

**Exford Parish Council**  
**Draft Minutes of Parish Council meeting**

**Held on: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm**

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

**Members of Public:** None.

**Apologies for Absence:** None.

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018.**

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

**Matters Arising**

Actions from minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January:

1. Road Markings. Response received from Highways stating that the refurbishment works that were carried out in the winter of 2016/17 reflect the expected level of wear and tear. A Traffic Technician will be making a site visit to Exford shortly to carry out an audit and a plan of work required will then be issued. The works will take place in the summer. ME requested to meet the technician on his visit and councillors wished to see the subsequent report.  
**Action 1.** Clerk to contact Highways.
2. Play Equipment. See agenda item 6b (Play Equipment Maintenance) below.
3. Village Green Entrance. ME reported that this has now been successfully completed and costs have been shared 50/50 with the Tea Rooms. ME asked JA to pass thanks on to Steven Atkins for an excellent job.
4. Mowing Contract. Now renewed as agreed at PC meeting 23rd January 2018.

**Highways**

JH reported that Highways had done an excellent job in clearing the roads during the recent snow. There are 3 blocked drains reported to Highways. A salt bag has been requested at the triangle on the hill past Court. This will be passed to Highways for next winter. The road closure at Luckwell Bridge for 26 days from 9 April was raised. This will cause considerable inconvenience. FN reported that she has discussed this with Highways but unfortunately a full closure is necessary for the period.

**Speed Indicator Device Proposals.**

Following the withdrawal of SID equipment by SCC, ME has been in discussions with Timberscombe and Cutcombe councils regarding purchasing a device on a shared basis. This would equate to about £800 for each village. The device has a 3-year guarantee. BM queried how effective this would be. ME stated that a sign appearing on an ad hoc basis is considered more effective than a permanent fixture. The average speed information can still be provided to the speed enforcement unit as at present. FN confirmed that we would need to obtain full Chapter 8 training for at least 1 person from each village. SCC will cover half the cost of this. Approval will have to be obtained from SCC for the type of device to be purchased. ME will keep councillors advised of progress.

**Action 2.** ME to progress and report back.

### Village Litter Pick.

This will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. JH will contact IDVerde and also see if they can sweep the village during the previous week.

**Action 3.** JH to contact IDVerde and Clerk to publicise.

### **Village Green/Play Area**

#### Village Green.

The Tea Rooms have requested a new gate to replace the existing fence adjoining the café. They have agreed to pay the full cost of this. No signs will be permitted on the gate.

Western Power started digging a trench across the village green entrance to lay a new cable to the Tea Rooms. ME stated that they did not have a wayleave agreement to cross Parish Council land and work was suspended while this was put in place. Western Power have now agreed to pay the PC £25. The village green is still unregistered land so in order to register the wayleave agreement at HM Land Registry and to protect the ownership of the green, ME has instigated land registration with solicitors. Cost approx. £200. Councillors agreed that this was necessary.

DL queried the right of way across the village green. ME confirmed that this is already on the OS maps and registered with ENPA.

#### Play Equipment.

BM reported that the maintenance, repair and replacement of some parts of the play equipment were carried out by Playdale on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> March. The engineer was unable to free the adjustment mechanism on the zip wire and this needs replacing. The zip wire is still usable and safe. Also, the wooden blocks on the swinging steps are cracked and need replacing, plus the lower chain. Playdale's quote for this is £1146.80 which is over £800 less than their first quote for this work which included replacing all of the chain on the swinging steps. BM recommended that the PC proceeds with this revised quote. After discussion, it was agreed that the work should be done now to ensure all of the equipment is in good repair. Proposed: DL, seconded JS. Agreed unanimously.

**Action 4.** Clerk to accept Playdale quote.

Thanks to Michael and Denise Stanbury who have donated £163 to the play area, raised from a whist drive on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### **QE II Field**

BM stated that there is little to report since the last meeting except that the croquet club has decided to hold an additional evening session on one Tuesday per month from May to August to try to gain some new members. BM commented that anything that gets more involvement in activities across age groups is beneficial for the community.

### **Finance**

The bank reconciliation for 27<sup>th</sup> March was produced showing current account funds available of £11706.07. £7589.41 is held in reserves. The toilet block maintenance account is £13318.29. Outstanding cheques not yet debited total £1245.99. List of cheques issued for payment 23/01/18-26/03/18 produced.

### **Planning**

KT reported:

6/13/18/101 Westermill Farm, Exford. Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of agricultural field for camping and caravanning (April to September).

This is a Lawful Development Notification only and not a planning issue therefore it is not for the PC to discuss.

## **Clerk's Report**

List of email correspondence received to date provided.

DL reported that the recent Housing Needs Survey event at Exford Hall had no interest despite the need for local affordable housing. JS suggested that the issue of available land for building is put on the agenda for the next PC meeting.

**Action 5.** Clerk to put on agenda.

## **Proposed Changes to District Council Wards**

SP reported that the Secretary of State has agreed to the merger of West Somerset and Taunton Deane Councils. Elections will take place in May 2019. As West Somerset is so sparsely populated, the existing wards will need to be amalgamated. This will create between 14-16 wards in the West Somerset area and reduce the number of District Councillors. Parishes need to make suggestions for the Boundary Commission to look at by 2 April 2018. SP suggested that it would be more appropriate for the hill parishes to be kept together as they have a similar community of interest compared to those in the vale. Councillors voted unanimously to support this recommendation.

**Action 6.** Clerk to complete survey on behalf of Exford PC and return to Bruce Lang.

## **Public Forum**

JH mentioned a recent incidence of 'tribal drumming' and a bonfire at the youth hostel one evening. This has been brought to Peter Hendrie's attention.

JA stated following the letter box being forcibly removed from Chibbet, the post is still sticking out dangerously. JH will ask if the box has been handed in at the Post Office depot and if so will it be replaced.

DL raised the issue of the cutoff date of 2025 for claiming registration of existing rights of way. He stated that some routes which are currently used by walkers and riders risk being lost.

JA mentioned that the raised path between Exford and Edgcott is now in a very poor state with stones dropping out on to the road.

JH raised issue of stones building up again under White Horse bridge.

**Action 7.** Clerk and FN to raise with Highways.

BM mentioned that a very large vehicle with trailer had recently attempted to get down Muddicombe Lane en route to Wellshead despite the warning signs. The driver was apparently following his sat nav. Unfortunately, considerable damage has been caused to the banks. BM has the haulage company details and Highways will be advised.

**Meeting closed 9.05 pm.**

## **ACTION POINT SUMMARY**

- 1. Road Markings.** Clerk to contact Highways re: meeting and report.
- 2. SID Proposals.** ME to progress and report back.
- 3. Village Litter Pick.** JH to contact IDVerde and Clerk to publicise.
- 4. Play Equipment.** Clerk to accept quote.
- 5. Affordable Housing Land.** Clerk to place on next agenda.
- 6. District Council Wards.** Clerk to respond.
- 7. Raised Path and White Horse Bridge.** Clerk and FN to raise with Highways.

**Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm preceded by Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.**

**FURTHER COPIES OF THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT EXMOOR STORES AND ONLINE AT [www.exfordparishcouncil.org](http://www.exfordparishcouncil.org)**

