

## EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL



### **Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Exford Memorial Hall at 19.30.**

**In attendance:** Mike Ellicott (Chair), Jeremy Hickman, Simon Brown, Kathryn Tucker, Joan Atkins (until 20.23), Oliver Edwards, Sian Tedstone (Clerk)  
Councillors: Steven Pugsley, Frances Nicholson

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

<b>Item 1: Apologies:</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Serena Colwill	
<b>Item 2: Declarations of Interest</b> None advised.	
<b>Item 3: To approve the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting and address any outstanding actions</b>  The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated and duly approved.  A letter has been sent to the Memorial Hall Chairman and we await a reply. Mr Ellicott suggested that a group of 2-3 councillors are tasked with meeting with the Hall representatives. Mrs Atkins and Mrs Tucker volunteered. Mr Ellicott and the clerk also to attend the meeting when arranged.  Mr Ellicott noted further cannisters have appeared behind the toilets. No idea where they are coming from but all contain fluid.  Mr Hickman advised the SIID pole should be moved in the next few days. Mr Ellicott is trying to get the SIID at the top of Church Hill fixed..	
<b>Item 4: Finance update</b>  We are awaiting precept funds which should arrive soon after 1 <sup>st</sup> April. (NB the funds arrived 15.4.25).  A suggestion was made to purchase a generator out of parish funds and all were in agreement. Mr Ellicott noted it would need an electrical connection point at the Hall.	
<b>Item 5: To receive update reports from Somerset Councillors</b>  Mr Pugsley stated there was not too much to report.. The Silly Bridge problem was mostly sorted out but some work is still to be done with Wellshead digging out a drain.	

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<p>Patchings on the roads are not robust. There is some frustration with Kier's performance at this point in time. The road to Chibbett has been ploughed and cleared.</p> <p>Rates have been agreed and there are some council staffing reductions.</p> <p>Car parks across the county are likely to have standardised parking charges introduced over the coming months. The original proposal was for these to apply on an overnight basis as well but this has been scrapped. The council will start charging for car parks which are currently free. As Exford is rented by the parish council from ENPA the changes will not apply to us. The car park contract has been agreed but no invoice yet received from ENPA. The changes will probably affect Withypool and Wheddon Cross. Mr Pugsley will be contesting both of these particularly as it will cost approx. £3500 to install a machine in each car park and as Withypool only has 12 spaces this seems completely uneconomic. A consultation is expected and neighbouring parishes are encourage to respond.</p> <p>Mrs Nicholson noted the food bank is now a registered charity with trustees. It is based in the old youth club building in Dulverton. They are looking to move beyond just the provision of food parcels. To continue their work they need a full time employee for one day per week and Mrs Nicholson requested EPC sends a supportive email to assist the trustees in moving this forward. Clerk to draft and send.</p>	ST
<p><b>Item 6: Highways</b></p> <p>Mr Hickman confirmed it would cost £175 to move the SIID post.</p> <p>The litter pick did not create as many bags as previous years.</p> <p>idVerde are continuing with road sweeps.</p> <p>Mrs Atkins asked when the potholes at Edgcott are being repaired as they are much worse.</p> <p>Mr Pugsley advised that traffic management is performed by a completely separate company sub contracted by the works contractor and this is why some of the routes are rather strange! It is not a council matter.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7: Disaster Planning</b></p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
<p><b>Item 8: QEII Field</b></p> <p>Mr Brown advised the lights coming on are probably due to people walking dogs on the field. Unfortunately, dog poo remains an ongoing issue.</p> <p>Fencing still to be done. Cost to be established and Mr Brown has contacted Fields in Trust to see if any funding is available.</p>	

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Paul Jones will start the remedial work soon.	
<b>Item 9: Planning</b> None	
<b>Item 10: Village Green update</b> Mr Ellicott reported that cutting has commenced. He is checking the quote and the number of cuts it provides. The roundabout is a little sticky and may need looking at soon.	
<b>Item 11: Public Forum</b> None present	

The meeting closed at 8.36 pm.

Signed:

Date: