

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 7th April 2022 7.30pm (postponed from 31st March) at The
Old School, Simonsbath

**Present: Parish Councillors – F Schott (Chair) FS, T Gowlland TG, A Chapman AC, J Wright JW,
District Cllr: S Pugsley SP, Clerk R Tomalin, Members of the public: None**

The meeting started at 7.37pm.

17/22 Questions from the public: None

18/22 Apologies of Absence: Cllr J Chanter, County Cllr F Nicholson

19/22 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

20/22 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27/01/2022 These were proposed by FS and seconded by AC as a true and correct record of what took place and all agreed and the Chair signed.

21/22 Matters arising from the minutes of 27/01/2022 - none

22/22 District and County council reports: (i) Unitary elections taking place now (ii) LCN Highways Pilot – a Highways Steward should be appointed next month, there will also be a Highways broker who will probably sit at County Hall and will carry out the more strategic aspects. A £20K budget has been allocated to the LCN pilot, although no plans yet for spending it. In summary the LCN pilot is progressing well. (iii) Speeding – Exford PC is purchasing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for approx. £2,500. This can be placed in a position for 2 weeks at a time and then must be moved. The Cllrs discussed whether Exford PC might consider hiring it out, noting that it needs to be fixed on a post. (iv) Emergency Planning – Storm Eunice has highlighted the need for parishes to have an emergency plan in place. For example some parishes may wish to have a generator in the village hall so that parishioners can recharge hearing aids, mobiles and provide hot food. Timberscombe and Brompton Regis are looking into this; Clerk to ask SALC for an Emergency Planning template.

23/22 Planning – (i) 6/14/22/102 HORSEN FARM, SIMONSBATH, MINEHEAD, TA24 7LG Proposed erection of agricultural storage building (22.80m x 13.71m). Retrospective. The Cllrs supported the application, noting that adequate storage facilities were necessary for a working farm given the inclement weather and increasing thefts. Comments were submitted to ENPA prior to the meeting and the application has since been approved.

(ii) 6/14/22/103 PINKERY CENTRE FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING, SIMONSBATH, MINEHEAD, TA24 7LL Application under Regulation 3 of The Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for proposed erection of 3m mast and antenna. The Cllrs supported the application; they understand the ever growing need, and dependence, on good broadband and wi-fi coverage for both visitors and staff at the centre.

24/22 Finance: (i) Bank reconciliation £6,256.62 as of 29th March 2022. Cheques cleared since last reconciliation: Chq 278 £40.09 SALC fees, Chq 283 £157.35 Outgoing Clerks Pay & Expenses Oct & Nov 21, Chq 284 £36 PAYE to HMRC Oct & Nov 21 (ii) Invoices for March meeting: clerks pay and exp Dec 21 – Mar 22 **R Tomalin £249.40 Chq 285**, plus corresponding PAYE due to **HMRC £56.60 Chq 286** – all APPROVED (iii) Year End Auditor – Clerk reported she had contacted Lyn Fisher who had previously performed the audit – all Cllrs agreed to use Lyn again (iv) NALC Pay Scales - Clerk noted that the 2021-2 NALC pay scales had finally been agreed, SCP 14 has increased 21 pence to £12.21 (v) Bank Account Signatories – updating the bank account had been paused due to the upcoming election and potential change of Cllrs. All agreed that Clerk, TG & JW should be added to the bank account as signatories. Clerk to submit the necessary forms.

25/22 Highways – (i) Hedge between Landacre turning and cattle grid (heading from Sandway to Withypool) is overgrown. Clerk to report to Highways. (ii) Pavement by West Cottages has been repaired (iii) Salt bags on the way to South Molton are looking low

26/22 Village parking Updates on parking in the village – FS explained that wooden posts (rather than recycled plastic) would now be installed and these would be supplied by the sawmill. The work is expected to be done in early May. The boulders will need to be removed shortly before the work is done - AC to ask AV, FS to speak with MdWS. The Cllrs noted there would be a cost involved in removing the stones. The fibre cable has been highlighted by FS several times during discussions with Kate Brown from Traffic Management, but all is in hand. There are plans to make a clear path behind the posts for pedestrians. The alternative car parking site has not progressed as there is a long waiting list for the Environment Agency to conduct a pollution survey. Cllrs discussed whether the signage for the existing car park for Ashcombe Gardens could be improved – FS to ask RWN. Other ideas to alleviate the problem include creating off road parking opposite the church with priority passing, like in North Molton.

27/22 Parish Maintenance - TG to speak to the parishioners who expressed interest in painting the phone box. FS has asked Ed Greenall whether there is a defib in the village – FS to follow up.

28/22 Correspondence – all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs. Clerk noted lots of emails received about the Jubilee – forward to TG.

29/22 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – The Friends of Simonsbath Sawmill would like to pass their assets to the Trust. This includes a physical book stock including Roger Burton’s village book. The Trust will need to formally decide whether they wish to accept and consider whether they will need to honour any obligations to the sawmill. There may be other places in the village which the Trust could oversee. Face-to-face Trust meeting to be arranged asap.

30/22 Chairman’s Notices – (i) Cllr vacancy – as only four Cllrs have put themselves forward for re-election the PC may co-opt at the May meeting. FS explained that there is a long-standing interest from a parishioner who is keen to be involved and is already active in village life, including the Jubilee celebrations. FS will ask the interested person to attend the May meeting (ii) Cllr JC Standing down – Chair expressed thanks to JC for her service to the PC (iii) Leaving do for previous Cllrs & Clerk - Clerk to contact CH, AV & JC to ask if they are available on 19th May.

31/22 Items for next Agenda - Audit, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, GDPR, Aims & Objectives. The May meeting will also include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

32/22 Date and time of next meeting: 19th May 2022

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.26pm

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