

Exford Parish Council
Draft Minutes of Parish Council meeting

Held on: 27th September 2016 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Attendance: Mike Ellicott, Kathryn Tucker, Joan Atkins, Jeremy Hickman, Derek Lloyd, Brian Martin, Judy Skinner, Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cllr. Steven Pugsley. Clerk: Jane Laycock.

Members of Public: Oliver Edwards, Howard Gibbons.

Apologies for Absence: None

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 26th July 2016

Minutes were signed off as a true record.

Matters Arising

Actions from minutes of meeting held on 26th July:

1. Leat Wall Damage. OE has provided details of the haulage vehicle to FN and has also spoken to Peter Owen (County Highways) regarding the repairs required.
Action 1. FN and Clerk to follow up.
2. Horse Warning Sign. Clerk reported that CH dispute the existence of a sign on the Chibbet Post/Dulverton road. Councillors confirmed that there had definitely been a sign.
Action 2. Clerk to follow up with CH.
3. Village Tea Party. Councillors complimented the organisers for being £140 below budget.
4. Village Green Entrance. OE reported that there had been insufficient time to do this before the flower show however he will progress this.
Action 3. OE to progress.
5. Raised Path. ME confirmed that this has now been trimmed by CH although not very satisfactorily. He has spoken to Gerald McTravers (CH) who has agreed to do it again when they are in the area. The hedges are also badly overgrown which are the responsibility of the landowners. JA stated that the slippage on the path makes it unusable and this needs digging out. ME suggested quotes are obtained for this.
Action 4. ME to get quotes for digging out. Clerk to write to landowners re hedges.
6. Overhanging Branches. OE met with Peter Owen (CH) on 11 August to discuss. CH agreed to send letter to landowners requesting action.
Action 5. Clerk to follow up with Peter Owen.
7. Drains. CH taking action.
8. Exford Toilets Cleaning. Cleaning contractors working well. New locks have now been fitted by the builders as the previous ones were not adequate and broke. Problem of dog mess being deposited in waste bins in toilets.
Action 6. Clerk to ensure warning notices put in cubicles.
9. Play Area. Article placed in Across Exmoor.
10. CCTV Cameras. Contribution sent to Cutcombe PC.
11. Beech Hedge. See agenda item 'Village Green' below.

Highways

JH reported that he is chasing up CH to repaint the worn road markings in the village.

He has also contacted Veolia to ascertain when the next sweep is due. ME asked that Veolia are reminded to sweep Mill Lane as this has only been undertaken once.

OE has volunteered to undertake a Highways training course on road signage on behalf of the PC to cover workers undertaking jobs such as hedging and walling.

Action 7. Clerk to investigate cost of basic course.

Village Green/Play Area

BM reported that the play equipment annual safety check was carried out by Playdale on 6th August. A few minor matters were reported but no high risk issues.

Fund raising continues to replace the current woodchip in the play area with loose granulated rubber fill which will provide a longer term, cost effective solution. £1800 has been raised to date. Further contributions welcomed.

Tim Greenland (Exmoor Trees) will be carrying out regular maintenance on the hedge planted at the west end of the village green last year.

ME reported that there have been comments regarding grass cuttings on the green. This year the grass has grown exceptionally fast however ME confirmed that he will discuss the possibility of a few extra cuts at the peak of the growing season for next year.

Chris North and ME are due to meet to discuss filling the depressions on the green.

Action 8. ME to progress.

QE II Field

The parents and children group booking has been suspended due to the organisers moving away. Hopefully this will restart in due course.

Future replacement plans for the shipping container will be discussed at the next QEII committee meeting.

Finance

The bank reconciliation for 27th September was produced showing current account funds available of £4761.80 (including play area funds of £1800) with £7586.77 held in reserve. List of cheques issued for payment 26/07/16-25/09/16 produced.

Planning

KT reported on the following planning applications and decisions:

Planning meeting 18 August 2016

6/13/16/106 Land at Mill Lane House, Ornott Farm, Exford. Proposed installation of a telecommunications pole and ancillary equipment as per amended plans and additional information. EPC appreciate AirBand's efforts to appease the situation by taking 2m off the pole. However, Councillors suggest keeping the 12m pole and moving it down the slope to maximum distance to maintain required the coverage.

Planning meeting 7 September 2016

6/13/16/109 Shop known as The Farmers Den, Exford. Proposed like-for-like replacement window. Councillors did not have any concerns and supported the application.

AirBand Coverage

BM commented that he has contacted AirBand following parishioners' concerns regarding the level of coverage from the new installations. Their response has not been particularly helpful. SP suggested that ME raises this at the next Exmoor Forum meeting.

Action 9. ME to raise at next Forum meeting.

Clerk's Report

List of email correspondence received to date provided.

Clerk reported that a new 'Exmoor Rural Housing Network' project has been launched to coordinate housing needs of local people. FN commented that this is a positive move and she encouraged people to volunteer as Housing Ambassadors. Details have been placed on parish noticeboard.

Withypool PC have contacted EPC regarding overhanging branches on the road between Chibbet Post and Bradleymoor cattle grid. They have contacted CH requesting assistance in contacting local landowners to cut these back and request our support with this.

Public Forum

Clerk reported that Claire Woods has contacted EPC on behalf of the school regarding the dangers for children crossing the road and requesting a zebra crossing and warning signs.

Councillors confirmed that a crossing would not be feasible due to a dangerously insufficient line of sight on the approach. A red triangle school warning sign is already in place on the hill and the existing signs on the road should be repainted. A flashing warning sign would be desirable although funding for this is an issue. SP agreed to look into the possibility of a grant from the Hinkley Point fund.

Action 10. JH to contact CH to repaint signs on road. SP to investigate Hinkley grant possibility.

It was reported that the ENPA project to raise funding to renovate all the historic signposts on Exmoor is still progressing. FN stated that a booklet is being produced with helpful hints on DIY jobs that parishes may be able to undertake.

Action 11. FN to follow up.

BM reported that he has received agreement from AirBand under their Village Hall Project to fund the Memorial Hall broadband. This will save approx. £350pa.

Despite the recent request in Across Exmoor there are still problems with dogs running loose on the village green. There is a public footpath across the green but dogs may only be walked on the line of this path and must be kept on leads.

Meeting closed 8.45pm.

ACTION POINT SUMMARY

- 1. Leat Wall Damage.** FN and Clerk to follow up.
- 2. Horse Warning Sign.** Clerk to contact CH.
- 3. Village Green Entrance.** OE to progress.
- 4. Raised Path.** ME to get quotes. Clerk to contact landowners.
- 5. Overhanging Branches.** Clerk to follow up with Peter Owen.
- 6. Exford Toilets.** Clerk to ensure notices placed in cubicles.
- 7. Highways Course.** Clerk to investigate cost.
- 8. Village Green.** ME to progress filling depressions with Chris North.
- 9. AirBand Coverage.** ME to raise at Exmoor Forum.
- 10. School Signs.** JH to contact CH to repaint signs. SP investigating access to Hinkley funding.
- 11. Parish DIY Booklet.** FN to follow up.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th November 2016 at Exford Memorial Hall. 7.30pm.

FURTHER COPIES OF THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT EXMOOR STORES AND ONLINE AT www.exfordparishcouncil.org

