

**Exford Parish Council**  
**Draft Minutes of Parish Council AGM and Annual Parish Meeting**

**Held on: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.00pm**

**Attendance:** Mike Ellicott, Kathryn Tucker, Joan Atkins, Oliver Edwards, Jeremy Hickman, Brian Martin, Cllr. Steven Pugsley, Cllr. Frances Nicholson (from 7.25pm). Clerk: Jane Laycock.

**Apologies for Absence:** None.

**Members of the Public:** Anna Connell, Elizabeth Crabb, Robin Gow.

**Chairman's Report**

ME presented his Chairman's Report for the year (see below).

**Election of Chairman**

Mike Ellicott (proposed KT, seconded OE). Elected unanimously.

**Approval of Annual Governance Statement**

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (JL) presented the Annual Governance Statement (section 1 of the Annual Return 2018/19) and confirmed that the independent internal audit was completed on 3 May 2019 by John Golding. Approved unanimously.

**Approval of Annual Statement of Accounts**

The Accounting Statements for year ended 31 March 2019 (section 2 of the Annual Return) were presented for approval. Approved unanimously.

**Election of Officers**

The following officers were elected:

Vice Chair	Brian Martin
Highways Officer	Jeremy Hickman
Planning Officer	Kathryn Tucker
QEII Field Committee	Brian Martin (Deputy: Kathryn Tucker)
Village Hall Committee	Joan Atkins
Village Green/Play Area Representative	Brian Martin

**Parish Member Nomination (ENPA)**

ME offered to stand again as the nominee of the PC and this was endorsed unanimously by councillors.

The nomination form will be completed on behalf of the Council.

**Questions from the Public.**

1.AC expressed concern on behalf of the whole community at the loss of Exford's village shop and post office following the sad death of Sally Gilbert. Trevor has decided that he has no alternative but to sell the business. ME commented that various options are being explored and he has spoken to a number of people with no success. He has been informed that there may be the possibility of finance from a benefactor, however this would need voluntary help to run the shop. The main problem would be the cost of the premises. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of grant funding.

SP and FN mentioned contacting other community run shops (eg. Wootton Courtenay) for information and ideas.

JH suggested a sub committee could be set up to carry the project forward perhaps meeting twice per month. ME stated he would be happy to set this up. KT, JA and AC volunteered to participate. FN confirmed that the premises would have to be marketed for a minimum of 12 months before any possible application for change of use to residential could be made.

FN also mentioned that it is possible to speak to the District Council regarding an application for an asset of community value.

2. AC also mentioned the weeds growing up through the recently tarmacked path. FN responded that this is in hand with the contractors. ME commented that the section of path beyond Joaneys Steep still needs doing. OE suggested that doing this section would probably be less disruptive.

AGM closed at 7.30pm.

## **EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/19**

I am pleased to report that we have had another successful year and we have been able to keep the finances in a good state. We have sufficient reserves and also residual funds in the account designated for the maintenance and running costs of the toilet block.

We have also been able to help Exford Cricket Club with the cost of enclosing the storage container so that their equipment can be stored securely. This work should be completed within the next few months.

We held a successful village litter pick recently which was organized by Jeremy Hickman. I'd like to thank Jeremy for his work organizing this yet again. Unfortunately, Jeremy has had trouble with the authorities trying to arrange for the rubbish to be collected, despite our efforts to try to keep the village tidy.

I'd like to thank all the councillors for all their hard work over the past year including Derek Lloyd and Judy Skinner who have not stood for re-election.

We can now look forward to another year, hopefully as successful as the last one. We have lots to address in the coming year, including the big problem of the loss of the village shop. I know there are moves afoot to do something about replacing it, however this is likely to take a while to put in place. We will of course do our best to help whoever decides to take it on.

Mike Ellicott  
Chairman Exford Parish Council  
7 May 2019

DRAFT