

EXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Exford Parish Council held on 26th May 2026 in Exford Memorial Hall at 19.30.

In attendance: Mr Ellicott, Mrs Tucker, Mr Hickman, Mrs Colwill and Mrs Tedstone. Stephen Pugsley (from 20.25), Frances Nicholson (from 20.25)

Mr Ellicott welcomed all to the meeting.

Agenda No.		Action
1	Apologies Apologies were received from Mrs Atkins and Mr. Edwards. Mr Pugsley and Mrs Nicholson will be arriving late due to the Cutcombe AGM.	
2	Declarations of Interest None advised	
3	Approval of prior meeting minutes and Matters Arising Mr Hickman noted he had been in touch with Kali Martin of Somerset Council about the Monkham drains. First aid certificates have been delivered and given out to all participants. The feedback forms were yet to be done. Roundabout maintenance still needs to be done on the village green. Mr Ellicott will be away until Monday and will endeavour to arrange following his return. Mr North has the materials for repairing the toilets and will do this as soon as possible. It was noted that the litter pick went very well. Mr Hickman noted that ID Verde had also swept the roads for litter around the same time and commented it would be useful if they could let us know when they are doing so in order that we do not clash with them.	
4	Update from Somerset Councillors At 20:25 Mr Pugsley and Mrs Nicholson arrived and we discussed their section. There is an LCN next month plus on 11th June is a highways warden meeting at Cutcombe at 6:30 pm and they are looking to prioritise winter maintenance ahead of the winter season. Road resurfacing is ongoing. OpenReach will be working on around Beulah in a few months which will cause some disruption for those travelling towards Taunton.	

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Exford
The Heart of Exmoor

	Somerset Council's annual meeting has been held, and it is still in quite severe financial difficulties. This will have an impact on what Somerset Council can provide residents other than core services. Adult and child social care is still a huge strain on the financial system Mr Pugsley noted that where we want work done, especially on highways, Somerset Council are unlikely to be able to fulfil all our requests due to their financial problems. He suggested the Parish Council endeavours to be very selective over our requests to Somerset Council to ensure that the important stuff does get done. David Weir arrived at 2035. SEND spend has been mandated centrally meaning Somerset Council have little control and this therefore leaves little funds for other matters. All participants in the system therefore need to prioritise and become much more efficient. Somerset Council is reviewing its links with communities and there will be a consultation on LCN's as part of this. The Parish Council represents the community and councillors thus need to engage with residents so appropriate feedback can be given. Mr Ellicott raised the quality of the paint used on the white lines as it had degraded very quickly. Somerset Council use different products in low traffic areas and this is why it might not be long lasting. Mr Hickman wants council money to be spent more wisely. Mr Pugsley suggested that we keep an eye on Devon's devolving pothole refilling. Liability in this regard is a concern. The councillors gave thanks to Exford Parish Council for our assistance which is much appreciated. Mrs Tucker asked if Exford school is safe and it was noted that the budget is OK for this year.	
5	Highways Matters Mr Ellicott thanked Mr Hickman for arranging the litter pick. Mr Ellicott advised that owners of vehicles parked on the corner by the bridge have been written to, but are not being overly cooperative. They have been informed that the Parish Council feels the congestion may cause road safety issues. Other suggestions included contacting The White Horse as some of their clients' park on the bridge itself. It was noted that it is not the pubs responsibility and placing a sign nearby asking people not to park on the bridge may be sensible. Mr Ellicott will raise this at the LCN.	

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	The silt in the river is an ongoing issue and there are still concerns it may flood. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to all those who kept the planters looking nice through the season.	
6	Finance The report was read out, and all agreed with the content.	
7	QE II Playing Field Mrs Tucker advised the QE II meeting is next week. Mr. Brown has gone through outstanding matters with Mrs Tucker and she thanked him for his time. The User Agreements need to be reviewed and confirmed for each of the user groups. Some windows still need replacing and repairing. Unfortunately, Paul Jones has not had time to do this and so Mrs Tucker will propose using a specialist window company. The last quote to do this was approx. £5,700. Councillors agreed that if this needed to be done on a commercial basis that Mrs Tucker should proceed.	
8	Village Green Mr Ellicott noted that the grass had grown very quickly and as it had been too long between cuts. Mr Ellicott noted that it should be cut approximately 2 times per week at the moment. NB: just after the meeting the village green was cut. Mr Ellicott has been to check the zip wire, and it is working all right. He has checked all of the other equipment as well. The rubber around the bottom of the slide etc. needs levelling and Mr Ellicott will do this. Mr Ellicott noted that he was disappointed with the service provided by countrywide grounds maintenance this year. There has been no progress with the robotic mower. Dulverton and others who use these have had issues. There is a demonstration which still needs to be arranged. It was noted that Andrew Symons also sells robotic mowers and it might be worth checking with Tom Williams as well. Mrs Colwill noted she would call Andrew Symons. Mr Ellicott will attempt to arrange for the trees around the green to be pollarded before he resigns. The white line at the bottom of Combe Lane still needs repainting and Mr Ellicott will raise this at the LCN.	
9	Disaster / Emergency Planning update	

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	Mrs Colwill has drafted an emergency plan and has agreed with the White Horse, The Crown and Exmoor Social Club can be used as safe spaces until the village hall is in a suitable condition. Councillors discussed the draft and suggested adding neighbouring parish council contacts and a map showing the risks relative to Exmoor. A poster has been drafted, and it was suggested that we add the what3words location before this proceeds. It was also suggested that a defibrillator list is posted on the parish notice board. Purchase of a generator is on hold until the Memorial Hall is sorted. There was also a question as whether we needed to purchase sandbags. Mr Hickman recommended the www.sandbagcompany.co.uk as a possible source of sandbags. The bags will need to remain unfilled, and it was suggested that someone speaks to Mr Skinner to see whether we could store a dumpy bag of sand at his yard.	
10	Planning No change in the planning proposals. No decisions yet on Chibbet, Ashott or Greenland Farm. Mr Hickman raised the matter of a new shed appearing at the cottage at Court and Mrs Colwill indicated she would clear query this with planning.	
11	Public Forum David Weir	
12	Next Meeting date and agenda items July 28th at 19.30	

The meeting closed at 20:55



6/8/26