

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (Draft)

Thursday 25th March 2021 7.30pm via Zoom

Councillor(s): Cllrs: F Schott FS (Chair), A Chapman AC, T Gowlland TG
County Councillor Mrs Frances Nicholson FN & District Councillor Mr Steven Pugsley SP and
Clerk and RFO C Hornsby CH.

NOTE: Agenda numbering was incorrect.

18/21 Questions from the public - None

19/21 Apologies of Absence A Vigars AV, J Chanter JC

20/21 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

21/21 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 28/01/2021 These were Prop TG 2nd by AC as a true and correct record and all agreed.

22/21 Matters arising from the minutes of 28/01/2021 - None

23/21 Business Continuity Motion - None

24/21 District and County council reports (i) Last month the County Council set its budget and council tax rates for the year. The County Council's council tax has gone up by 1.99%, plus 3% specifically for adults' social care. DC rate has increased by 3.04% which is £5 increase. (ii) Consultation on the changes to the County and District will run till mid-April on both the One Somerset proposal for a unitary authority in Somerset, and the Stronger Somerset proposal for two unitaries to split the county between them. It is up to the Government to decide which will happen and this will not be decided till the summer of 2021 with it taking effect in 2023. FN and SP both agreed that either proposal will happen but the most important thing was to make sure that a voice could be heard for the local people. This maybe with local community networks or parish councils coming together.

25/21 Community Issues raised due to CV19 – None

26/21 Planning – This was not on the agenda as it came from ENPA after the agenda was published, but was discussed

– <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/exmoor/application-details/22185>

6/14/21/102 Wintershead, Simonsbath, Proposed erection of domestic garage.

EPC to allow other Cllrs to view before a response is submitted. All present were in favour and felt it was right to have lockable unit as the crime rate is increasing in the area. It also would not be overlooked by anyone.

27/21 Finance to include: (i) Bank reconciliation £ 5,224.89 (ii) Invoices were agreed to be paid; Clerks Pay Jan, Feb, Mar for payment on 5th April £303.00 (ii) Zoom meeting to be paid to Mrs C Hornsby £14.39, both on Chq No275 (this will be on the 2021/22 tax year) **NB: A new Chq for the £500 that the S&EHT were unable to pay in last year has been reissued now that they have a bank account - CHQ No 274**

28/21 Highways - The ongoing discussions at Highways about the drainage works in the village of Simonsbath near Cloven Rocks is continuing. AC stated that it seemed to be working well at the present moment and so will not need doing. FN asked all Cllrs to keep an eye on it and to keep her informed.

29/21 Village parking (i) The boulders for the bend in the road near Pound Cottage will have to be put there with heavy machinery – the Cllrs agreed to pay for the fuel for this. The work is being done by Mark de-Wynter-Smith and George Vigars. (ii) The proposal for extra parking near the sawmill has now gone to Natural England to consider as it is a SSSI area.

30/21 Parish Maintenance - Path from Church towards Exford is really clear as the road sweeper had done a fab job.

31/21 Correspondence - Clerk continues to forward all correspondence via email to all Cllrs.

32/21 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust: AGM is on Wednesday 31st March. Audience Development – FS to forward draft to Cllrs and Clerk and the final version will produced for ENPA very soon. Signing of the lease for Whiterock Cottage has been agreed between the Trust and the Park and it will be a 5-year lease hold and then if the Trust has proved itself to be viable, the Park will sign it over to the Trust as a freehold. CH reported on the Ashcombe Gardens and stated that after all the Ash die back trees had been felled it was too expensive to have the logs removed and so they will stay in situ but in a way to help the area. The area has really opened up now and so with the extra light some interesting underplanting may grow as a result. The ENPA woodlands dept had planted 90 new young trees with the help of Three A-top of Simonsbath in the space of 2 days, without the use of plastic. The daffodils that were planted in September with a few volunteers at social distance of each other are showing their heads. The volunteers hope to be back in the gardens very soon.

33/21 Chairman's Notices - None

34/21 Items for next Agenda - Audit

35/21 Date and time of next meeting: TBC for 20th May 2021

(a week earlier due to Audit etc)

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20.27pm

Signed (Chair).....Date.....