

EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk

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Chairman

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Minutes of the East Chinnock Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st November 2010 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

Present

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|---------------------|---|
| Chairman | Cllr J Churchill |
| Councillors | Cllrs M Merchant, P O'Donnell, B Murdoch & A Harris |
| District Councillor | Ric Pallister (part of the meeting) |
| County Councillor | Cathy Bakewell (part of the meeting) |
| Officer | Ms C Langford |

There were 4 parishioners present.

Public Question Time

Harry Dodge reported that 2 croquet taster sessions had been held with 20 people expressing an interest and so a club will be started next Spring. Regarding CRB checks, the Croquet Association has advised that new legislation is imminent and so, in the meantime, the group is asking for parents to accompany any juniors.

There was a request for the grass to be rolled to improve the surface for all users.

132. Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Jones and A Sinclair. Clerk to send best wishes to Cllr Sinclair as he has a broken leg.

133. Declarations of Interest; none.

134. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes, that had previously been circulated to all Councillors, were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the October meeting.

135. Matters arising from the Minutes; none as all covered in the agenda.

Mr Pallister asked if Mrs Bakewell and his reports could be taken next as they both had other meetings to attend. This was agreed.

136. District Councillors report

- Mr Pallister said that SSDC are not currently looking at cutting the Lengthsman scheme, so their share of funding looks secure for 2011/12.
- SSDC are giving Parish Councils the option to take over SSDC services but East Chinnock does not have any e.g. toilets.

- SSDC are balancing their budget by cutting staff. The partnership with East Devon DC is going ahead with changes. Services will be shared where possible but senior staff will not be shared as East Devon had more senior staff in place and so were looking at much greater savings in the initial years.
- In response to a question regarding the continuation of Ham Hill and Nine Springs country parks Mr Pallister said that there would be no changes to public access in the immediate future.
- Mr Pallister to report back on printers used by SSDC as a possible printer for the newsletter.

137. County Councillors report

An extensive list of proposed cuts in services had been circulated to all Councillors. Mrs Bakewell highlighted those of interest to East Chinnock.

- The Safety Camera Partnership is to lose SCC support and will be run by the Avon & Somerset Constabulary.
- The Lengthsman support has been cut and the grass will only be cut once, instead of twice.
- Bus subsidies have been cut.
- The Youth Service funding has been cut, including the Rural Youth Project.
- There is a 100% cut in Arts funding e.g. Take Art village hall events.
- The Community Council for Somerset grant has been cut.
- There are extensive cuts to Highways services; this led to questions regarding repairs and safety.
- There are currently £43M proposed cuts with £70M needed. There are proposed staff cuts, redundancy and pay protection packages have been reduced.

138. Clerk's report and correspondence

The Post Office (PO) service in Fordhay shop will cease business in December. Cllr Murdoch met with PO Ltd. as the clerk was unable to attend.

PO Ltd. is proposing a PO service in the village hall with a provisional start date of 4 January 2011. A PO service would be provided Monday 1-3 pm (possibly 2-4 to tie in with the school bus) and Tuesday 9am -12noon.

The PO would use the small hall servery and the kitchen can still be used for coffee mornings.

An initial 12 months contract would become a rolling contract with 3 months notice. The contract would be between the Parish Council and the Sub-Postmaster offering the service. The PO would provide signage visible from the A30.

Action required;

- A new BT line to be arranged by PO Ltd..
- A dedicated broadband line to the servery to be arranged by PO Ltd..
- A dedicated 13amp double socket next to the broadband point to be arranged by PO Ltd..
- East Chinnock to provide a lockable store cupboard. The hall could provide this, cost say £150.
- For security purposes a bolt must be fitted inside the kitchen door. Again the hall could provide this.
- A post would be needed in the car park for a temporary PO sign when the service is open, cost say £50. PO Ltd. would provide the sign.

- Agree who would pay the hall rental of £5 per hour. This would be for 52 weeks/year for 5 hours = £1300. PO Ltd. would pay £1.50/hour = £390/year. Cllr Murdoch suggests that if this was matched by the Parish Council and Feoffees, the village hall would pay for the store, bolt and post and make up the 10% shortfall in rent (i.e. £130).

Cllr Murdoch proposed that the Council agrees to go ahead in principle and make a decision in December, seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour.

A working party with Cllr Murdoch, as hall representative, and Cllr O'Donnell, as PC representative, will look at the action required and report back to the Council. Feoffees to be asked for a grant and the Council would need to make a block booking of the hall.

SS Citizens Advice Bureau have requested a donation. Cllr Harris proposed £50 donation now, seconded by Cllr Murdoch. All in favour. This will be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

Speed Indicator Device will cost £350 to continue in the scheme. Cllr Harris proposed that we do not continue with this as we have the Speedwatch Team, seconded by Cllr Merchant. All in favour.

Local Development Plan draft consultation; Cllr Churchill attended a SSDC presentation and reported that the plan is to develop around the market towns with both housing and employment land. Yeovil would develop southwards so as not to impede RNAS Yeovilton or Westland's airspace and also to avoid areas prone to flooding. It was agreed that the Council supports the Barwick/Stoford/East Coker option as this is logical in terms of sustainability, allowing development of an appropriate infrastructure. Clerk to respond to SSDC.

The following items have been circulated to all councillors

- SSDC Area West and Standards Committee papers
- Correspondence on the proposed 100% cuts in Arts funding
- SCC eParish Council newsletter and the Somerset Compact.

139. Red Route Review

Cllr Churchill reported that he had heard nothing from Colin Fletcher regarding work in Chinnock Hollow.

140. Finance

The Clerk informed Council that the precept paperwork has a deadline of 31 January 2011. It was noted that the East Chinnock precept is not high compared with similar sized villages.

The clerk presented a report illustrating that 14 hours/month is not sufficient for a parish of this size. The Society for Local Council Clerks recommends a minimum of 18.25 hours/month. Cllr Harris proposed that the clerks hours should be increased to 20 hours/month to cover the hours worked and backdated (to May), seconded by Cllr O'Donnell. All in favour. The clerk will continue to complete a timesheet.

As SCC have cut their Lengthsman support the Parish Council will now be paying £1400 for this service 2011/12. There was discussion about purchasing a leaf blower to clean the safety surfaces and a brush cutter to keep pathways clear as well as encouraging volunteers to supplement the reduced Lengthsman service.

Figures were put to various lines in the draft budget; £500 bus shelter repairs, £100 flower tub repairs, £600 for newsletter, £250 for Parish Plan and £150 for mower service. Swing repairs will be in the current year. There would be increased village hall rent for the proposed Post Office service. Clerk to update the current years spend and the draft 2011/12 budget to present at the December meeting when the precept will be determined.

141. Payments

The following payments were presented;

- Miss C Langford - October salary + expenses = £121.67.

- Diocese of Bath & Wells 1/2 year Glebe rent (2nd payment) = £30.
- Mr & Mrs Jewell first year subscription for webhosting Village Website = £59.40.
- SSDC annual playground inspection & risk assessment = £81.08
- Mr Brian Pope for fireworks = £397.50.

Cllr Harris proposed that these payments be approved, seconded by Cllr O'Donnell. All in favour.

142. Planning Applications

10/04089/FUL Dairy House, Carters Lane; erection of single storey extension. There were no objections to this application from the Parish Council.

143. Planning Decisions

- 2 Springfields 10/03678/FUL application for two storey extension was granted.
- Spindleberry, Fordhay 10/03373/FUL application for livestock shelter was granted.

144. Community Speed Watch (CSW) programme

Cllr Churchill reported that a couple of sessions had been rained off and, with winter approaching, we will expect to lose more sessions.

One new volunteer is trained and another to be trained this month.

145. Parish Lengthsman Report

Cllr O'Donnell had nothing to report.

Council requested that the undergrowth in Back Lane be cleared and also to look what repairs are needed for the Recreation field dividing fence

146. Potholes and General Maintenance Report

Cllr Churchill had no update. All his requests had been met with a refusal due to cuts in funding.

It was agreed that the deep potholes by the Gillards house needed a safety barrier around. Cllr Churchill to report back on costs for a barrier.

Asbestos sheets have been dumped by the Chiselborough Hill road. Cllr Churchill to report this to SSDC.

147. Notice Boards update

Cllr Harris to chase the sign maker for this.

148. Play Area Report

The clerk presented two quotes for swing spare parts; GB Leisure & Sport (£168.73) and Wicksteed (£190.73). GB Leisure were chosen as the cheaper quote. Cllr Harris proposed that the clerk order the parts and that the Lengthsman be asked to fit them, seconded by Cllr Merchant. All in favour.

It was agreed that the Council continue to use SSDC for the annual play equipment inspection and risk assessment.

The goal posts have been reported as unsteady. Cllr O'Donnell to ask Mr Pat O'Donnell to investigate action required.

149. Rights of Way Report

Cllr Murdoch has written to Mr Culver regarding possible diversions to Y8/23 that crosses his garden. A response is still awaited as Mr Culver spends considerable periods abroad.

Cllr Murdoch has cleared overhead branches obstructing access on Y8/21, by the A30.

150. Village Newsletter update

The current editor Meg Wellard has informed the Parish Council that she would like her successor to start in April 2011. Meg has suggested an A5 booklet style may be more cost effective.

Councillors had consulted parishioners and the overwhelming majority wanted a hard copy of the newsletter.

After discussion of various formats it was agreed unanimously to look at the costs of a black & white A5 @ 4 page booklet with 250 copies, produced 6 times a year.

Cllrs Murdoch and Harris to make enquiries re printing costs. £600 was put in the draft budget to cover production costs.

Mr Jewell confirmed that the newsletter will be on the new website, in colour.

Cllr Murdoch informed the meeting that Lynda & Brian Kemp had expressed an interest in taking over as editors.

151. Entertainments Committee

There will be a Bonfire Event this Friday 5th November. Helpers are required. Clerk to circulate minutes for the Entertainments Committee meetings to Councillors.

152. Items of Report

Cllr Merchant reported that the minutes for 2000-2003 are missing. Clerk to ask Mr Halford, clerk at that time. Councillors to ask past Councillors.

Cllr Harris reported fly tipping in his field at the top of the hill. Cllr Harris had found evidence of the person responsible but was disappointed at the lack of action from either the police or SSDC to apprehend the culprit or clear the rubbish when he reported it. There was concern that this will encourage more of these incidents.

153. Next Meeting

Monday 6th December 2010.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

Signed (Chair) Date.....

Copies of these draft minutes can be found on the village website at :-

<http://www.eastchinnock.btck.co.uk/ParishCouncil/ParishCouncilMinutes>