

# **EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

## **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 7.30pm at The Old School, Simonsbath**

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

The meeting started at 7.34pm.

**1/25 Questions from the public:** None

**2/25 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr F Schott

**3/25 Declarations of notifiable interest:** None

**4/25 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 28/11/2024:** These were proposed by JW and seconded by AC as a true and correct record of what took place and the Vice Chair signed.

**5/25 Matters arising from the minutes of 28/11/2024:** (i) Salt Bins – CO suggested one or two salt bins could be purchased as a trial. These could be mounded up so that they are less likely to be stolen, this could be done by Darren. Possible locations were discussed and Kinsford was agreed as the trial site as the salt bag has been removed/stolen from here already. Cllrs agreed to look at prices at the March meeting.

**6/25 Somerset Councillors Report:** (i) Moorland Foodbank – this now has charitable status and is housed in the old Youth Club building in Dulverton, this is being turned into a community hub (ii) Boundary Commission Review – this has been extended by six weeks as Somerset Council did not approve the proposed recommendations. Exmoor PC will not be impacted (iii) Highways Proposed Redundancies – the job cuts are likely to be scaled back considerably (iv) Budget – more government support has been requested and a reduction of staff is likely.

**7/25 Highways:** (i) CO reported a broadband cable is laying on the verge, this is probably from when Duredon was connected. FN advised to take photos and report to Highways via the Report a Problem on the road link on SC's website (ii) Sawmill Wall – this is a large structural job, the Bridges team are working on a solution but in the meantime the barriers will stay in place (iii) Cllrs reported that the South Molton road had not been gritted despite snow being forecast. FN & SP requested exact dates were sent to them so they could add to the other gritting issues.

**8/25 Planning:** (i) 6/14/25/001 Land at Warren Farm, Warren Farm, Simonsbath, Somerset, TA24 7LN Retention of existing 26.5m monopole, 3 no. Antennas, 1 no. yagi and GPS antennas, 1 no. equipment cabin, 1 no. meter cabinet, 2 no. 9.5m high timber clad poles on non-ground intrusive concrete blocks, 1 no. dish on each timber clad pole and ancillary development thereto. Retrospective - this application came in after the agenda had been issued. SP provided the following background to the application: there are two masts at Warren Farm, the lattice tower and a monopole which is an airwaves mast. The monopole had planning permission until 1 April 2017, the lattice tower permission expires in 2028. The monopole is still in use, so the current (retrospective) application is to retain it. Cllrs agreed it would be preferable to share one single mast but at the same time it is unobtrusive as no one knew it was there.

**9/25 Finance Report:** (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £12,150.98 – all cheques raised at the November meeting have cleared. Chq 317 £140 Hire of WRC remains uncleared (ii) Invoices for January meeting – reimbursement to Clerk for horse signs **R Tomalin £91.96 Chq 329** – all APPROVED (iii) Internal Audit – with the end of financial year fast approaching Cllrs agreed LF should be asked if she is prepared to perform the internal audit again.

**10/25 Parish Maintenance** – discussed as above

**11/25 Correspondence** – all correspondence has been circulated

**12/25 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust** – no meeting held

**13/25 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor National Park Forum, Henry Leigh Trust:** The Police & Crime Commissioner attended the recent January LCN. The ENP Forum was held in December but this was not the same as the Consultative Forum as there was no debate.

**14/25 Chairman’s Notices** – none

**15/25 Items for next Agenda** – none

**16/25 Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Vice Chair closed the meeting at 8.27pm

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