

EXMOOR PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 13th March 2025 7.30pm at The Old School, Simonsbath

Present: Parish Councillors – F Schott (Chair), T Gowlland TG, J Wright JW, Somerset Cllr S Pugsley SP (for part of meeting), Clerk R Tomalin. **Members of the Public:** none

The meeting started at 7.31pm.

17/25 Remembering Cllr Alan Chapman: Cllrs observed a moments silence to remember Cllr Alan Chapman who passed away unexpectedly at the end of February. Alan was a very valuable member of the PC, always willing to help out and get things done. His contribution to the PC and wider community were very much appreciated, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

18/25 Questions from the public: None

19/25 Apologies for Absence: Cllr C O'Connor, Somerset Cllr F Nicholson, Somerset Cllr S Pugsley will be late as attending other meetings

20/25 Declarations of notifiable interest: None

21/25 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30/01/2025: These were proposed by TG and seconded by JW as a true and correct record of what took place and the Chair signed.

22/25 Matters arising from the minutes of 30/01/2025: discussed under agenda items as appropriate

The agenda was taken out of order while waiting for SP to arrive

24/25 Highways: (i) SIS – no updates (ii) Sawmill Wall – the bollards have now been removed but remedial work has not taken place as there are several road collapses in the county which need to be prioritised. (iii) Road signs – several abandoned road signs are in the meadow – Clerk to report (iv) Purchase of trial salt bin -postponed to the May meeting (v) Church Hill, Exford - will be closed for resurfacing the last week in March

SP arrived at 7.40pm

23/25 Somerset Councillors Report: (i) SC Budget – a 7.49% increase was agreed but not unanimously (ii) Parking – SC is looking to standardise parking charges across the county including charging for Sunday, on street and overnight parking & charging in car parks that are currently free – this includes Withypool, Cutcombe and Wiveliscombe. A consultation is due to be held, but the projected income from these changes has already been included in the budget. (iii) Winter Maintenance – Kier are struggling to provide a satisfactory Winter service, the green routes can only be done if there is spare capacity and no salt bin/bag top ups have occurred anywhere

25/25 Planning: (i) 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. Clerk noted YD and the Future Landscape Officer had visited the site and the agent

had confirmed the monopole was still required as the EE mast was not yet connected to the Emergency Services Network. Cllrs were surprised this was the case but agreed it was obviously necessary to keep the monopole, and it was clearly unobtrusive because no-one realised it was there. It would be desirable to give permission for the minimum amount of time allowed (so as to encourage the switch to the EE mast) and state that the monopole should be removed when it is no longer required.

(ii) LLOYDS HOUSE, HONEYMEAD, SIMONSBATH, MINEHEAD, TA24 7JX Proposed sub-division, internal alterations and extensions of Lloyds House to form 2no. semi-detached dwellings. Cllrs discussed the application and agree to support it. The changes to the front of the house are more aesthetically pleasing than at present, and Cllrs hoped the two smaller dwellings will be more affordable and bring more families into the community.

(iii) DRIVER FARM, SIMONSBATH, MINEHEAD, TA24 7LH Application under Regulation 3 of The Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 prior approval for the proposed demolition of stock building, silage clamp, surrounding concrete apron and removal of sheep dip and pens. Amended description. Cllrs discussed and agreed to support the proposed works as these are necessary for the ongoing regeneration and viability of the site.

SP left the meeting at 8.08pm

26/25 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – current balance £12,059.02 – all cheques raised at the January meeting have cleared. Chq 317 £140 Hire of WRC remains uncleared (ii) Invoices for March meeting – Clerks Pay & Expenses Jan – Mar 25 **R Tomalin £180.58 Chq 331** dated 31st March, PAYE due to **HMRC £108.80 Chq 330** dated 31st March, website hosting & domain name renewal **Spanglefish £108 Chq 332** dated 1st May (renewal due before next PC meeting), hire of WRC **Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust £260 Chq 334** (£120 for 2024-25 hire and Cllrs agreed to replace Chq 317 £140 for 2023-24 hire as it had expired) – all **APPROVED**. Cllrs also agreed to make a £50 donation to charity in memory of Cllr AC – details to be recorded in the May minutes (iii) Internal Audit – LF has confirmed she would be happy to perform the internal audit again.

27/25 Parish Maintenance – discussed as above

28/25 Correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated

29/25 Report from Simonsbath & Exmoor Heritage Trust – all Cllrs present attended the most recent S&EHT meeting which discussed plans for a kitchen in the end room and new tables and chairs.

30/25 Report from other groups including Exmoor LCN, Exmoor National Park Forum, Henry Leigh Trust: The next date for applications to the HLT is 31 March. No date has been set for the next ENP Forum.

31/25 Chairman's Notices – none

32/25 Items for May Agenda – Salt Bin, Presentation of 2024-25 accounts, Audit, Policies & Procedures. The May meeting will include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

33/25 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 29th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm

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