

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 4th April 2024 7.30pm at The Old School, Simonsbath

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

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

24/24 Questions from the public: None

25/24 Apologies for Absence: Cllr TG will be late

26/24 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

27/24 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 25/01/2024 and emergency planning meeting on 29/02/2024: These were proposed by the Chair and seconded by AC as a true and correct record of what took place at the two meetings and all agreed; the Chair signed the minutes.

The agenda was taken out of order.

29/24 Somerset Councillors Report: (i) The anticipated cuts to Highways services were removed from Somerset Council's Budget at the last minute. While the salt bins will continue to be filled it is unclear whether salt bags will still be provided. This is likely to only be a short term reprieve to give LCNs & PCs time to come up with a Highways plan. The Highways Steward pilot ended on 31 March. This has been successful but is too expensive for the LCN to continue, a Steward could however be shared with a nearby LCN. The Highways sub-group will continue to meet, and the LCN will consider how to fairly distribute costs amongst the different parishes (if the LCN is to be used as a conduit for the procurement of Highways services in the future). (ii) The work at Roundwaters to repair the landslip is currently two weeks ahead of schedule. (iii) The Consultative Forum is under threat – parishes need to highlight issues which they would like to discuss (iv) Due to the anticipated reduction in admission numbers at Exford School there will be some changes in the new school year for both Exford and Cutcombe pupils – a public meeting will be held on 23 April 2024 at The Moorland Hall to discuss the proposals.

SP and FN left the meeting at 8pm.

30/24 Village parking Updates on parking in the village – Waiting for ENPA to decide what to do about parking at the sawmill. No updates on when the new ticket machine will be installed at Ashcombe Gardens – few issues with broadband installation.

TG arrives 8.05pm.

32/24 Planning: no new planning applications have been received. (i) The appeal has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate for GDO 23/07 B3223, Nr Simonsbath, Somerset, TA24 7JX Prior notification for 20m high telecommunications installation and associated development. (ii) ENPA Planning Committee will meet next week to discuss GDO 24/02 DRIVER FARM, SIMONSBATH, MINEHEAD, TA24 7LH Application under Regulation 3 of The Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 prior notification for the re-roofing of the East Barn at Driver Farm and associated repairs. The PC has already submitted its response supporting the application, no Cllrs will attend. (iii) ENPA has refused permission for the proposed installation of a 20m mast at Wellshead Lane, Luccombe, Exmoor, TA24 7NU (6/19/24/001).

31/24 Highways: The broken bollard has been reported to Highways but will not be repaired as it is not a safety concern. The very large pothole by Kinsford/Emmetts has been repaired, but Cllrs questioned the quality of the work and noted it was already starting to open up – poor workmanship has been observed at other repairs. Clerk to raise with Highways. The Bridges team have responded to say they are aware of the saplings growing out of the bridge and it is on their work list. Clerk presented some Slow Down for Horses signs following discussions at the last meeting. Cllrs approved the purchase of three signs. Clerk to ask Highways what action is being taken about the bulge in the wall as the temporary barriers have been in place for some time but no work has taken place.

33/24 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £9,274.87 - cheques cleared since last meeting: Chq 312 £41.85 (ii) Invoices for March meeting – Clerks pay and expenses Jan – Mar 24 **R Tomalin Chq 315 £173.50**, PAYE Jan – Mar 24 **HMRC Chq 316 £103.60** – all APPROVED. Invoice for hire of WRC will be presented at the May meeting.

34/24 Parish Maintenance – (i) Defib Installation – the defib has been installed on the wall of the cottage at the Exmoor Forest Inn and can be easily seen from the road. The code for the cabinet is available in the Inn or can be obtained from the 999 operator. The PC is very grateful to the Inn for housing and installing the defib.

28/24 Matters arising from the minutes of 25/01/2024 and 29/02/2024: At the January meeting the Cllrs discussed sending a letter to parishioners to explain the increase in the precept for 2024-25. Clerk presented a draft FAQ about the precept and defib. Cllrs debated the best and most cost effective way of circulating this information. It was agreed that it would be placed on the PC website, the noticeboard and a link would be added to the community Facebook page. The Cllrs will deliver a paper copy to any parishioners who do not have access to these information sources.

35/24 Correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated

36/24 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – WRC will be the polling station for the PCC election in early May. RWN presented the plan for the £1.5M lottery funding over five years – this can not fund capital projects (kitchen/toilets) but could fund a catering trailer.

37/24 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust: see 29/24

38/24 Chairman's Notices – none

39/24 Items for next Agenda – Audit, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, GDPR, Aims & Objectives, Financial Regulations, Risk Management Policy, Freedom of Information Policy. The “May” meeting will include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

40/24 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 6th June 2024 at 7.30pm. This is one week later than usual.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.50pm

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