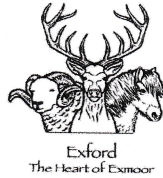


EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on 31st March 2026 in Exford Memorial Hall at 19.30.

In attendance: Mike Ellicott (Chair), Kathryn Tucker, Joan Atkins, Jeremy Hickman, Sian Tedstone (Clerk), Stephen Pugsley (from 20.10), Frances Nicholson (from 20.10)

Mr Ellicott welcomed councillors to the meeting.

Agenda No.		Action
1	<p>Apologies Mrs Nicholson and Mr Pugsley will be late due to conflicting schedules with other parish council meetings. Mr Edwards Mrs Colwill</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Interest None noted</p>	
3	<p>Approval of prior meeting minutes and Matters Arising Mr Ellicott asked if the minutes were a true record to which all agreed and they were duly signed.</p> <p>Matters arising: Mr Ellicott had a meeting with Kali Martin from Highways to discuss various drain concerns but the follow up discussion has not yet occurred. One proposal is to remove the chamber referred to in previous minutes and connect the drain directly by Monks Cleeve, however, this might create a secondary issue as one pipe is a different size to the other.</p> <p>We are still awaiting first aid certificates from the course.</p> <p>It was agreed that a school minibus as raised at the last meeting is not a Parish Council remit.</p> <p>Mr Hickman recommended that the roundabout on the green is greased and noted the see saw is a little squeaky. Mr Hickman and Mr Ellicott to review on site.</p>	<p>JH / SP</p> <p>SC</p> <p>JH / ME</p>
4	<p>Toilet Update Mr Ellicott noted that someone had been engaged to assist with keeping the toilets clean and tidy and the arrangement was working well. Request for payment will be submitted to the Clerk who will BACS funds across to the person.</p>	

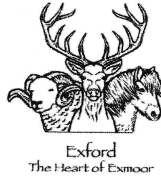
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Exford
The Heart of Exmoor

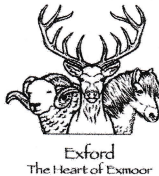
	<p>Replacement keys for the dispensers and additional loo rolls are all on order.</p> <p>Mrs Atkins advised that she had been stopped by a tourist who had state how impressed he was with the cleanliness of the toilets.</p> <p>ENP do need to get on top of the people who are staying overnight in the car park.</p> <p>The gutter on the toilets is blocked, and this will be cleaned and repainted by Chris North.</p>	
5	<p>Finance</p> <p>The finance report was circulated and read out to all present.</p> <p>The Clerk advised of the need to agree exemption status for the PC in relation to our annual accounts. Exemption status was agreed by all present.</p>	
6	<p>Update from Somerset Councillors</p> <p>Somerset Councillors had not arrived and so this item was not discussed.</p> <p>Mr Ellicott did however advise Councillors that Mr Brown had resigned as a Parish Councillor which leaves 6 members. Mr Ellicott proposed running the PC at this level until the elections in 2027. If councillors believe an election is required then a statutory notice will have to be publicised for a specific period and if there is more than one applicant then a full election will be needed and this will bring in significant costs (circa £1500). Mr Hickman agreed that it made sense to run with six for the time being. Mr Ellicott also noted that the PC will need to advertise for at least two new councillors next year, in addition, Mr Ellicott will be standing down in 2027. Mr Ellicott asked all councillors to engage with people to see if anyone wishes to stand.</p> <p>It was also noted by Mr Ellicott that medication delivery and hospital visit drivers are few and far between at the moment and no new volunteers have come forward. He stated one factor for current and new people to consider is that Somerset Council need to increase mileage allowance in light of increased fuel costs.</p>	
7	<p>Highways Matters</p> <p>Mr Hickman had a nil report.</p> <p>He did note that he has been discussing the silt build up with various parties including our local MP and will continue with these discussions to find a solution.</p>	JH

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	<p>Mrs Atkins advised a parishioner had fallen into a gully somewhere up near Westcott Mead and advised that some of the storm drains seem to be in disrepair. Anyone who notes such a thing must be encouraged to report it via the council portal with an accurate location.</p> <p>Mrs Atkins also enquired if it is possible to find a person to act as lengthsman. A key factor working against us on this is that such a person needs to have all of the relevant certificates to allow them to work on the highway. Mr Ellicott will raise this at the LCN.</p> <p>The diversion signs at Stone Cross are causing confusion. Mr Ellicott will raise at the LCN.</p> <p>Spring litter pick: Mr Hickman stated that he was not prepared to arrange this this year. Councillors agreed that April 19th at 2pm worked for most people. Mr Hickman was asked to retrieve the hoops and pickers and make them available for volunteers. Mr Hickman still feels that a lot of the litter is created by open doors on the Somerset Waste vehicles which are meant to be closed when the vehicle is travelling. Mr Ellicott suggested that if anyone saw this then they should take a photo and submit it to one of the County Councillors for follow up with the contractor.</p> <p>A number of councillors raised concerns over the amount of vehicles parked at the junction by Bridge Cottage. Mr Ellicott will ask Lynn Fisher to write to the occupants.</p>	<p>ME</p> <p>ME</p> <p>ME</p>
8	<p>Disaster / Emergency Planning update Mrs Colwill was not present and so this was not discussed.</p>	
9	<p>QEII Field update As Mr Brown has resigned as a parish councillor, one of the other parish councillors needs to take on his responsibilities with respect to QEII. Mrs Tucker has reluctantly agreed to do so. Mr Brown has passed all relevant paperwork to Mr Ellicott.</p>	
10	<p>Planning Nothing additional to report from the earlier planning meeting.</p>	
11	<p>Village Green update Mr Ellicott confirmed he was happy to help with greasing the equipment.</p> <p>The White Horse are currently rebuilding their wall which had collapsed.</p>	
12	<p>Public Forum None present</p>	
13	<p>Next Meeting date and agenda items May 26th at 19.30 with AGM beforehand at 19.00</p>	

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The meeting closed at 20.14. Shortly thereafter Mr Pugsley and Mrs Nicholson arrived, however, as Mr Hickman had left the meeting was no longer quorate and so the items they were due to discuss were not able to be covered. A general discussion between remaining members ensued but this was not minuted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above the date.

26.5.2026