

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 5th October 2023 7.30pm (postponed from 28th
September) at The Old School, Simonsbath

Present: Parish Councillors – F Schott (Chair), T Gowlland TG, J Wright JW, Charles O'Connor CO, County Cllr F Nicholson FN (for part of meeting), County Cllr S Pugsley SP (for part of meeting), Clerk R Tomalin. **Members of the Public:** none

The meeting started at 7.33pm.

82/23 Questions from the public: None

83/23 Apologies for Absence: Cllr A Chapman. County Cllrs F Nicholson and S Pugsley will join later

84/23 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

85/23 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27/07/2023: These were proposed by Chair and seconded by JW as a true and correct record of what took place and all agreed; the Chair signed the minutes.

86/23 Matters arising from the minutes of 27/07/2023: none

The agenda was taken out of order while waiting for the County Cllrs to arrive

88/23 Flood Response/Somerset Prepared Resilience Survey: Chair reported AC attended the recent Flood Group meeting. This was largely centred around Winsford but another meeting would be arranged to discuss other areas. Parishioners had not been adversely affected by the torrential rain experienced a few weeks ago. The only place water currently collects is outside the hotel.

89/23 Village parking Updates on parking in the village/Proposed Speed Limit Changes – Highways have listened to the objections raised by the PC on behalf of parishioners and have decided not to go ahead with the proposed speed limit changes. There has been no further updates on the Small Improvements Scheme; a meeting between Highways, ENPA and the PC would be beneficial.

90/23 Highways: AC has spoken to the Highways Steward about the vegetation along the South Molton road, he will add it to his list of routine jobs. One of the new bollards has been knocked over, Chair will ask whether Three Atop can make a repair.

91/23 Planning: no applications were discussed, however an appeal is expected to be raised shortly for the proposed mast at Winstitchen Cross.

FN joined the meeting at 7.54pm.

87/23 Somerset Councillors Report:

FN reported that the proposed speed limit changes for the village would not move forward.

The Henry Leigh Trust had received a lot of applications during the latest round and all had been granted.

SP joined the meeting at 8.02pm.

Two sub-groups had been created at the last LCN meeting to look at (Affordable) Housing & Economic Regeneration. In the short term the plan is to have a small number of aims to influence the local authority. Inaugural meetings would be held soon.

There should be an option on the Highways portal soon to report an empty salt bin or bag. Ollie Miller is due to come out and review the locations of the salt bins prior to filling.

The contract for repairing the Exford ravine land slippage was out to tender. It is likely the remedial work would not start until the New Year, however some cutting back of the vegetation to prepare the site would be undertaken during October. A public meeting will be held once the contract has been awarded.

ENPA Planning Officers will now be responsible for specific areas of Exmoor, this parish will be covered by Joe Rose. He will also deal with all enforcement issues in the parish.

FN & SP hosted Duncan Sharkey, CEO of Somerset Council, when he visited the area recently to understand more about Exmoor and some of the unique challenges it faces.

92/23 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £9,902.59 - cheques cleared since last meeting: Chq 308 £1768.80 R Tomalin (reimbursement of defib) and Chq 307 £40 British Red Cross (internal audit donation) (ii) Invoices for September meeting – **SALC Affiliation Fee Chq 309 £40.17**, Clerks Pay & Expenses July – Sept 23 **R Tomalin Chq 311 £161.60**, PAYE due to **HMRC Chq 310 £96.00** – all APPROVED (iii) Issue Replacement for Chq 300 (expired) – Clerk explained that this cheque had not been presented to the bank and had expired, Cllrs approved a replacement **Chq 312 £41.85 T Gowlland** (leaving gifts) (iv) Councillor Training – Clerk noted a list of training courses had been circulated if any Cllrs would like a refresher

93/23 Risk Management Policy & Freedom of Information Policy & Schedule: The Cllrs reviewed and discussed the proposed policies and agreed to adopt them.

94/23 Parish Maintenance – (i) Defib Installation – Cllrs discussed various electricians who may be able to assist with the installation of the defib. Chair to follow up.

95/23 Correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated

96/23 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – meeting tomorrow.

97/23 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust, Bus Forum: LCN and HLT discussed under **87/23**.

98/23 Chairman's Notices – none

99/23 Items for next Agenda – Budget/Precept

100/23 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 30th November 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.38pm

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