

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday 28th November 2024 7.30pm at The Old School,
Simonsbath

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

The meeting started at 7.33pm.

97/24 Questions from the public: none

98/24 Apologies for Absence: Cllr C O'Connor, Somerset Cllr F Nicholson, Somerset Cllr S Pugsley

99/24 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

100/24 Approval of the Minutes of the last meetings held on 25/07/2024 and 26/09/2024: The minutes from 25/07/24 were proposed by Chair and seconded by AC as a true and correct record of what took place and the Chair signed. The minutes from 26/09/24 were proposed by JW and seconded by TG as a true and correct record of what took place and the Chair signed

101/24 Matters arising from the minutes of 25/07/24 and 26/09/24: discussed under agenda items as appropriate

102/24 Somerset Councillors Report: (i) Chair noted the community police visit to the village had been postponed due to the bad weather. This will be re-arranged. (ii) AC attended the recent LCN and updated the Cllrs on the proposed significant cuts to the Highways team as SC still has a massive shortfall to plug. Cllrs agreed to write to the Chief Exec and Leader to express their views as the Highways sub-group had been piloted on Exmoor and was very successful leading to better working relationships and co-operation, as well as cost savings. (iii) Moorland Food Bank – this has progressed very quickly in the last few weeks, volunteer trustees have been found along with a new home in the old youth club building in Dulverton (iv) The Boundary Commission review is due to end on 20th January, parishes are encouraged to respond. While it is unlikely to impact the Exmoor parish, the existing Dulverton & Exmoor division will become smaller.

103/24 Village parking Updates on parking in the village – parking has not been an issue for some time now, this item will be removed from the agenda for the time being.

104/24 Highways/Small Improvements Scheme: (i) Salt bins – Cllrs discussed the pros and cons of replacing the dumpy bags with salt bins and agreed to keep the dumpy bags for now (ii) Clerk to ask for updates on the sycamores growing in the bridge, sawmill wall and Challacombe junction barriers

105/24 Planning: 6/14/24/004 Proposed change of use to part of an existing agricultural storage building to accommodate a combined office and workshop area, part change of use of the building to allow equestrian use together with installation of solar PV array to roof. Agricultural Storage Barn, Honeymead, Simonsbath, Minehead, TA24 7JX – The Cllrs discussed the proposed change of use and installation of solar PV array to roof, and agreed to support the application.

106/24 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £12,440.36 – all cheques raised at the September meeting have cleared; Chq 317 £140 Hire of WRC remains uncleared (ii) Invoices for Approval at November meeting – Clerks Pay & Expenses Oct – Dec 24 **R Tomalin £180.58 Chq 327** dated 5th January, PAYE due to **HMRC £108.80 Chq 328** dated 5th January – all APPROVED. Clerk noted the NALC Pay Scales for 2024-25 have been updated, SCP14 has increased 63p/hr to £14.84.

107/24 Budget/Precept – Clerk presented the PC’s income and expenditure and Cllrs discussed the budget and precept for the coming financial year. All agreed to keep the precept at £4,500. Clerk will complete the paperwork when it arrives from SC.

108/24 Annual Review of Risk Matrix and Freedom of Information Policy – (Previously circulated) The Cllrs reviewed the policies and agreed no amendments were necessary.

109/24 Parish Maintenance – (i) Bleed Kits – Avon and Somerset Police have circulated information about purchasing bleed kits which can be located in prominent places. Clerk reported that at W&H one of the Cllrs explained all of the items could be purchased individually from the internet for far less. Cllrs decided not to pursue further at this time.

110/24 Correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated. Clerk will add useful information (e.g flooding) to a new page on the website.

111/24 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – nothing to report, next meeting is 30th January

112/24 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor Consultative Forum, Henry Leigh Trust – see 102/24 for LCN updates, the next ENPA Forum is on 6th December at 1.30pm at the Moorland Hall. The closing date for the next application round for HLT is 31st December.

113/24 Chairman’s Notices – none. Clerk noted the horse signs are on the way

114/24 Items for next Agenda – none at present time

115/24 Date and time of next meeting: 30th January 2025

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.24pm.

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