

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes –11th June 2025 7pm

Attending Councillors: Cllr Cowen, Cllr Hodge, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Costello, Cllr Mead, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Hall, Cllr Warwick-Mortimer, Cllr Walker, Cllr Chauveau and Cllr Comstive

Apologies for non-attendance: Cllr Carter-Uren

25/82 Approval was given to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting which was held on the 14th May 2025 Proposed: Cllr Wintersgill Seconded: Cllr Chauveau Vote: 10 For, 1 Abstention.

Approval was given to accept the minutes of the EGM held on the 22nd May 2025 Proposed: Cllr Walker Seconded: Cllr Warwick Mortimer Vote: All Agreed Action: Clerk to publish both sets of minutes.

25/83 Cllr Comstive and Cllr Mead declared an interest on item 25/92.1

25/84 Public Question Time

(1) There were 12 members of the public present. One Member of the public spoke on item 25/92.1 on the agenda as a representative of Will Woodlands Trust, the new owner of Isles Farm. He explained about the Trust and what they do and its plans for planting a large swath of new woodland in the Isles Farm fields. Although this is just outside the EC parish, he advised that the Trust wants to consult all parishes that would be affected. He added that there would be consultation at a later date as he was mindful that people had concerns. He added that he thought the planting would take place between 2026 and 2028. 2 members of the public also spoke on this item and voiced their concerns about the possibility of their views from their properties being obscured by the proposed woodland, the environmental effects of installing deer fencing and the potential problems of large vehicles using the single-track lanes in the area.

7.15pm 10 members of the public and Cllr Comstive left the meeting.

One member of the public representing the Football Club spoke about moving the football pitches around. He kindly circulated a proposed lay-out map. He said that they would like to move the main pitch to behind the pavilion. This would mean moving the small pitches to the front of the pavilion and this would mean incorporating a potential cricket square into the smaller pitches but would leave space for the cricket nets. He also asked permission to put a ball net up behind the goal posts at the road end of the pitch, to stop balls going into the road and into residents' gardens. Any costs for these ideas would be incurred by the Coker Cockerels.

7.30 2 members of the public left the meeting and Cllr Comstive returned.

(2) Unitary Councillors were not present

25/85 Chair's Report. Cllr Cowen advised that the garage doors for the cricket and football lock ups had been replaced.

25/86 100 Club number draw 1st 1 2nd 15 3rd 13 Action: Clerk to pay and update winners.

25/87 Finance

1. Review and approve the Year End accounts 2024/2025. These items had been circulated prior to meeting. Cllr Cowen asked if any Cllrs wanted to make comment or had any questions, but they did not. Proposed: Cllr Walker Seconded: Cllr Hodge Vote: All Agreed

2. The Internal audit report 2024/2025: Cllr Hodge advised that the internal 2024/2025 audit had been carried out and Clerk had circulated prior to meeting. Cllr Hodge asked if any Councillors had any questions, which they did not. Proposal: Cllrs agree that the internal audit has been carried out satisfactorily. Proposed: Cllr Costello Seconded: Cllr Walker Vote: All Agreed Action: Clerk to place on notice boards and website

3. Review Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025. This document had been circulated with Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodge explained points 1-8 as point 9 does not apply to us at present. She asked the Cllrs if they had any questions. No questions were asked by Cllrs.

Proposed: Cllr Wintersgill **Seconded:** Cllr Chauveau **Vote:** All agreed **Action:** Clerk to place on notice boards and website

4. Review and approve the Accounting Statements 2024/2025. This document had been circulated by the Clerk with Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodge updated the Cllrs how these figures had been reached, using our Xero accounting software. No Cllrs had any questions. Cllr Cowen asked if Cllrs were happy to accept the accounting statement as a true record of ECPC accounts as of the 31.03.25 **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Comstive **Vote:** All agreed **Action:** Clerk to place on notice boards and website and submit to External Auditor

6. The monthly items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers were discussed. Clerk advised that she had missed paying the February KM Dike invoice and also KM Dike had only sent the April invoice through at the beginning of this month. So, there would be 3 payments made to KM Dike in June. Cllr Hodge asked the Clerk if she could change the Description of an item on the 15th May to 'Bank Transfer'. **Proposed:** Cllr Walker **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to pay invoices

25/87 To discuss and make observations on SC - Planning Applications

A 15/01000/OUT Location: Keyford Cllr Walker advised that there was nothing to report

B 25/01062/HOU Location: Homelea Lodge, Long Furlong Lane **Application:** Erection of a single storey extension to rear. . Cllr Sugg said that this application was a similar extension to one next door. Cllr Mead said that the extension was not large and proposed that we support this application. **Proposal:** This application is in keeping with the surrounding area and the ECPC is happy to support it. **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Walker **Vote:** All agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update Somerset Planning.

C 25/01027/HOU Location: 50 Tellis Cross **Application:** The erection of single storey rear extension and two storey annexe side extension to dwelling and erection of front porch. Cllr Mead said that there was an objection online regarding boundaries. Cllrs Comstive, Costello and Cllr Hodge said that this was a matter for the planning officer and not the PC. Cllr Costello said that this looked to be a new dwelling rather than an extension due to it having a separate entrance, the layout and the size, but could not see an issue with it. **Proposal 1:** Accept this application but on the response to Somerset Council make mention of the online objection referring to the boundary concern. **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** 4 in favour. **Proposal 2:** Accept this application without mention of the online objection. **Proposed:** Cllr Costello **Seconded:** Cllr Hodge **Vote:** 7 in favour and so Proposal 2 was carried. **Action:** Clerk to update planning

25/88 Memorial Requests were received to remember Mr & Mrs David Fellows. There were no objections to this. **Action:** Clerk to update stonemason. Clerk also advised that she had received an email asking if it would be possible to plant a flowering cherry tree in the Cemetery to remember the late David Alan Haines. Cllrs had no objection to this but wanted to know what sort of cherry tree it would be and that we would have to choose the location. They also said that it will not be possible to put up a name plaque. **Action:** Clerk to update the family.

25/89 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. Coker Cockerels' pitch rotation and ball guarding net. Cllr Mead asked the football club representative where the proposed ball-keeping net would be placed, as he would not want it right up against the hedge as it may upset residents and also would hamper the hedge cutting. The representative said that it would be placed a few feet behind the goal nearest the road. He also said that it would be removed out of season. Cllr Walker questioned how the new lay-out would impact a potential cricket square as we have been investigating hosting a cricket club again. However he added that it would cost a great deal of money to get the square in good enough condition to be playable. Cllr Sugg said that the PC had been trying to get a Cricket Club back for years, unsuccessfully, and thought that the football club's proposal was a good idea. She said we should be supporting the club if this was a better layout for them. **Proposal:** the ECPC is happy for the football club to change the layout of the pitches and put up a removable

ball-keeping net during the football season. **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Hodge **Vote:** All Agreed

2. Book swap at bus shelter. It was discussed that the lady who was kindly looking after the Bus Shelter book exchange had advised that she could no longer do it due to people dumping unacceptable items in there. Cllr Chauveau said since this had happened locals had been taking it on themselves to keep it tidy. She said we should thank the lady who had been looking after it with a present and keep a close eye on the tidiness of it for the next couple of months. **Action:** Cllr Cowen to thank the lady who has kept it tidy over the past couple of years.

25/90 To receive the Clerk's report.

1. Clerk asked for approval for leave on 1st, 2nd & 3rd July. Cllr Cowen will publish the agenda. . She will also forward Councillors account figures on her return.

25/91 Correspondence received from Somerset Council. Clerk advised that she had paid Yeovil Town Council our pledged amount of £2,500, and had received a thank you.

25/92 Discuss Parishioner Correspondence.

Cllr Comstive and Cllr Mead stood down.

1. Isles Farm - New Wood Creation. Cllr Comstive asked if he could write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council on this matter, but he was informed that he was not able to speak about this item as he had declared an interest. Clerk had circulated an email from Closworth Parish Council earlier that day giving their views on the proposed project. It was felt that although there was obviously much interest from residents (mostly outside - the EC Parish) that this proposed project was very much in the early stages and until the full up-to-date plans had been circulated by Will Woodlands there was little to discuss. The Will Woodlands' representative advised that once they had met with the Trustees and agreed a full plan there would be further consultation with the affected parishes on this matter.

2. Speeding Traffic on the A37. Clerk advised that there had been an email asking for the speed to be reduced on the A37 past Key Farm to 30mph. Cllr Sugg said that this was a Highways matter and even though we sympathised with the request, the density of properties in that area would probably mean Highways would not consider it sufficient to justify a 30 mph speed limit.

Action: Clerk to update the resident

25/93 Working group updates

1. The Pavilion Modernisation

a. Cllr Hodge advised that she will be sending the final information for the loan application to the PWLB on the 13th June.

b. Cllr Comstive said he was struggling to find time to assemble documents to show discharge of conditions set for the planning application approval. Cllr Costello said that he would ask our consultant if it would be possible for him to do it.

Cllr Costello asked if we thought that Unitary Cllr Hewitson may be able to speed up the process for this, as no works can commence until this document had been signed off by Somerset Council. He said it is crucial the works start in July to save major disruption the Pre School.

c. The Sub-Committee will have a meeting on 2nd July

d. Cllr Cowen was asked to update Pre School, the Willows, the Cockerels and Scouts on planned work dates and advise of possible disruption after Cllr Costello had consulted with the contractor.

e. Cllr Hodge asked the Clerk to investigate if there were any S106 payments outstanding from Somerset Council.

2.Parish Communications. Cllr Chauveau said that Dag design had sent through a quote to refresh the ECPC website and to convert the site and all emails to .gov as this would be needed in the future and would work out cheaper to do both at the same time. It was felt that this was a fair price and very much needed to be done. **Proposed:** Cllr Walker **Seconded:** Cllr Hall **Vote:** All agreed Cllr

Chauveau also advised that Miss Goodard would be taking on most of the website updates and maintenance in the future.

3. **Cemetery** Clerk advised that she had received an email from a parishioner about concerns for the tidiness around the lychgate since the rubbish bin had been removed. The box which is for water containers is now being used as a bin. Cllr Sugg suggested that the box be removed and instead of water containers, we would purchase 3 watering cans and place on hooks for people to use. Cllrs thought that this would be a good idea. **Action:** Cllr Sugg ask the Ranger to move the box and put up 3 hooks, Clerk to purchase watering cans. Cllr Cowen advised that there had been a quote received from IES Consulting to undertake another exclusion of badgers from the cemetery. Cllr Cowen advised that unfortunately this needed to be done, but he would try and get another 2 quotes and bring them to the next meeting.

4. LCN Cllr Cowen asked for a volunteer to be a new PC representative since Cllr Wakely was no longer on the Parish Council. There were no volunteers so Cllr Cowen will speak to Cllr Carter-Uren and see if she is willing to be our representative.

25/94 Group Representative Reports

Primary School – Cllr C Warwick-Mortimer had nothing to report.

25/95 To discuss and identify Highways Issues. Clerk was asked to chase the bridge repairs beside the Sawmills as the area was looking unsightly and had been in position for many months. She advised the last time she chased it, she was told that it will be done when the pipe work in that location is upgraded but had not been given a date for this. She was also asked to find out if, at the very least, the current broken fencing in that location could be removed.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways

25/96 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger: Cllr Sugg advised that the Ranger would be in the village for an extra day this week due to the number of jobs.

25/97 Agenda items for the next meeting which is to be held on the 9th July 2025. Cllr Hodge asked that there was a Fund Raising for the Pavilion put on any future agendas for the foreseeable future. Also, a section where planning application decisions can be reported.

Meeting ended at 9.18pm