

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on Monday 28 January 2020 at 7.30pm in Exford Memorial Hall

Attendance: Councillors Mike Ellicott (Chair), Joan Atkins, Oliver Edwards, Jeremy Hickman, Brian Martin, Kathryn Tucker, Co Cllr Frances Nicholson (part of meeting), SWaT Cllr Steven Pugsley (part of meeting), Parish Clerk Nic Kemp, and 2 members of the public.

3.1 Apologies for Absence: None

3.2 Declarations of Interest: None

3.3 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 26 November 2019 and outstanding actions

The minutes were signed off as a true record by ME (BM prop, JH sec).

FN and SP joined the meeting at 7.35pm

Outstanding Actions:

3.3.1 Overhanging Trees at Roundwater. Clerk has written. No response received and no action taken to date.

Action 1: Clerk to report on County Council website and copy FN on any email communication.

3.3.2 Sunken drain at Roundwater. Has been repaired. JH to check.

3.3.3 Quote from Countrywide for single cut and pick up. See agenda item 3.6.

3.3.4 Standing Orders. See agenda item 3.9.

3.4 To consider Highways Matters, including:

JH has identified and addressed a dammed pond causing the flooding at Chibbet Cross.

Action 2: Clerk to write to landowner requesting they remove the dam and ensure the outflow is maintained.

Action 3: Clerk to write to thank member of public who assisted JH in unblocking. OE and JH have used website to report blocked drains but received no reference or action.

Action 4: JH and OE to forward details to FN of submission.

JH placed markers to check road sweep effectiveness but they were blown away as sweep was delayed.

Action 5: JH to place markers prior to next sweep

Verges from Stone Cross and Chibbet Cross to village blocked with leaves – need ploughing.

Action 6: JH to provide contact details of contractor to Clerk. Clerk to request quote.

ME thanked FN for arranging the meeting between the parishes and the Leader of the County Council.

3.5 To consider QEII Field Matters

BM reported on the meeting held on 23 January 2020. Maintenance work is to be carried out in April. Clerk passed insurance renewal for playing field to BM.

Action 7: Clerk and BM to clarify status of QEII Trust.

3.6 To receive update on Village Green

Annual Play Equipment Inspection carried out – only low and very low risk items identified, so no remedial actions required.

Clerk provided quote from Countrywide for single cut and pick up. ME recommended waiting to decide if required nearer to the fete. Countrywide have provided quote for tree work. It was agreed that the resident who normally carries out tree work will do this.

JA has been approached by two residents highlighting broken tree, mossy seats, messy bus shelter, metal rail down, road sign missing.

Action 8: ME to arrange working party to address once weather improves.

Resident opposite Green is putting domestic waste in public rubbish bin. Council have written to ask them to stop – has not worked. Council to consider moving bin.

3.5 To consider QEII Field Matters

BM requested returning to item 3.5 as has been notified of a TSB bank account for the playing field, containing funds.

Action 9: BM to investigate bank account

3.7 To receive update on New Village Hall

BM reported on need for solicitor search to confirm ENPA rights of access to site would be transferred with sale of land, and requested Council cover cost – estimated at £175 plus VAT. OE prop (JA sec) Council pay for search – unanimously agreed.

Action 10: BM to action

3.8 Finance

3.8.i To approve proposed precept – JH prop (KT sec) increase of 2.5% for 2020-21 precept. Unanimously agreed

3.8.ii To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due – Clerk gave the financial report. It was agreed to pay:

- South West Water sewerage charges for toilets - £371.69, and it was agreed to pay future bills by direct debit
- Exford Memorial Hall for annual room hire - £175
- Cutcombe Parish Council £20 contribution towards Clerk's VAT Course
- Somerset Playing Fields Annual Affiliated Membership - £50
- Mrs N Kemp - Clerks Salary (2 months) £467.29, plus expenses £56.96 plus reimbursement of SLCC membership £31 - Total £554.98

3.9 To consider approving and adopting NALC Model Standing Orders (2018 version)

– Clerk had previously circulated Model Standing Orders with recommended amendments. BM prop (OE sec) adopting the NALC Model Standing Orders. Unanimously agreed.

3.10 To consider co-option of a member to the Council – Vacant seat (since May election) has been advertised. No interest received prior to meeting. A member of the public present at the meeting registered interest.

Action 11: Clerk to follow up with member of public

3.11 Planning Report

KT had previously circulated Planning Report and noted that the Council had unanimously supported the application for the Shop discussed at the January meeting. JH queried the works currently underway at a pub in the village.

Action 12: Planning Rep to request clarification from ENPA on whether planning permission would be required

3.12 Clerk's Report:

Clerk had previously circulated report. Is awaiting response from ENPA on query over kissing gates. Noted that compensation received from NatWest over problems with updating account. Letter requesting support received from CLOWNS.

Action 13: Clerk to confirm if CLOWNS visit Exford.

Action 14: Clerk to add Litter Pick and VE Day celebration to next agenda

3.13 Public Forum:

JA raised issue of parking and access dispute between residents. As unadopted lane and private homes, JA to encourage residents to resolve with each other.

ME read Police Report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 March 2020 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm.

ACTION POINT SUMMARY

- Action 1: Overhanging trees at Roundwater - Clerk to report on County Council website and copy FN on any email communication.
- Action 2: Flooding at Chibbet Cross - Clerk to write to landowner requesting they remove the dam and ensure the outflow is maintained.
- Action 3: Flooding at Chibbet Cross - Clerk to write to thank member of public who assisted JH in unblocking.
- Action 4: Blocked drain reporting online - JH and OE to forward details to FN of submission.
- Action 5: Road sweeping - JH to place markers prior to next sweep
- Action 6: Verge clearance - JH to provide contact details of contractor to Clerk. Clerk to request quote.
- Action 7: QEII - Clerk and BM to clarify status of QEII Trust.
- Action 8: Village Green - ME to arrange working party to address once weather improves.
- Action 9: QEII TSB bank account - BM to investigate bank account
- Action 10: New Village Hall access - BM to action search
- Action 11: Co-option of member to Council - Clerk to follow up with member of public
- Action 12: Works underway at pub in village - Planning Rep to request clarification from ENPA on whether planning permission would be required
- Action 13: Clerk to confirm if CLOWNS visit Exford.
- Action 14: Clerk to add Litter Pick and VE Day celebration to next agenda

FURTHER COPIES OF THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THE PARISH NOTICEBOARD AND ONLINE AT www.exfordparishcouncil.org

Signed:
Chairman

Date: