

**EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 7.30pm at The Old School, Simonsbath**

**Present: Parish Cllrs – Chair, F Schott FS, A Chapman AC, J Chanter JC, T Gowlland TG, A Vigars AV; District County Cllr S Pugsley SP; Somerset County Cllr F Nicholson FN; Clerk C Hornsby**

**55/21 Questions from the public: None**

**56/21 Apologies of Absence None**

**57/21 Declarations of notifiable interest: 6/14/21/103 The Old Vicarage, Simonsbath – TG**

**58/21 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 20/05/2021 prop alan V Tegan  
2<sup>nd</sup> correct**

**59/21 Matters arising from the minutes of 20/05/2021 -**

**60/21 Business Continuity Motion: Not needed at the present time**

**61/21 District and County council reports –**

CC:

1. Senior officer coming out to listen from highways but no date fixed.
2. Sec of state decision made for a single unitary authority but parliament to go through – maybe a judicial review
3. Glover Review for ENPA - on a back burner but with one of the recommendations to set a national landscape service they are recruiting centrally for the service and maybe coming in ‘through back door’ –
4. Unsure if there will be an election for a shadow authority or a continuing authority so election could be for SCC one council in 2023. If election happens only next year then the parish elections could be stand alone in 2024 and PC take the cost. There is a hope that they combine elections, however if not, then PC may need to add to precept to cover the cost. Add to the budget and precept setting for Nov agenda.
5. Exmoor panel – senior from highways attended and if single unity then West Somerset Exmoor area will be a pilot for highways for devolution of highways (drainage and maybe speed but an evolving process).
6. FN – stones on the bend in the road – Received communication from Highways person however they are now away for two weeks. It was noted that there are stones that are large on the other side of the road by the post box. Highways need to make a decision. Hotel did not respond to the cutting of the hedge on the bend in the past and a branch has now broken off and needs to be removed as sticking out in to the road, highways have been told that hotel has been notified to cut hedge in the past. Highways have been informed about the broken branch. The hedge is a danger there as visibility for the South Molton sign is limited. It was noted that the Hotel is obliged to keep hedge back to edge of highways.

**62/21 Community Issues raised due to CV19 – none**

**63/21 Planning** 6/14/21/103 The Old Vicarage, Simonsbath, TA24 7SH Proposed construction of a private equestrian sand school (60m x 20m) with landscape planting.

<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/exmoor/application-details/22508>

**TG declared an interest**

Discussed previously and the previous support is the same. Fully support as in agreement with Policy of Local plan (RT-D11- EQUESTRIAN DEVELOPMENT) all in favour I dec interest

**64/21 Finance** to include: (i) Bank reconciliation £7595.40 actual £6,891.38

(ii) Invoices; £40.09 SALC membership (cheque signed)

**65/21 Highways** (not already covered in Point 61/21) Tree near West Gate Cottages came down 4 months ago the tree is NP but has taken away 2 foot of road. It was suggested that a heap of concrete would sort it - barriers are up but not heard any more.

Verge cutting was discussed with FN responding that Highways can't please all, some want them cut, some want them left. It was suggested that Halse lane should be cut because the blind gentleman and his dog goes on and gets it in his face – **FN will** send press release and then it can be discussed at a later date. Suggestion for time to cut hedge is when farmer cuts the grass for silage . It was noted that Highways do have to get round the county but when the PC has control the PC can use with local contractors and cut when they want.

**66/21 Village parking** Updates on state of parking in the village – (see 61/21). FS spoken with Rob Wilson-North (RWN) of ENPA about the need for a sign where the stones are and bottom of bridle path where 1 or 2 cars now regularly block the meadow entrance. Also, a couple the other side of the bridge. It was suggested that the bushes could get cut off the bridge so you can see what's coming. FS added that there is a build-up of traffic building up at sawmill below the bridge – a lorry could not get through and had to wait till people returned from their walk and move their vehicle – also people are parking on the slip road and blocking people – it was agreed that it is visitors and not locals. It was asked if it was worth the EPC putting a slip of paper on the cars suggesting that where they have parked is unsuitable and to remind them of the car park. **ACTION:** Clerk to put a notice together and give to FS. It was suggested that a map is put in the car park with the walks – RWN also talked about utilising side of road up to the church for parking

**67/21 Parish Maintenance** **ACTION:** Alan C to spray pavement from top to the church – Tegan has the spray purchased by the EPC and sprayer that can be used. Alan C will do when he returns from holiday. Francis will trim around the stones.

**68/21 Correspondence** – none extra to general emails sent to Cllrs

**69/21 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust:**

**SP** – 2 new trustees; the lease is now agreed and will be signed on Saturday 11 Sept at the heritage open day with an early evening event where the signing over of the building to the Trust will be done. Tegan and Louise Reynolds will be organising it.

The Open day will have the following:

- the new exhibition of the Knight story (the panels we have used but pushed up!),
- Minehead U3a who have transcribed about 300 letters,
- the garden vols (of course!)
- the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth’s ‘Reclaiming Exmoor’ project
- Ashcombe Spirit of Place

FS said that the Bank account is in process of being set up.

**70/21 Chairman’s Notices** Alan Vigars handed in his notice – The Chair said that the EPC are all very sorry to hear this and that Simonsbath without Alan and Lorna seems wrong. It is difficult to quantify the contribution that Alan has made to the parish over the years but it is massive – Alan was told that the people in the village are sad you are leaving but don’t be a stranger. Alan was presented with gifts from the EPC to remind him of his time here. Tegan is now Vice- chair and the EPC all AGREED that she is to be added to the banking signatures. Clerk to put in motion with SW&T DC for the new cllr for Sept meeting. A person will need to be proposed and 2<sup>nd</sup> before they can be put forward as a candidate.

**71/21 Items for next Agenda** Business Continuity Motion and Covid in the village will be removed unless the pandemic takes a turn for the worse;

**72/21 Date and time of next meeting:** TBC for 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2021

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Signed.....Date.....