

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 29th September 2022 7.30pm at The Old School,
Simonsbath

Present: Parish Councillors – T Gowland (Vice Chair) TG, A Chapman AC, J Wright JW, Charles O'Connor CO, Clerk R Tomalin. Members of the Public: none

The meeting started at 7.33pm.

73/22 Questions from the public: None

74/22 Apologies for Absence: Cllr F Schott, County Cllr F Nicholson, District & County Cllr S Pugsley

75/22 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

76/22 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 28/07/2022 These were proposed by AC and seconded by JW as a true and correct record of what took place and all agreed and the Vice Chair signed.

77/22 Matters arising from the minutes of 28/07/2022 – defib update see **83/22**

78/22 District and County Council reports: In the absence of the County Cllrs Clerk reminded the Cllrs of the LCN Consultation, highlighted the Highways Grant funding for small local projects and reported on the success of the Highways Steward. Cllrs discussed jobs for the Highways Steward, Clerk to report on the online form and give AC landline as contact. Cllrs wondered whether better signage for the car park could be applied for under the Highways funding. Clerk to investigate.

79/22 Planning: (i) Simonsbath Conservation Proposal – the Cllrs discussed the proposal to designate Simonsbath as a conservation area. As applications for work on trees would need to be submitted under the scheme it seems to present additional work for ENPA as they own Ashcombe Gardens and Birch Cleeve, particularly at a time when resources are very stretched. The additional red tape & bureaucracy may dissuade parishioners from doing necessary maintenance work on their property & land. The village is already well kept and most people who move here do so because of the look & feel. It is the village character and charm that has attracted them and they want to preserve that, there is no interest locally in unsuitable development. The Cllrs struggled to see any significant benefits as a designated conservation area.

80/22 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £9,446.27 - cheques cleared since last meeting: Chq 291 British Red Cross (internal auditor donation) £30 (ii) Invoices for September – Clerks pay and expenses July – Sept **R Tomalin Chq 295 £193.90**, PAYE July - Sept **HMRC Chq 296 £44.20**, **SALC** Affiliation Fee **Chq 294 £38.09** – all APPROVED (iii) Bank Mandate – Clerk has contacted the bank but it appears the mandate has still not been changed, so the form will need to be submitted again (iv) SAAA External Auditor - Clerk explained that the external auditor is appointed centrally unless the PC wish to source and appoint their own auditor – all agreed there would be no advantage to appointing directly, and would probably be more hassle and expense.

81/22 Highways: (i) Tasks for Highways Steward – discussed under 78/22 (ii) Grit bins – Cllrs reviewed the location of the salt bags on the map provided to confirm these were still appropriate locations. Clerk to send to Highways.

82/22 Village parking Updates on parking in the village – no further updates from the Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) have been received. FS to chase again and raise with FN. CO reported that parking at the Exmoor Forest Inn was still a problem and further measures would have to be taken such as CCTV and wheel clamping. It was not an easy decision but the parking area needed to

be reserved for patrons of the pub. ENPA needs to be chased again to see what is happening with the sawmill car park.

83/22 Parish Maintenance – (i) Purchase & Location of Defib – Clerk presented the options for the defib and cabinet, as the defib will be located outside it needs to be housed in a heated cabinet and these are quite expensive. Cllrs agreed to move forward with the purchase of the iPAD SP1 AED Fully Automatic defib – Clerk will shop around for best price. The cabinets are generally bright yellow, but as it is due to be located next to the noticeboard it was thought a dark green cabinet might be more in keeping with the surroundings. Permission will also need to be sought from the homeowner to place the cabinet on the wall of his house.

84/22 Correspondence – all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs. Clerk noted that W&H PC are organising a talk from Avon & Somerset Police on Cyber Crime. SWT are also offering free trees for National Tree Planting Week – Vice Chair to follow up.

85/22 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – a bid for National Lottery funding is in progress between the Trust and ENPA. This funding needs to be used for conservation, enhanced visitor experiences and accessibility rather than building works, some examples could be tables & chairs, projectors, QR codes, information boards etc. A wish list needs to be created and prioritised so the bid can be submitted at the end of Nov/early Dec.

86/22 Report from other groups including Exmoor Panel, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust, Bus Forum – CO attended the recent Consultative Forum which included a talk from Western Power, a presentation on sustainable energy and a talk from the Rural Housing Enabler. Clerk provided an updated from Lyn Fisher, the secretary of The Henry Leigh Trust, as follows: the Trust held its second meeting of the financial year in September, and to date has awarded over 35 individual grants including swimming lessons, driving lessons and laptops, as well as one grant to Exford School. Louise Flagg’s four year term as Trustee has come to an end – all Cllrs nominated LF to serve as Trustee again.

87/22 Chairman’s Notices – none

88/22 Items for next Agenda – Budget/Precept

89/22 Date and time of next meeting: 1st December 2022 (postponed from 24th November due to clash with Exmoor Panel meeting)

Future meeting dates – tbc

Thursday 26th January 2023

Thursday 30th March 2023

Thursday 25th May 2023

There being no further business the Vice Chair closed the meeting at 8.46pm

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