

## EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL



### Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November in Exford Memorial Hall

**In attendance:** Michael Ellicott (Chairman), Joan Atkins, Serena Colwill, Jeremy Hickman, Kathryn Tucker, Sian Tedstone (Clerk)

Stephen Pugsley and Frances Nicholson from Item 5.

#### **Item 1: Apologies for Absence**

Simon Brown, Oliver Edwards

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

None advised

**Item 3:** To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27th September 2022, and address any Outstanding Actions

The previous minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

KT confirmed she had sent details to F Nicholson on 27 September and also advised the Council were now in touch with Mr Tucker. The landslip is an ongoing issue and sample have been taken. Notification of diversions was taken up with Andrew Turner from County Highways but remains an issue, particularly on market days. The Parish Council are still pressing for improvements. The short 'Keep Clear' lines at the end of Combe Lane will be taken up in due course as well as the lines near the Memorial Hall. ME confirmed a list of tasks has been sent to County Highways.

The weathervane is ready but needs a new post and this is being sourced.

The query over the gate at QEII field has been resolved.

SC advised the disaster and emergency response action remained outstanding: **Action SC**

An equipment clean on the paly area will be arranged in March.

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

Nothing to report

#### **Item 5: Highways Matters**

ME reported that the Parish had been offered the opportunity to purchase a second SIID at a reduced price. Councillors agreed to proceed with this purchase the existing SIID was reducing speeds. In addition, ME has applied for and obtained a grant of £3,500 for the original SIID and this should offset some of the cost. There is also an outstanding action to complete Chapter 8 training. **Action: ME**

A contractor is scheduled to work on the pole by kennels shortly.

The Lengthsman has moved position to work for Somerset City Council and so a replacement is being sought. Lengthsman works are therefore on hold for the time being.

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SP and FN arrive at meeting.

SP reported there is work on unifying council tax reliefs across the county; rural rate relief is a key issue to monitor.

SWT is moving towards charging double on second homes; SP concerned to ensure the added value is used for rural housing.

District council is gradually closing down. Polling stations are to be reviewed – Exford is not affected.

Community Network will be affected by boundary changes; unlikely to hear before April 2023. Hopefully this will help the LCN pilot.

FN reported on issues relating to signage for traffic management.

ME noted the blocked drains on the Exford to Chibbet road remains a problem and would be a road hazard in freezing conditions. **Action: FN/SP to take forward and report back to PC.** All drains along the Edgcott road are also blocked.

ST read out OE's comments relating to the river and provided by email. FN had found these helpful and sent on to key stakeholders.

FN seeking to have contractors to report back so parishes know when work has been completed and open a channel for when work is not done to the required standard.

All members of Porlock Parish Council have resigned; Duncan McCanlis has been co-opted.

### **Item 6 – Finance**

ME reported that the toilet cleaning contractor had not submitted a bill for any months. ME proposed an interim payment of £1-1.2k and ask him to bill us quarterly so we can keep on top of amounts owed. **Action: ST to follow up**

A donation to Cancer Research of £50 was approved in lieu of the internal auditors fees from reviewing the AGAR. Agreed by all present.

The application for online banking was approved.

ME proposed maintaining the precept at the same level as in 2022 given inflation pressure on parishioners. Agreed by all councillors. **Action: ST to process**

ME proposed the pay scale for the Parish Clerk – this was agreed.

### **Item 7: QEII Field**

No update

### **Item 8: Village Green Update**

ME reported Countrywide's fees are increasing in 2023 by approximately £600pa and is based upon 28 cuts throughout the year. It may be possible to review the number of cuts. Councillors agreed to maintain at 28 and review if sensible to reduce later in the year.

### **Item 9: Planning Update**

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Last planning meeting was on 27 September 2022. Stockleigh Farm application approved by the PC. Comments were provided in relation to West Ley Farm but nothing yet received back.

JH queried whether a change of use was required for Exmoor Lodge as nothing was seen via the Planning Report. It was advised that if below a certain size for B&B then no approval was required.

### **Item 10: Clerk's Report**

Nothing to report

### **Item 11: Public forum**

None

### **Item 12: Items for Next Agenda**

SC noted we had received a Festive fund grant and a date was in the diary for 23 December.

### **Item 13: Date and time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:  .....

Date: 24 JAN 2023 .....