

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 26th January 2023 7.30pm at The Old School, Simonsbath

Present: Parish Councillors – F Schott (Chair), T Gowlland TG, A Chapman AC, J Wright JW, C O'Connor CO, County Cllr F Nicholson FN, District & County Cllr S Pugsley SP, Clerk R Tomalin.
Members of the Public: none

The meeting started at 7.33pm.

1/23 Questions from the public: None

2/23 Apologies for Absence: None

3/23 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

4/23 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 01/12/2022 These were proposed by TG and seconded by JW as a true and correct record of what took place and all agreed and the Chair signed.

5/23 Matters arising from the minutes of 01/12/2022: none

6/23 District and County Council reports: The new administration of the unitary council is proposing to cut the salt bags and bins. It is important to respond to the public consultation and also write to complain. The boundaries for the LCNs were presented to the County Council Executive Committee who agreed they could move forward as a starting point – this means the parishes from the existing Dulverton and Exmoor division will remain together. The Highways pilot in Exmoor will continue and the new Highways steward has been appointed. ENPA has recruited new planning officers and will start charging for pre-planning advice from 1st April.

7/23 Planning: (i) Simonsbath Conservation Area proposal – FS reported he had further conversations with TT regarding the conservation area proposal and the accuracy of the write up from the feedback sessions. A formal response from the PC has been drafted and all Cllrs approved FS to send. (ii) *6/14/22/108 PINKERY CENTRE FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING, SIMONSBATH, MINEHEAD, TA24 7LL Application under Regulation 3 of The Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for proposed installation of Flue for Biomass Boiler.* The Cllrs discussed the application and agreed to support the application. The switch to a renewable energy source may make the centre more appealing to potential users and the PC is keen to support its long-term viability (iii) *GDO 23/01 Agricultural Land, Sportsmans Inn, Sandyway, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LU Prior notification for proposed installation of 25m lattice communications mast, antennas, ground-based apparatus an ancillary development.* The Cllrs noted that The Sportsmans Inn is located on the very edge of the Exmoor parish boundary so is unlikely to provide much benefit to the majority of its parishioners. However, the Cllrs appreciate it is important to continue to extend mobile coverage for all across the moor, including the emergency services. The Councillors agreed that the proposed location will be visually impactful and efforts should be made to disguise the mast. The Cllrs wish to take note of the decision made by an adjoining parish who should directly benefit from improved communications and delegate authority to the Clerk to respond to the application correspondingly (iv) *GDO 23/02 Land at Winstitchen Cross, Simonsbath, TA24 7JX Prior notification for proposed 20m high Swann Lattice Tower and associated ancillary works.* As this proposal had only just been received and had not been included on the published agenda the Cllrs agreed to hold an Emergency Planning Meeting to give parishioners the opportunity to air their views. The Cllrs briefly discussed the proposal and noted that the mast would be very large and imposing right by the roadside and could be sited down Winstitchen Lane with the Airband mast. They also questioned who would benefit as the Warren mast already provided good coverage and could be shared.

8/23 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £9,170.08 - cheques cleared since last meeting: Chq 294 £38.09 SALC affiliation fee. Cheques not yet cleared: Chq 297 £209.60 Clerks pay and expenses Oct – Dec 22 & Chq 298 £48 PAYE Oct - Dec (ii) Invoices for January meeting – none presented (iii) Bank Mandate – the form has been submitted again but due to various issues

the banking mandate has still not been updated (iv) Code of Conduct training – Clerk reminded Cllrs that SWT were offering free Code of Conduct training via Zoom. Clerk to re-circulate details (v) Internal Audit – with the end of the financial year approaching all Cllrs agreed LF should perform the internal audit again.

9/23 Highways: (i) Refilling of the salt bags was discussed and FN explained that these will only be refilled if they are completely empty. Potholes have been reported on both sides of the South Molton road and the road is breaking up outside Rose Cottage following the recent bad weather. A tree has fallen into the river and sycamore trees are growing out of the bridge. Several trees need trimming on the South Molton road, Clerk to contact Graeme McVittie.

10/23 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. ENPA has appointed an agency to assist with the Environment Agency permits.

11/23 Parish Maintenance – (i) Location & Funding of Defib – FS has spoken to the owner of The Old Pottery who is happy to have the defib cabinet on the wall next to the noticeboard. He has suggested the downpipe is avoided as it can overflow. (ii) Maintenance Day – Cllrs discussed painting the phone box which had been raised some months ago. Possibly a village maintenance day is required – to be discussed at March meeting.

12/23 Correspondence – all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs. (i) Exmoor News has written to all parish and town councils asking for a small grant as printing costs have continued to escalate, but they still wish to advertise local community events for free. Cllrs agreed it was a good magazine for both the local community and visitors. The Cllrs approved a grant of **£200 Chq 299 Exmoor News**. (ii) White Rock Cottage is now showing on the approved list of Polling Stations.

13/23 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – no further update regarding the National Lottery bid. The Friends of Simonsbath Sawmill have transferred over their funds as well as a stock of books which can be sold. FS was recently voted in as Chair.

14/23 Report from other groups including Exmoor Panel, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust, Bus Forum: The Police Crime Commissioner attend the most recent Exmoor Panel meeting. The next Consultative Forum is in March, this is an opportunity to engage with ENPA. HLT awarded several grants in the most recent application round to cover books, laptops, music and swimming lessons to name just a few of the requests. CO noted The Exmoor Society's Pinnacle Award is now open for entries from local young people with an idea for a business venture on Exmoor, more information is available on The Exmoor Society's website.

15/23 Chairman's Notices – none

16/23 Items for next Agenda – Coronation Celebration plans, Maintenance Day

17/23 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 30th March 2023

Future meeting dates – tbc
Thursday 25th May 2023

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.06pm

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