

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday 26th September 2024 7.30pm at The Old School,
Simonsbath

Present: Parish Councillors – T Gowlland (Vice Chair) TG, A Chapman AC, J Wright JW, Clerk R Tomalin, Members of the public: None

The meeting started at 7.38pm.

80/24 Questions from the public: none

81/24 Apologies for Absence: Cllr F Schott, Cllr C O'Connor, Somerset Cllr F Nicholson, Somerset Cllr S Pugsley (attending other meetings, may arrive later)

82/24 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

83/24 Approval of the Minutes of the last meetings held on 06/06/2024 and 25/07/2024: The minutes from 06/06/24 were proposed by TG and seconded by JW as a true and correct record of what took place and the Vice Chair signed. As only AC was present at the July meeting approval of the minutes will be postponed until the November meeting.

84/24 Matters arising from the minutes of 25/07/24: (i) Representatives of Local Groups – Cllrs agreed to discuss this at the next meeting when all are present (ii) Salt bins – see **87/24**

85/24 Somerset Councillors Report: in the absence of the Somerset Cllrs, Clerk summarised the update received from the Cllrs at the recent W&H PC meeting (i) Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot – this was discussed at the recent LCN and parishes agreed it was not suitable or sensible for the small Exmoor parishes (ii) Moorland Foodbank – the team which currently runs the food bank covering Southern Exmoor is retiring. The PCC holds the funds and the church cannot apply for grants; it will need a new structure with trustees and new volunteers. It is currently based at the old Dulverton school so will also need to find a new home (iii) Connectivity Survey (LCN) – a survey has been circulated on behalf of the Economic Regeneration sub-group asking about connectivity in the parish. Cllrs noted that several broadband providers were in use in the parish and everyone had different speeds depending on their exact location. Clerk to complete with general information and return

86/24 Village parking Updates on parking in the village – no further updates on parking at the sawmill

87/24 Highways/Small Improvements Scheme: (i) Salt bins – replacement of bags with bins along the key routes will be discussed at the next meeting when all Cllrs are present. However it was noted that the bins need to be secured/weighted down to stop them being stolen (ii) A site meeting was held by Highways engineers recently to discuss the retaining wall above the sawmill and SIS. The barriers in the road by the Challacombe junction are not connected to the wall but due to the road crumbling away. Awaiting feedback/action plan.

88/24 Planning: 6/14/24/004 Proposed change of use of part of agricultural field to residential curtilage. Retrospective. Wool Barn, Honeyhead, Simonsbath, Minehead, TA24 7JX – The Cllrs discussed the extension of the curtilage and had no objections to the retrospective planning application.

89/24 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £12,759.47 – unchanged since the last meeting; Chq 317 £140 Hire of WRC remains uncleared (ii) Invoices for Approval at September meeting – **SALC Affiliation Fee £42.01 Chq 324, Clerks Pay & Expenses July – Sept 24 R Tomalin**

£173.10 Chq 325 dated 5th October, PAYE due to **HMRC £104 Chq 326** dated 5th October – all APPROVED.

90/24 Parish Maintenance – AC & TG have spent some time weedkilling

91/24 Correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs.

92/24 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – looking forward to the Exmoor Hill Farming Network event in October

93/24 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust – HLT received 18 applications in its latest round with some new applicants; meeting this week to review

94/24 Chairman’s Notices – none

95/24 Items for next Agenda – Confirm Local Group Representatives, Approve Minutes from 25 July Meeting, Salt Bins, Risk Matrix, Freedom of Information Policy, Budget & Precept

96/24 Date and time of next meeting: 28th November 2024

There being no further business the Vice Chair closed the meeting at 8.07pm.

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