

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 1st December 2022 7.30pm at The Old School,
Simonsbath

Present: Parish Councillors – F Schott (Chair), T Gowland TG, A Chapman AC, J Wright JW, County Cllr F Nicholson FN (for part of meeting), Clerk R Tomalin. Members of the Public: none

The meeting started at 7.34pm.

90/22 Questions from the public: None

91/22 Apologies for Absence: Cllr C O'Connor, District & County Cllr S Pugsley

92/22 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

93/22 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 29/09/2022 These were proposed by TG and seconded by AC as a true and correct record of what took place and all agreed and the Chair signed.

94/22 Matters arising from the minutes of 29/09/2022 – see updates below

95/22 District and County Council reports: The Highways Pilot is progressing well, all projects submitted for the devolved funding have been reviewed and categorised, although new bids can continue to be entered. The Highways Steward has found a new position, so interviews are in progress for a replacement. The LCN Consultation received over 600 responses so there has been a delay while these are analysed. It is likely the new LCNs will not be ready for vesting day. Most parishes who attended the special Exmoor Panel meeting supported the idea of a combined Exmoor and Dunster LCN.

FN left the meeting at 7.50pm.

96/22 Planning: (i) Simonsbath Conservation Proposal – the Cllrs discussed the summary document received from Tom Thurlow following the public consultation process. The Cllrs noted some inaccuracies in the initial proposal document and in the summary received from TT. Cllrs thought attendance at the meetings organised by ENPA was good given the small number of properties included in the proposed area, especially as some are holiday homes. The Cllrs did not attend as they had already been briefed at the PC meeting in July, however they agreed they should all individually respond to the consultation as parishioners. FS will compose a formal response from the PC and circulate for comments. Cllrs will also check all residents are aware and have responded to the consultation. (ii) *6/14/22/106 PINKERY CENTRE FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING, SIMONSBATH, MINEHEAD, TA24 7LL Application under Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for the proposed erection of a Bronze Age Roundhouse for educational purposes to be used in conjunction with the Pinkery Centre.* The Cllrs discussed the application and agreed to support it as it will enhance the educational experience of the children using the centre and will add to its long term viability. (iii) *6/14/22/107 Ashcombe Gardens and Plantation, Simonsbath, TA24 7SH Application under Regulation 3 of The Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for the proposed construction of 2no. footbridges.* The Cllrs discussed the application and agreed to support it. The footbridges are a necessary addition and will improve the experience of visitors, ensuring that everyone can fully enjoy the gardens. (iv) *Home Office EAS Mast at The Sportsman's Inn, Sandyway & Mast between Cloven Rocks & Winstitchen Lane on B3223* – the Cllrs discussed both of the initial consultation documents. For both proposals the Cllrs would like to know the intended coverage of the mast and how many properties will benefit, whether the masts can be disguised to blend into their surroundings, and whether the landowners have been approached. Simonsbath is already well covered by masts, so there does not appear to be much added benefit for an additional one on the B3223, the mast at Sandyway is unlikely to benefit any of the parishioners as it is on the very edge of the parish boundary. The neighbouring parishes should be contacted by EE so they can give their thoughts on the Sandyway proposal.

97/22 Budget/Precept 2023-24: Clerk presented the income and expenditure for the current and previous financial years, noting that a sum of £2,000 had been included for the purchase of the defib. This is being partially funded by the £1,000 included in the current year precept for election costs. The Cllrs discussed and APPROVED an increase of 10%, Clerk will complete the precept documentation once received and request £3,327.50 (£3,025 + 10%).

98/22 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £9,208.17 - cheques cleared since last meeting: Chq 295 R Tomalin (clerk pay and expenses July – Sept) £193.90, Chq 296 HMRC (PAYE July – Sept) £44.20. Chq 294 £38.09 SALC affiliation fee has not yet cleared (ii) Invoices for November – Clerks pay and expenses Oct – Dec 22 **R Tomalin Chq 297 £209.60**, PAYE Oct - Dec **HMRC Chq 298 £48.00** – all APPROVED. Cheques will be signed at the end of December. Clerk noted that the LGA had agreed new pay scales for 2022-23; SCP 14 is now £13.21/hr an increase of £1/hr. (iii) Bank Mandate – the form will need to be completed again as the signatories have not been updated by the bank.

99/22 Highways: (i) Roadworks and Signs – prior to the meeting FS raised with FN the communication of planned roadworks, placement of roadwork signs and helpfulness of Highways workers/contractors. There has been much inconvenience for parishioners recently.

100/22 Village parking Updates on parking in the village – no further updates from the Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) have been received. FS has raised this with FN. Cllrs noted that the sawmill car park is being used by the contractor to park his vehicles, so it is at least being used as a car park. There has been no further update from ENPA/Natural England.

101/22 Parish Maintenance – (i) Location & Funding of Defib – Cllrs reviewed the grant application form which Clerk has completed – if successful this may provide a small contribution towards the cost. FS to speak to the homeowner to request permission to place the cabinet next to the noticeboard. The Cllrs discussed other location options if this was not possible.

102/22 Correspondence – all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs. The Chair has written to SWT suggesting that White Rock Cottage be used as the new venue for the polling station rather than making parishioners travel to Exford to vote.

103/22 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – no further update regarding the National Lottery bid. The AGM will be held in January.

104/22 Report from other groups including Exmoor Panel, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust, Bus Forum – the closing date for the next round of applications for the Henry Leigh Trust is 31st December.

105/22 Chairman's Notices – none

106/22 Items for next Agenda – none

107/22 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 26th January 2023

Future meeting dates – tbc

Thursday 30th March 2023

Thursday 25th May 2023

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.52pm

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