EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th March 2023in Exford Memorial Hall

In attendance: Michael Ellicott (Chair), Simon Brown, Oliver Edwards, Serena Colwill, Sian Tedstone (Parish Clerk), Ian Atkinson (Citizens Advice Bureau), Steve Green, Malcolm Wild, Stephen Pugsley, Frances Nicholson

Item 1: Apologies for Absence Joan Atkins, Katherine Tucker, Michelle Haimes (PCSO)	**ACTION**
Item 2: Declarations of Interest None advised	
Item 3: To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28th January 2023, and address any Outstanding Actions All Councillors present approved the previous minutes and signed by the Chairman. Matters Arising Clive Vella item: SP waiting to hear back from Connecting Devon and Somerset. CV has been notified. Disaster/Emergency plan: still pending and to be added as an agenda item. SC mentioned that we needed to nominate three "trusted" people to have their details entered om n a database. Will bring up at next meeting issues regarding grants. FN commented that Dulverton, Brushford and Dunster have effective flood action groups and may be worth touching base with them. ME following up directly with the Police Crime Commissioner regarding the SID grant money.	**SP** **SC** **ME**
Item 4: Presentation from Ian Atkinson (Citizens Advice Bureau) Purpose of his visit is to introduce himself and his team and inform us as to what the CAB are doing in the area. The CAB is an independent charity; Exford residents represent 0.7% of CAB activity in this area, which equates to 56 cases. There are two debt specialists in his team, a mental health advocate, a welfare and benefits adviser and an administrator. CAB offer face to face meetings, Mon-Fri and are one of only a few in Somerset to do so. With the new unitary authority there is a possibility that LCNs will be asked to do more in the coming years. ME commented that Exford PC had been one of the pilot parishes involved with setting up LCNs especially with respect to highways.	

IA would appreciate Exford PC considering if they could make a small contribution to the CAB when setting our budget. This needs to happen by September. ST to add to budget discussion. IA is also seeking to create local advocates for the CAB. He will let us know what happens in our parish. Digital exclusion creates a lot of issues which manifest itself in homelessness, mental health and debt. FN noted that LCNs for areas other than highways will develop. The CAB information will be helpful in contributing to moving this forward. Individual parishes will need to think about this more in the future. OE added that other networks such as FCNs and RABI can be consulted if applicable. The CAB can be used as a gateway to many other third-party organisations. FN would be interested to see the Exmoor/Exford figures against similar nationwide ones. The Parish Council thanked IA for his time.	**ST** **SP**
Item 5: To receive update from Michelle Haimes, PCSO Apologies sent – deferred to next meeting	
Item 6: To agree adoption of the LGA Model Code of Conduct Proposed by SC and seconded by SB; unanimous acceptance	
Item 7: To receive update reports from County and District Councillors FN advised the first LCN meeting was to be on 8 June and parishes should propose what is important for rural areas. For Exmoor the population is approx. 8k and for larger LCNs it is 60k. We will not have our own budget yet. FN is hopeful that Sam Murrell will continue in the role for us in conjunction with the neighbouring parish. ENPA elections are due; nomination of 5 people. Forward timing email will be sent to all parish clerks. ST has received this and sent on to all Councillors. Parish representatives to the ENPA should consider going to other parish meetings. It is vitally important that nominees can and do attend meetings. Exford may need a meeting between 1-14 June. ENPA council is made up of 5 Secretary of State appointed members, 12 principal authority members (2/3 Somerset; 1/3 Devon) and 5 parish members. ME will be proposed from Exford as a returning member.	
Item 8: To consider Highways Matters, and any actions required. OE commented that several ash trees are sadly dying in our parish alongside roads. The liability is with the relevant landowner if it falls. OE has emailed two owners regarding their trees and is waiting to hear back. FN advised that we can forward this on to Highways as they may be able to follow up as well. If this is done then please be as helpful as possible in providing a location using what3words as well as photos	

Bus zone parking is becoming a problem with people parking in the reserved space and blocking the bus. Also, the solid white lines at the bottom of Combe Lane need extending out to their original length as the new ones are a little too short and some are parking there. Litter pick is scheduled for 16 April at 2.00pm and the playing equipment will also be cleaned. ME has reported the blocked drains on the Chibbett road. SB is to ask Chris and Jenny if they might take on responsibility for the platers by Stockleigh Lodge.	**SB**
Item 9: Finance Report A verbal report was given as we are awaiting finalisation of online banking.	
Item 10: Coronation plans ME proposed a contribution of £1000 from the parish to this event which will include a hog roast, mugs for children of the parish etc. There is a meeting on 17.4.23 at 10.30 to discuss the day. The email from Nicola Stenner was circulated and all invited to attend if they could.	
Item 11: QE II Field Update SB updated following the recent meeting. ST had been confirmed as the Treasurer. The current account for the field was approx. £24k. Grants have funded bills through lockdown and after. Now user groups will fund bills. The £24k should be ringfenced for major projects. Committee members for the QEII filed were reconfirmed. Some maintenance is to be done by the cricket and youth clubs. A third party user agreement had been discussed and SB will take this forward. OE suggested that solar is considered for the pavilion. A community grant may be a possibility.	**SB/OE**
Item 12: Financial Support for Youth Club The youth club has been running for approx. 12 years and usual attendance is around 40 children from Exford, Withypool, Cutcombe, Winsford and Simonsbath. Expenditure is about £11k per annum and income £10k. Previously the club relied upon a donor who gave a significant sum each year but this has massively reduced and so the club will be about £6k short. MW has applied for grants and the Baker Trust has donated. MW asked the PC for a donation. The Councillors need to review this. ST to add to agenda.	**M Wild** **ST**
Item 13: Village Green Update The flower show proposal for a covered building on the green was discussed. ME agreed to look into planning considerations.	**ME**

Item 14: Planning Report Exmoor Stores and Forrard ON applications both withdrawn. Higher Melcombe approved. New application for Riscombe House received 28.3 and will be sent on to Councillors by SC. A site visit will be arranged.	
Item 15: Public Forum Steve Green was welcomed. Exmoor News was discussed again. It was not clear what they were seeking in terms of funding. ME has spoken with them and they are adamant that they do not want to charge. The general feeling was that the Parish did not feel it was appropriate to contribute at this stage. ST to write to them with this conclusion	**ST**
Item 16: Items for next meeting	

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed:..... Date: 30th MAY 2023