

**EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 7.30pm at The Old School,**  
**Simonsbath**

**Present: Parish Councillors – F Schott (Chair), A Chapman AC, J Wright JW, County Cllr S Pugsley SP (for part of meeting), Clerk R Tomalin. Members of the Public: none**

The meeting started at 7.36pm.

**101/23 Questions from the public:** None

**102/23 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr T Gowlland, Cllr C O'Connor, County Cllr F Nicholson

**103/23 Declarations of notifiable interest:** None

**104/23 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 05/10/2023:** These were proposed by JW and seconded by Chair as a true and correct record of what took place and all agreed; the Chair signed the minutes.

**105/23 Matters arising from the minutes of 05/10/2023:** none

**106/23 Somerset Councillors Report:** The remedial work to the land slippage at Roundwaters (between Exford and Luckwell Bridge) is due to start early Jan and last until early May. Some changes to the proposed diversion routes were suggested at the public meeting yesterday. There may be a second public meeting in late Feb/early March to discuss progress.

Somerset Council will take the final decision on the budget cuts in February, we will probably not know which services will be cut until then. The LCN may be able to facilitate the provision of some of these services. The jetting project has shown that contracts can be much cheaper if Somerset Council are not the purchaser of services. The Highways steward scheme could continue but would need to be shared with another LCN. Kier (new Highways contractor) would manage this but would not be paid by Somerset Council.

**107/23 Village parking** Updates on parking in the village/Small Improvements Scheme – There have been no further updates on the Small Improvements Scheme, but speeding continues to be a problem in the village. The Environment Agency still need to survey the proposed saw mill parking site.

**108/23 Highways:** A bulge has appeared in the wall above the saw mill. Highways have been informed and traffic cones are in place. The salt bags have been delivered; with the proposed devolution of services would it be cheaper to replace with bins ? At Cloven Rocks the road is breaking up around the manhole cover.

**109/23 Planning:** (i) Appeal GDO 23/07 B3223, Nr Simonsbath, Somerset, TA24 7JX Prior notification for 20m high telecommunications installation and associated development. The Cllrs discussed the appeal and agreed to submit a representation to the Planning Inspectorate reiterating the objections already submitted to ENPA.

**110/23 Finance Report:** (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £9,644.99 - cheques cleared since last meeting: Chq 310 £96 HMRC (PAYE) and Chq 311 £161.60 R Tomalin (salary July-Sept 23). Chqs

309 & 312 remain uncleared (ii) Invoices for November meeting – Clerks Pay & Expenses Oct – Dec 23 **R Tomalin Chq 313 £184.10** and PAYE due to **HMRC Chq 314 £104.00** (both dated 31 December) – all APPROVED (iii) Councillor Training – Clerk noted a list of training courses had been circulated if any Cllrs would like a refresher (iv) NALC Pay Scales - Clerk noted that the 2023-24 NALC pay scales had been agreed, SCP 14 has increased by £1/hr to £14.21/hr.

**111/23 Devolution of Services & Budget/Precept 2024-25:** Clerk has emailed the devolution email address to ask for a list of services (and associated costs) provided to the parish. At the recent Clerks budget meeting it was anticipated an extension to the precept deadline would be given.

**112/23 Parish Maintenance** – (i) Defib Installation – Chair has contacted several electricians who all require a site visit before they can provide a quote.

**113/23 Correspondence** – all correspondence has been circulated

**114/23 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust** – meeting held to discuss The Exmoor Society’s proposed sharing of White Rock Cottage.

**115/23 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust, Bus Forum:** LCN discussed under **106/23**. The next deadline for Henry Leigh Trust grant applications is 31 December.

**116/23 Chairman’s Notices** – none

**117/23 Items for next Agenda** – Budget/Precept

**118/23 Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm

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