

**EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 7.30pm at The Old School, Simonsbath**

**Present: Parish Councillors – F Schott (Chair) FS, A Chapman AC, C O'Connor CO, County Cllr S Pugsley SP, Clerk R Tomalin, Members of the public: None**

The meeting started at 7.32pm.

**63/24 Questions from the public:** none

**64/24 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Wright, Cllr T Gowlland, County Cllr F Nicholson,

**65/24 Declarations of notifiable interest:** None

**66/24 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 06/06/2024** As only the Chair was present at the last meeting approval of the minutes will be postponed until the September meeting

**67/24 Matters arising from the minutes of 06/06/2024:** (i) Representatives of Local Groups – Cllrs agreed to discuss this at the next meeting when all are present (ii) Meeting Dates & Times - Cllrs discussed and decided to leave the meeting date & time as it is – last Thursday of every other month at 7.30pm.

**68/24 Somerset Councillors Report:** (i) Winter Maintenance – SP shared the salt bins and bags map for the parish. CO asked whether the PC could replace some of the bags with bins along the Simonsbath/Kinsford/S Molton road. Clerk will email all Cllrs with prices so that a decision can be taken to the Highways Warden's meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September. FS will attend this meeting as AC will be away (ii) Landslip above the sawmill - this is checked weekly but there is no timetable for repair. Kier, the new highways contractor, is taking some time to settle in. Cllrs pointed out that the barriers erected to protect the site cause the road to narrow at a dangerous point; pedestrians & horse riders take their life in their hands as they are passing – it is a safety issue. Clerk to contact Structures team again (iii) The ENPA Forum held earlier in the month discussed carbon offset schemes where parcels of farmland are being purchased by large national and international companies to plant trees. Many parishes are concerned that Exmoor will move from a farmed landscape to forest, thereby removing communities (iv) Buses – with the change in government it is unclear what the policy will be on buses.

SP left the meeting at 8.02pm.

**69/24 Village parking** Updates on parking in the village – no further updates on parking at the sawmill, although Cllrs agreed there had been less issues so far this year

**70/24 Highways:** There are several large potholes between Wintershead to Emmetts.

**71/24 Planning:** none

**72/24 Finance Report:** (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £12,759.47 – all cheques raised at the May meeting have cleared except Chq 317 £140 Hire of WRC (ii) Invoices for Approval at July meeting – none

**73/24 Parish Maintenance** – it was noted that the roadsweeper is not doing such a good job recently, and the new walls above the church are looking very good

**74/24 Correspondence** – all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs.

**75/24 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust** – looking forward to the Exmoor Hill Farming Network event in October

**76/24 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust** – see 68/24, the next application round for HLT closes on 31 August.

**77/24 Chairman's Notices** – none

**78/24 Items for next Agenda** – Confirm Local Group Representatives, Approve Minutes from 6 June Meeting

**79/24 Date and time of next meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

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