

Exford Parish Council
Draft Minutes of Parish Council meeting

Held on: 26th March 2019 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Attendance: Mike Ellicott, Joan Atkins, Jeremy Hickman, Derek Lloyd, Brian Martin, Judy Skinner, Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cllr Steven Pugsley (from 8.10pm).

Clerk: Jane Laycock.

Members of Public: Oliver Edwards.

Apologies for Absence: Kathryn Tucker.

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 22nd January 2019.

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

Matters Arising

Actions from minutes of meeting held on 22nd January:

1. Exford Bridge. Debris clearance should take place in the coming financial year. ME stated that it is important that this takes place to protect the village from flood risk.
2. Cycling Events on Highway. Clerk has circulated advice from police regarding cycle events. Events which are not classed as races do not require authorization from police or highways authorities. Speed limits do not apply to cyclists; however, participants should follow the Highway Code. Event traffic management is the responsibility of the event organisers. DL has been in contact with local police who will attend the next Exmoor Beauty event if possible. Peter Hendrie has agreed that cars can be parked at the YHA and bikes in the Exmoor White Horse Inn car park.
3. Drains. JH has been in contact with Highways. The new drains past Monkham have blocked already and the drain covers have lifted, causing a hazard. Photographs were passed to FN. OE has cleared the grates at Newland Cross but the drains are blocked underground. Also drain problems on road to Westermill. **Action 1.** FN to follow up.
4. White Horse Bridge Parking. Issue has been raised with local police who suggest that double yellow lines could be applied for although the problem of enforcement remains. ME stated that although there is plenty of parking in the village the problem is mostly caused by local residents. This has been raised with the Exmoor White Horse Inn on previous occasions. **Action 2.** ME to speak to Peter Hendrie.
5. Village Litter Pick. JH has spoken to Idverde asking to borrow litter picking equipment and requesting a pick-up of the rubbish for the following day. Idverde are unable to loan the equipment on 7th April and it appears that the rubbish bags would not be collected until the next scheduled sweep on 29th April. SP agreed to approach Brenda Maitland-Walker to clarify the collection situation. It was agreed that the PC should purchase 10 litter pickers for future use. **Action 3.** SP to follow up and Clerk to order 10 litter pickers.
6. Water Mains Replacement. Clerk stated that the official notice has been received from Wessex Water confirming that the start date for work on the village green is June 3rd. This will involve the play area being fenced off. A pre-works photo survey will be undertaken. Discussion followed regarding access arrangements and the area of closure necessary. **Action 4.** ME to contact Wessex Water.

7. SID Training. Cutcombe PC have purchased a SID and have a trained person who is willing to install/uninstall the device in Exford. ME is in discussions with Cutcombe regarding a contribution to the cost.
8. Play Equipment. See Village Green agenda item below.
9. Dogs on Village Green. Clerk confirmed that both local hotels and Exmoor Lodge have been contacted. The White Horse and Exmoor Lodge both confirmed that their guests are advised where dogs may be exercised. It has been suggested that 'pick up after your dog' notices could be put up on the street however councillors felt that this could be counterproductive and result in people using the village green instead.

Highways

Raised Path

JH reported that this has now been completed. The path is substantially wider and has been tarmacked and is being well used. Going forward it will need to be kept trimmed back. OE commented that the section by Joaneys Steep also needs doing.

Drains

JH has reported a number of blocked drain issues to Highways, some of which have been resolved.

Grass Triangle

BM reported that the grass on the village triangle has not been mowed and strimmed as agreed by The Crown Hotel. **Action 5.** ME to follow up.

Mill Cottage

There have been complaints regarding possible invasion of privacy from the cameras installed on Mill Cottage. There is a notice but this does not specify who is monitoring the CCTV. **Action 6.** FN to report back on data protection and security of CCTV information held.

Wellshead Hill

BM reported that he has been made aware that soil/leaf waste has been dumped on the verges at the top of Wellshead Hill. This is unsightly and creates problems for cars pulling over. OE stated that this area has been used by Highways to dump waste soil material. This is also occurring in other areas. **Action 7.** FN to clarify with Highways.

Porlock Post

BM confirmed that the work on this has now been completed and looks very good.

Village Green/Play Area

BM reported that the Clerk has received confirmation from our insurers that any work carried out on the play equipment by the PC would invalidate the policy. As agreed, Playdale were then instructed to proceed and the work has now been carried out.

BM also thanked Mike and Denise Stanbury for the play area donation of £257 raised from a whist drive.

Grass Cutting.

Clerk advised that this year's quote from Countrywide has been received for £1842.96. This is an increase of 2.85% (£1.82 per cut) for the usual 28 cuts. Councillors agreed that this remains very reasonable and we receive an excellent service. Agreed unanimously and clerk has confirmed.

Tea Rooms Access

ME confirmed that he will progress this meeting now that the tea rooms are open for the summer season. **Action 8.** ME to progress.

QE II Field

BM reported that the Non-Domestic Rates bill for 2019/20 has been received and is £53.42 after all reliefs have been applied. This is good news.

Paul Jones and Will Lock have been seeking tenders for the work on enclosing the shipping container. Ideally, we wanted this to be invoiced and paid for before the end of the PC financial year which is this week. However, a quote has been received from Pete Henson for £4400+VAT, plus labour which would be minimized by help from volunteers. BM wished to record thanks from the PC for this generous offer which is half the cost of the other quote received.

BM recommended that the PC approve this and it is paid as soon as possible. The work can be done at any time over the coming months. Approved unanimously. **Action 9.** BM to get Pete Henson to submit invoice for materials.

Finance

The bank reconciliation for 26th March was produced showing current account funds available of £9933.11. £8596.50 is held in reserves. The toilet block maintenance account is £12757.64. List of cheques issued for payment 22/01/19-25/03/19 produced.

Planning

Report provided by KT on the following applications and decisions:

Applications

6/13/19/102 Stockleigh Lodge, Exford. Proposed removal of condition 5 (notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order 2015 as amended (or any order revoking and re-enacting that order with or without modification) express planning permission shall be obtained for any development within Class A of part 1 of the Schedule 2 of the order) of approved application 6/13/18/104. All councillors present supported the application. It was felt this was an unfair restriction which did not apply to other residential properties in the area. Approved by ENP 19/03/19.

Exemead Youth Hostel, Exford. Proposed glamping pod together with the erection of raised walkway. All councillors present supported the application but would not wish to see any proliferation. Withdrawn 20/03/19.

Exmoor National Park Workshop, Exford. Application under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for replacement log shed and extension to create timber store. Four councillors supported the application with one abstention. They were concerned that this was not a clear application with regards to the actual plans. There appeared to be confusion between logs and timber. It was assumed the latter referred to milled timber. If application was required for logs, why did ENP need to store them.

Notification Only

6/13/18/101 Westermill Farm, Exford. Lawful Development Certificate for the existing seasonal use of fields for camping and caravanning (1 March-31 October). Amended description. As per additional information and amended plan. Withdrawn 06/03/19.

6/13/19/105 Westermill Farm, Exford. Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of land for camping and caravanning. Resubmission of withdrawn application 6/13/18/101.

Decisions

6/13/18/101LB Luckesses, Exford. Listed building consent for proposed replacement of French doors and windows. Approved by ENP 01/03/19.

Clerk's Report

List of email correspondence received to date provided.

Public Forum

ME reminded councillors that this is the last scheduled meeting for the current term of office. Parish and District Council elections will be held on May 2nd and nomination forms are available. DL confirmed that he would not be standing. SP complimented all parish councillors on a very well-run council for the past four years. ME thanked SP for all his hard work and support.

ENPA elections for parish members will take place later in May. It was suggested that we should agree to hustings being held in Exford if offered.

JH referred to the recent tragic accident in the village and has contacted Somerset Air Ambulance to come to the next Panel Meeting to discuss agreed possible sites which could be used for night landings in the village. It was agreed that progressing this would be very beneficial to the village.

OE confirmed that the Channel Training bike event at Westermill will not now be taking place.

ME confirmed that a new projector has been purchased. This will be kept by the designated PC planning officer for planning meeting use.

JH raised issue of the flood warning sign at Chibbet Ford (Withypool and Hawkrigde PC). ME confirmed that some of the stones placed in the river below the ford by a local landowner have now been removed. OE stated that some time ago he repaired the sign which had been bent and it now shows the correct depth of the water. FN read out an email (Nov 2018) from the Flood Management Team.

Leat Wall. FN confirmed that this work has been postponed as it is now planned that the leat will be fenced instead of building a new wall.

New Village Hall Update

BM reported that he and Maddy Harrison-Hall are doing initial work to see if a new village hall could be constructed on the car park near the public toilets. This is probably the only location in the village that would satisfy the criteria. The reasons for considering a new hall in a new location are that the existing hall is nearly 100 years old, is not energy efficient, has little parking and needs constant maintenance. The new location would offer a level site nearer the centre of the village with plenty of parking and would be easily accessible and safer for the school who are one of the main users. The head teacher is supportive of the scheme.

The existing hall would be sold for local affordable housing. The hall has been valued, a possible design for a new hall drawn up and a preliminary site meeting held with Kieran Reeves (ENPA Planning Officer).

The key issues are: ENPA would need to agree to allow part of the existing car park to be used for the building. Lost parking spaces could be compensated for by extending the car park towards the river, subject to planning. The new hall would require a large amount of funding but this could be pursued with community support and the costs reduced by use of local skills. Access to the site would need to be clarified and approval gained from the owners of the access road.

The next step is to have discussions with senior ENPA staff regarding use of the car park and clarify access rights.

Query was raised regarding whether the social club would be part of the new building. BM responded that this would considerably increase the costs. The social club have advised that they are happy to remain in their existing premises.

Meeting closed 9.20pm

ACTION POINT SUMMARY

1. **Drains.** FN to follow up.
2. **White Horse Bridge Parking.** ME to speak to Peter Hendrie.
3. **Village Litter Pick.** SP to follow up. Clerk to order 10 litter pickers.
4. **Water Mains Replacement.** ME to contact Wessex Water.
5. **Grass Triangle.** ME to follow up.
6. **Mill Cottage CCTV.** FN to report back.
7. **Wellshead Hill Verges.** FN to clarify with Highways.
8. **Tea Rooms Access.** ME to progress.
9. **QEII Field.** BM to obtain invoice.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th May 2019 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

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

DRAFT

DRAFT