

## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 7pm held at East Coker Pavilion

**Attending Councillors:** Cllr Cowen, Cllr Hodge, Cllr Costello, Cllr Mead, Cllr Walker, Cllr Sugg, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Chauveau & Clerk

**26/38** Apologies for none attendance were received from Cllr Hall & Cllr Carter-Uren

**26/39** Minutes of the Parish Council meeting which was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved. **Proposed:** Cllr Wintersgill **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** 8 in favour, 1 abstention **Action:** Clerk to publish the minutes

**26/40** There were no declarations of interest.

### **26/41 Public Question Time**

a 1 member of the public was present, but did not speak

b No Unitary Councillors were present

**26/42 Chair's Report** Chair commended the Pavilion Modernisation working group on their hard work on the project which was coming to an end.

He advised that Cllr Mead had been contacted by a parishioner, regarding soil from the new house development at the rear of Long Acre, 137 West Coker Road. They were concerned that there was a huge amount of soil being moved from there into the fields at Greggs Riding Stables. Cllr Mead asked for it to be reported to Somerset Enforcement. Clerk agreed to do this but would need Cllr Mead to send exact location of where the soil was being dumped.

**26/43 100 Club numbers were drawn 1<sup>st</sup> 10 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 3<sup>rd</sup> 29** **Action:** Clerk to update winners and pay.

### **26/44 To discuss and make observations on SC Planning Applications**

a **15/01000/OUT Location:** Keyford Date has still not been set by Somerset Council for the planning committee meeting and there was nothing further to report at present.

b **26/00346/s73 Location** Land rear of Long Acre 137 West Coker Road **Application:** S173 Vary Conditions 1 and 2 of approved plans 24/0012/REM **Proposal:** ECPC has no comment to make. **Action** Clerk to update Somerset Planning

c **26/00243/HOU and 26/00134/LBC Location:** Higher Burton Farmhouse Burton Lane **Application:** Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Aira 12kW outdoor unit and internal 200 litre water tank. These two applications were discussed and it was agreed that as a parish council green projects are generally supported. **Proposal:** To support the application. **Proposed:** Cllr Costello **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** All Agreed. **Action:** Clerk to update planning.

**26/45** To consider any recent planning applications from Somerset Council (South), received in the days after the agenda has been circulated and prior to this meeting. Since publication of the agenda an appeal against the rejection notice of the planning application 24/02237/OUT for the proposed development of 14 industrial units at Halves Lane has been submitted. Cllr Cowen had spoken at length to our consultant Simon Williams and he advised that a point-by-point rebuttal needed to be written in response and gave an estimate of his charge for doing so. **Proposal:** Engage services of Simon Williams **Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Chauveau **Vote:** All Agreed **Action:** Cllr Cowen to engage Simon Williams

It was also thought that a village petition would be a good idea in order to show the Inspector the strength of feeling in the parish against the development and Cllrs would take different areas of the village and go door to door asking for signatures. Cllr Cowen will draft a petition and distribute with Cllrs. Cllr Walker will arrange for a banner to be made by John

Burton Signs, and this will be placed close to where the proposed development will be. Cllr Walker will put together a report looking into the supporting comments submitted to the planning portal originally which will be included in the rebuttal. Cllr Chauveau will forward photos of recent flooding to Cllr Cowen so these can also be included. All information about the appeal will be uploaded onto the website and a Coker Post will be sent out.

**26/46** There were no planning decisions for February

**26/47** No Memorial requests had arrived

**26/48 Matters for discussion and resolution:**

1. Bench at the Cemetery. All Cllrs had had an opportunity to review the situation regarding benches in the cemetery. Cllr Sugg suggested that the 2 existing benches, should be removed to the Chapel until the owners could install a concrete plinth for each as she felt they were unsafe. Other Cllrs felt they were safe as they are and it would be unreasonable to ask the owners to build plinths in retrospect. **Proposal:** Plinths should be installed for the two existing benches at the cost of the parish council, the cemetery information sheet should be updated to make it clearer that benches must have prior permission from ECPC before installation and, if granted, they must be ordered through the ECPC, installed on a concrete plinth in a place designated by the ECPC and at the cost of the owner. **Proposed:** Cllr Cowen **Seconded:** Cllr Haigh **Vote:** 6 in favour, 3 against. **Action:** Clerk to update Mr Miller and Cllr Sugg to organise the installation of the plinths. Clerk will also update cemetery policy accordingly.

2. Updating of the Neighbourhood plan. It was felt that we should speak to consultant Simon Williams. Cllr Cowen will contact him.

3. Pincushion Corner wood. There is to be an open day at the wood on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, run by The East Coker Action Group and ECPC to show any interested parties how the trees are doing. Cllr Mead and Cllr Wintersgill will be in attendance to represent the ECPC.

4. Discuss solicitors' estimates for the signing over of the Tellis Cross Play Area. Clerk had contacted another 2 solicitors re fees for conveyancing the Tellis Cross play area. Only one responded with an estimate in excess of the original by Mogers Drewett. **Proposal:** To contract with Mogers Drewett **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** All agreed **Action:** Clerk to instruct Mogers Drewett.

5. Discuss fly tipping. Cllr Walker advised that any fly tipping which has proof of ownership contained in it should not be removed by the ranger but instead reported to the Environmental Crime Unit directly. They will then come out, gather the evidence, and remove and pursue. He has advised that due to the upsurge of fly tipping in the Village that the area is being closely monitored. It was agreed to look at installing CCTV if the fly tipping continued.

**26/49 Correspondence received from Somerset Council.** None received.

**26/50 Discuss Parishioner Correspondence.** A letter had been received by the Chair complaining that the ECPC had not given permission for the installation of a memorial plaque. After discussion with the Clerk it was clear that this was a miscommunication and she had advised the parishioner accordingly.

**26/51 Clerks Report.** It was decided that Cllr Chauveau would take the April Minutes as Clerk would be absent. The Clerk advised that there had been complaints about the new outside Pavillion lighting staying on but this had now been resolved. She advised that she had been contacted by a couple of people offering to look after the bus stop book swap, which she had gladly accepted.

**26/52 Working group updates**

a The Pavilion Modernisation is almost complete and on budget. There is a discrepancy at the moment regarding the charge for the solar panels, which were included in the original contract however Cllr Mead, Cllr Costello and our consultant are to have a meeting with the contractor to discuss this further and bring this back to the April meeting. Clerk advised that she had been given an estimate of the weekly cleaning cost of the new pavilion but the cleaner would attend again, once the build was complete, and give a firm price. Clerk advised that she thought that signage should be put up stating football boots are to be removed before entering the building and she suggested a meeting was held with the club re our and their expectations for use. Cllr Walker suggested a brush and dustpan was purchased so the club could clean up after using.

**Snagging list.** It was thought that the meeting room would need dimmer switches as current lights are very bright. The referee's changing room has no shower/toilet as per the build design so Cllr Costello will check to make sure this would still comply with FA standards.

9pm Cllr Haigh left meeting

1. It was decided that a plaque would be put up in the new pavilion to acknowledge the kind donations from Coker Fest and MKM building supplies. This would be arranged once the Pavilion had been completed in full.

Cllr Walker left meeting 9.10pm

b Parish Communications. Cllr Carter Uren had sent a WhatsApp reminder out to Cllrs for any information for the newsletter. Cllr Chauveau advised the web site had been visited 900 times in February. Cllr Chauveau requested that Cllr Cowen email her the updates for the meeting held in the Helyar Arms re the Isle Farm Woodland proposal, so she could put them on the website.

c LCN (no report given as Cllr Haigh had left)

### **26/53 Finance**

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

**Proposed:** Cllr Hodge **Seconded:** Cllr Chauveau **Action:** Clerk to Pay invoices

**26/54 To discuss and identify Highways Issues.** Clerk advised that she had been in touch with Somerset Highways re the numerous potholes around the village but had not been given a time frame for their repair.

### **26/55 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger**

**26/56 Agenda items for the next meeting** which will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at East Coker Pavillion. Cllr Hodge, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Mead and Cllr Walker all advised that they would not be present for the meeting.

Meeting ended 9.25pm