

Exford Parish Council
Draft Minutes of Parish Council meeting

Held on: 22nd January 2019 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Attendance: Mike Ellicott, Kathryn Tucker, Joan Atkins, Jeremy Hickman, Derek Lloyd, Brian Martin, Judy Skinner, Cllr Steven Pugsley (from 9.10pm).

Clerk: Jane Laycock.

Members of Public: Oliver Edwards.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Frances Nicholson.

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 27th November 2018.

Minutes were signed off as a true record (proposed DL, seconded BM).

Matters Arising

Actions from minutes of meeting held on 27th November:

1. Village Green Licence. Meeting being arranged.
2. Drains on B3224 near Higher Riscombe. Now cleared. Highways advise that this location is recorded for future drainage work although not in the next financial year.
3. Exford Bridge. FN reports that SCC Structures Team have revisited this and the debris will be cleared in the next financial year. Councillors were concerned about this delay and possible flood risk to properties. It was agreed to continue pressure on SCC. BM suggested that there could be an alternative engineering solution by deflecting the water flow. Discussion followed regarding a possible local solution to clearing the stones as SCC are unable to commit to future clearance, however this would contravene Environment Agency regulations.
Action 1. Keep on agenda for next PC meeting to be discussed with FN.
4. Exmoor Beast Event. Discussed at recent Forum meeting in conjunction with Wootton Courtenay PC. ENPA now aware of this and are contacting the organisers to suggest better liaison with local PC's prior to the event taking place. ENPA will pass on any information they receive about such events however they have no power to control them.
KT queried what the law is regarding cycling events on the highway. **Action 2.** Clerk to clarify.
5. QEII Electricity Tariff. Put in place.
6. Budget Proposals. Precept acknowledged by TDBC. Article placed in Across Exmoor.

Highways

Sweeping

SP has provided contact details for WSDC's Clienting Officer (Natalie Green) and suggested that future problems with IDVerde are passed through her and copied in to SP. JH stated that despite assurances, IDVerde have not advised us of intended sweep dates. DL commented that a sweep vehicle was in Exford today.

Drains

JH has contacted Dennis Quick (W. Somerset Highways) regarding the drains towards Westermill. BM and OE commented that continuous blockages over the past month have resulted in water up to 8 inches deep, causing damage to cars, despite local efforts to clear the drain. Highways have inspected but no action has resulted.

DL stated that a coping stone has been knocked into the mill leat which is also causing road flooding.

ME commented that the new drains past Monkham are not effective. JH stated that these are actually above the level of the road and he has made a freedom of information request regarding the cost of this recent work.

Action 3. JH to follow up with Highways. Clerk to advise FN.

Parking

Concerns raised regarding the ongoing problem of parked vehicles on White Horse Bridge obstructing the roadway and causing dangerous lack of visibility. This has been raised before and appears to be predominately local residents.

Action 4. Clerk to contact Brian Stevens (PCSO) for advice to be followed up by letters to Police and Exmoor White Horse Inn.

Salt Bags/Signposts

It was noted that the signpost at Porlock Post is damaged. This has been raised with Jeremy Davis who advises that due to cattle eating from the salt bag at the base of the signpost, the bank has been eroded and traffic is now passing close enough to hit the direction fingers. Discussion followed about the location of salt bags, many of which are used as cattle licks. However, there was concern that the PC may be liable if these are moved. JS has kindly collected our allocation of salt bags and these are being stored at Dunkery Services. FN reports that SCC have provided dumpy bags of salt this year but these will not be provided by SCC next year. FN and SP continue to try to make sure that front line services are protected in view of further SCC budget cuts and to find the best way forward for all parishes.

Spring Litter Pick

Agreed that this will be on Sunday 7th April at 2pm.

Action 5. JH to contact IDVerde. OE to put on Village Facebook page. Clerk to advertise in village.

Water Mains Replacement

Wessex Water are planning to replace the ageing water main running up Edgcott Road in May 2019. The works are anticipated to last around 15 weeks, weather dependent. Wessex Water are attempting to avoid road closures where possible. The village green will be closed for 4-5 weeks whilst the new main is installed through this area and then around the back of Edgcott Road. This section will be done first and the works will be suitably fenced off. There will need to be a road closure on Highermill Farm Lane for 4-5 weeks. OE confirmed that following discussions with Nathan Storey of Wessex Water the section along Highermill Farm Lane will be done in October which would appear to be the best option for both tourist and farm traffic. This would also give householders the chance to plan deliveries of heating oil etc. It is also hoped that the works may be completed in a shorter period. Wessex Water will liaise with the emergency services to ensure access if necessary. All householders affected by the work will be notified.

Councillors were concerned about the length of time and also the extent of the closure of the village green. **Action 6.** Clerk to contact Wessex Water to clarify.

Speed Indicator Device

ME advised that Cutcombe PC are in the process of buying a SID which could be shared with Exford. This was previously discussed by Exford PC in March 2018. The equipment can only be installed and moved by someone with Chapter 8 training. There is a training course on 4th March (cost to PC of £199). ME will seek a volunteer. **Action 7.** ME to progress.

Village Green/Play Area

BM reminded councillors that the annual safety inspection of the play equipment was made by Playdale on 3 November. At the last PC meeting JH agreed to look over the items needing attention with BM and obtained a quote for some of the components which was less than the Playdale quote. BM thanked JH for this. He asked councillors to consider that although there is no doubt that we can save money by sourcing materials ourselves, if we can't obtain all the materials then we don't really want to split the work with Playdale. Also, our insurance may be invalidated if we carry out the work ourselves. It may be simpler to just get Playdale to do the work. Following discussion, councillors agreed that dependent on the response from the insurers we would decide whether to undertake the work ourselves or proceed with Playdale. It is also important that this is invoiced and paid in the current financial year. **Action 8.** Clerk to contact insurers.

JH reported that a number of people have been seen exercising their dogs on the village green over the Christmas period. This is not acceptable even if the dog mess is being picked up. Councillors agreed that a further reminder to the hotels and guest houses is needed. **Action 9.** Clerk to action.

QE II Field

BM reported that a QEII Management Committee meeting was held on January 21st. The key items discussed were:

The planning application to retain, move and enclose the shipping container was approved by ENPA on January 14th. The work must be completed before December 31st 2020. Paul Jones and Will Lock have been asked to obtain approval for the external materials and purchase these before end March. The annual renewal buildings insurance premium has been received. This was £659.48 (an increase of 14%). This has been negotiated down to £613.68 by JL.

The PCC had a tree survey carried out on the church grounds. A large beech tree near the QEII field boundary has to come down and the beech tree by the QEII gate will need 30% reduction.

Finance

The bank reconciliation for 22nd January was produced showing current account funds available of £12445.81. £8596.50 is held in reserves. The toilet block maintenance account is £12757.64. List of cheques issued for payment 27/11/18-21/01/19 produced.

Planning

Report provided by KT on the following applications and decisions:

For Notification Only (1st December 2018)

6/13/18/107LB Luckesses, Exford. Listed Building Consent for replacement bathroom windows. Approved 16/01/19

For Notification Only (19th January 2019)

6/13/19/101LB Luckesses, Exford. Amendment. Listed Building Consent for proposed replacement of french doors and windows.

Decision

6/13/18/106 QEII Playing Field, Church Hill, Exford. Proposed erection of wood clad building to enclose relocated existing steel shipping container. Approved 14/01/19.

Clerk's Report

List of email correspondence received to date provided.

Public Forum

KT reported that Exford School has a new finance officer/secretary and teaching assistant. A period of consolidation at the school is now hoped for.

ME confirmed that his new email contact address is: myraellicott@hotmail.com. No landline.

OE advised that the Exmoor Challenge Cycle Event organized by Channel Training which starts and finishes at Westermill is likely to be on 4th August 2019. This event is 90% off road. If confirmed, residents along the access roads to Westermill will be advised in advance.

BM (on behalf of Maddy Harrison Hall) raised the issue of a possible project to consider building a new village hall. This has been explored several times over the past 20 years. A possible site would be in the car park near the toilets. BM confirmed that he would be happy to be involved. Councillors agreed unanimously to support an investigation into whether this can be progressed.

JH confirmed that he is still contacting Somerset Air Ambulance regarding the possibility of night landings.

SP advised that several parishes are considering putting money aside for the future purchase of salt bins. These are seen as a better use of resources than dumpy bags.

Meeting closed 9.25pm

ACTION POINT SUMMARY

- 1. Exford Bridge.** Keep on agenda for next meeting for discussion with FN.
- 2. Cycling Events on Highway.** Clerk to clarify.
- 3. Drain Problems.** JH to follow up with Highways. Clerk to advise FN.
- 4. White Horse Bridge Parking.** Clerk to contact PCSO and write to Police and Exmoor White Horse Inn.
- 5. Spring Litter Pick.** JH to contact IDVerde, OE to post on Village Facebook, Clerk to advertise in village.
- 6. Water Mains Replacement.** Clerk to contact Wessex Water.
- 7. SID Training.** ME to progress.
- 8. Play Equipment.** Clerk to contact insurers.
- 9. Dogs on Village Green.** Clerk to remind local hotels and guest houses.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th March 2019 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm.

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

DRAFT