

EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on 28th January 2025 in Exford Memorial Hall at 19.30.

In attendance: Mike Ellicott (Chair), Jeremy Hickman, Simon Brown, Kathryn Tucker, Joan Atkins, Serena Colwill, Sian Tedstone (Clerk)

Councillors: Steven Pugsley

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Item 1: Apologies: Oliver Edwards	ACTION
Item 2: Declarations of Interest None advised.	
Item 3: To approve the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting and address any outstanding actions The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated and duly approved. Clerk is to draft a letter to the trustees of the village hall regarding a meeting. Mr Ellicott has removed the canisters behind the public toilets. Mr Hickman advised that moving the pole for the SIID will cost £175 and he is awaiting a written quote.	
Item 4: Finance update Mr Ellicott noted that it was difficult to agree a precept level due to the fact that Somerset Council were looking to devolve certain services to parishes for them to manage directly. Councils have not been able to determine pricing of various services and contracts as per previous discussions. Councillors debated the pros and cons of various outcomes and determined that a £1000 increase in total precept was appropriate in the circumstances. All were in favour of this proposal and the clerk was requested to submit the form to Somerset Council.	
Item 5: To receive update reports from Somerset Councillors Mrs Nicholson noted that the Boundary Commission have given Somerset Council an extension in time to respond. Mr Pugsley has worked on a non partisan working group to submit a recommendation which was then rejected. The expectation is that Exford parish will end up being included in the West Exmoor group of approx. 4850 electors.	

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<p>Item 6: Highways</p> <p>Mr Pugsley referred to the state of the Edgcott to Westermill road and advised he has been corresponding with Mr Revans. Mr Pugsley's view is that if roads are to be passable then maintenance needs to be performed more regularly. He believes that seeking a solution on ensuring regular maintenance will be the best way to progress the overall issue of road conditions around Exmoor.</p> <p>The road to Chibbet was swept but then around a week later it was ploughed resulting in a lot of debris being left in the road. Councillors felt that the ploughing should have been performed first and then sweeping after but it seems there is little or no communication between the various sub contractors and Highways. No notice had been provided to the parish council about the verge ploughing.</p> <p>The drain by Stockleigh Lodge has been fixed.</p> <p>Mr Hickman reported the debris which has been washed down Rocky Lane; Muddicombe Lane drains are also partially blocked. All recognise that there is a huge amount of debris on the roads which is contributing to these issues.</p> <p>Messrs Pugsley, Ellicott and Hickman will make sure the road issues are added to the next Highways sub group meeting in February.</p> <p>Litter pick date was set for March 23. Clerk to add to Facebook page.</p> <p>Mrs Atkins noted the path along to Edgcott was in a poor state of repair as was the hole opposite Edgcott Cottage. The pit at Chibbet was also opening up again.</p>	
<p>Item 7: Disaster Planning</p> <p>Mrs Colwill advised that the parish council are unable to claim for generators on the grant scheme she had looked at. She is looking to follow up and find out if we can find another source of grant funding. Mrs Nicholson suggested we try SALC under their wellbeing scheme (Sam Murrell).</p> <p>First Aid training is approx. £50pp for up to 10 people. The village hall fee will be in addition to this. Mrs Colwill to get a formal quote and apply for a grant if possible.</p> <p>The Data Protection policy and Privacy Notice was reviewed and approved by the Council.</p>	SP
<p>Item 8: QEII Field</p> <p>The management group are seeking to fund the fencing around the field and especially that between the field and Mr Greenlands land. Mrs Colwill</p>	

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<p>suggested seeing if FIPL could provide a grant. Mr Buckingham will do the fencing in due course.</p> <p>Mrs Colwill mentioned that she had seen lights going on in the pavilion on several evenings. Mr Brown to look into this.</p>	
<p>Item 9: Planning</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>Item 10: Village Green update</p> <p>Mr Ellicott has checked the equipment.</p> <p>The “no dogs on common” signs are to be moved as they are incorrect.</p> <p>Nothing further to report.</p>	
<p>Item 11: Public Forum</p> <p>None present</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.36 pm.

Signed:

Date: