

## EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL



### **Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September in Exford Memorial Hall**

**In attendance:** Simon Brown, Oliver Edwards, Jeremy Hickman, Serena Colwall, Michael Ellicott, Rob Wilson North, Sian Tedstone, Kathryn Tucker

#### **Item 1: Apologies**

Joan Atkins, Stephen Pugsley and Frances Nicholson

#### **Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

None advised

#### **Item 3: Previous minutes approval**

The previous minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman. SB and OE confirmed no matters arising

#### **Item 5: Rob Wilson North from Exmoor National Park Authority.**

This item was taken ahead of the others to enable RWN to leave the meeting after presenting.

The ENPA undertook an exercise approximately two years ago looking at the assets they own. They are looking to focus on land. Staff have suggested sorting car parks out and the ENPA recognise situations vary considerably as some car parking areas include hidden laybys through to large car parks.

ENPA are considering each site individually to see what improvements can be made, e.g. electric vehicle charging points. Currently, ENPA spend approximately £100,000 per annum on their car parks. RWN stated that the ENPA are not looking at the Northumberland model of charging.

At Ashcombe there have been improvements and they are now charging £3 per day. At the Valley of the Rocks the tarmac has been replaced. Other car packs to look at in the near future include Exford, Haddon and Tarr Steps. The ENPA were attending this meeting to obtain the parish council views on the Exford car park and what it provides for the community. There are no proposals as yet. It was noted that changes at Simonsbath fed from proposals from the local parish council.

Comments were made that they do not wish to displace cars onto the village streets. It was also noted the car park is used for children at the school and it may be necessary to have a free period to allow for this. Some locals park their cars there regularly and this may indicate a need for a permit scheme. RWN stated that it is not a commercial decision by the ENPA. Also camper vans staying overnight in the summer is an issue.

The Exford car park is very well used by locals and visitors as well as the ENPA depot vehicles. One suggestion was to introduce a charge after 6:00 PM to deter campers but it was noted this would also affect village events.

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OE suggested a weekly permit for all ENPA car parks with transferable tickets. It was noted that Lee Bay had an honesty box. OE also suggested that the grass area and fence by our car park needed tidying up.

SP arrives at meeting

A sensible price must be considered. Possible to extend the car park onto the grass area.

EV points must have easy access and should definitely be considered.

FN arrives at meeting. Commented that the proposals for car park are at a very early stage.

### **Item 4: Updates from County and District Councillors**

SP/FN: Reported there is not much district news. The new Taunton council is to be ratified.

### **Item 6: Highways**

SP commented that the LCN project is a useful way of making Highways Dept responsible. It is currently a pilot for influencing and governance of the subject. There are three options under consideration. FN/SP are seeking a meeting of Dunster and Exford area councillors in the next ten days to obtain responses as to the best way forward.

LCNs will set the policy for what happens on the ground. There is a conference on 4 October to discuss LCNs in more detail. SP/FN attending.

FN is discussing with Highways the issue of the person who drove into the lights in the roadworks. There were some issues with obtaining a police reference number. All reports should be made to the 0300 number.

OE to provide details of the call he made to FN. **ACTION OE**

FN seeking information on reporting etc given the unitary authority changes taking place. However, if the matter at hand is a danger then it is a police matter and should be reported to them.

The Parish Council asked that they be given at least 24 hours notice for any technical expert coming to look at the White Horse bridge.

KT noted that John Tucker has not been consulted regarding the road slip; FN was of the belief this had happened. KT to send their views to FN via email. **Action KT**

OE noted that the report indicates the slip had occurred due to poor maintenance and it was unfortunate that the County Council had failed to maintain the road and drains which had likely resulted in the landslip. To fix the road will require it to be closed and this will cause significant problems for Exmoor, especially commercial operations. Of note was Cutcombe Market. Diversions will be lengthy but repairs are needed and the road must be made safe. The issue will be raised with Andrew Turner on October 14<sup>th</sup>. **Action:**

**ME/JH/SP/FN**

River Exe Gravel: FN and SP were encouraged by Councillors to move this forward. Permission is required from the Environment Agency and this makes it difficult. The River

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currently looks unattractive and is forcing water under the road wall upstream of the bridge. SP advised it is being reviewed and an appointment will be made for a visit.

OE commented that road closure/diversion signs at White Cross had been confusing and in his view cause a safety issue. FN responded that one task of the pilot scheme is to get more on top of signage.

SC noted that the road closure for Church Hill must ensure the school buses are aware.

JH reported a 100% clearance for the road sweeping.

ME reported the SIID had stopped working; the replacement also had stopped so this is being looked into. ME has applied for a grant for the SIID.

SC reported the Keep Clear line at the bottom of Combe Lane was too short resulting in turning problems. SC to report to the council. **Action SC**

ME to email FN/SP with the full list of items that have not been completed by Highways. **Action ME**

JH has sent through the salt bin return.

Village flagpole; The Steers kindly look after this. ME has provided them with flag flying etiquette. JH has some new Union Jack flags for it.

Weathervane: a new one is needed. OE to follow up with Exmoor Welding. **Action OE**

SC raised the disaster and emergency response for the village following an email from Somerset Prepared. Grants can be applied for to cover 80% of the costs. SC is looking for suggestions of what and how to plan. Potential for the Memorial Hall to act as a central point; obtain a register of generators etc. SC to undertake some background work. **Action SC**

### **Item 7: Finance**

ME/ST still working on getting the bank to change details which is proving extremely problematic.

### **Item 8: QE II Update**

SB reported all semes OK following a site visit. SB to investigate if the gate onto the field is an ENPA gate or a QEII gate. **Action SB**

### **Item 9: Village Green**

OE to update re equipment clean. **Action OE**

SC enquired if there was a litter pick this autumn and suggested the two could be combined.

### **Item 10: Planning Report**

None

### **Item 11: Clerk's Report**

No report received

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**Item 12: Emails to Councillors**

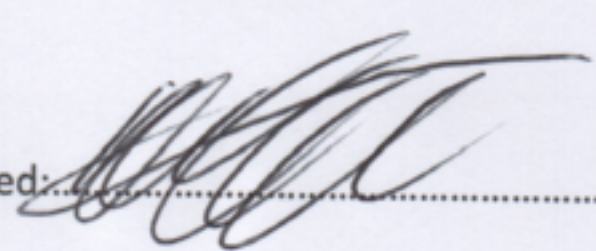
Nothing to report

**Item 13: Public Forum**

No members of the public present

**Item 14: Items for next agenda**

None proposed

Signed:  .....

Date: 29 NOV 2022 .....