk advised that a member of Somerset Council Footpaths visited Kingspring Lane to look at the curtilage at "Badgers Wood". They saw no issue and do not wish to take any further action. Cllr Mead and Sugg both said that a new footpath sign needs to be put up as it now looks like the footpath ends and just runs into a private

drive. Cllr Mead advised he had a footpath sign which he will install, and Clerk will update Somerset Council footpaths about this.

23/165 Correspondence from the Somerset Council. Nothing to report

23/166 Parishioner Correspondence.

Clerk advised that there was a late request for a memorial for the late Reginald Strong. It was felt as the wording had been revised, that approval should be granted. **Proposed:** Cllr Carter-Uren **Seconded:** Cllr Walker **Vote:** All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to update Stone Mason

23/167 Discuss Working Groups

1. **The Pavilion Modernisation** Next working group meeting Monday 16th October.
2. **Parish Communications.** Nothing to report.
3. **Cemetery Working Group** Nothing to report.
4. **Wellbeing**
 - a. **Pumpkin Competition.** Cllr Carter Uren asked for the Clerk to order £30.00 of Amazon vouchers as prizes for the Pumpkin Competition.
 - b. **100 Club** Cllr Carter Uren will investigate licensing further as it is unclear if the lottery license which the PC already has will cover this. She will also look at what the PC have to do in order to be GDPR compliant when running this club. Clerk to ask the bank if there is a standing order form available with the new bank account.
5. **LCN.** Nothing to report

23/168 Group Representative Reports

Village Hall – Cllr Carter-Uren Nothing to report

Primary School – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer reported that the Year 6 residential was a success.

23/169 Highways Issues.

Cllr Walker asked when the broken curb stones at “The Paddock” are going to be reset.

Clerk advised that she had been told by Somerset Highways that there was no money available in its budget to repair them at the moment. She will contact them again and see if there is any time frame for the repair.

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, Cemetery Policy and Tree report.

Cllr Cowen closed the meeting by saying thank you to Cllr Wilkins for her contribution to the PC over the past three and a half years. He said she will be greatly missed and wished her luck in the future.

Meeting ended at 8.36pm