

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a “virtual” Council Meeting held on Monday 4th May 2020 at 8:00pm.

Present:

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard, Miss Janette Webber, Mr Doug Sherring, Mr Steve Rowe, Mr Joshua Thorne, Mrs Valerie Carveth, Mr Robert Takle and Mr Andrew Moore (Clerk).

In Attendance:

Because this was a virtual meeting there was no one else in attendance.

1. Apologies: there were none.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Robert Takle declared an interest in Planning Application 6/15/20/103 for Kendle Farm.

3. Representations from members of the Public:

Being a virtual meeting no members of the public were present. However, they had been asked to forward any comments concerning the Agenda to the Clerk and none had been received.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10th February 2020:

The Minutes were agreed as circulated but would be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record when social distancing would allow.

5. Matters Arising:

Valerie Carveth reported that due to the “lockdown” no more sessions had taken place and no additional volunteers had come forward.

Valerie Carveth reported that plans for the VE Day celebration had now been cancelled but a commemoration would be held on 8th May by people in their gardens as was done for the “NHS clapping” on Thursday evenings.

Janette Webber reported that there had been a problem with the sewage works smelling and that a tanker had been sent to empty it. She pointed out that this would suggest that the sewage works is just not big enough for the number of houses it is now serving even with the Caravan Park closed. Janette Webber suggested that the Clerk write to the Water Company pointing this out. The Clerk advised that when he had done this before he had been told that only account holders could request action so suggested that residents write.

It was noted that BT had repaired the two telephone boxes and was still responsible for maintaining them.

6. Finance:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,612 in the Reserve Account and £4,743 in the Current Account. This latter balance included a donation of £500 towards the proposed Stirling Bomber Memorial and the Precept for this year.

There were three cheques to approve. One for £81 for the Payroll Service. One for £100 for the West Somerset and Taunton Council for electoral expenses in respect of the 2019 contested election and one for the Clerk's expenses. The Clerk advised that the District Council had notified him that they would no longer be accepting cheques from mid-May. He had brought this to the attention of Somerset Association of Local Councils who would be making representations to have this reversed.

7. Planning:

Application 6/15/20/102 for a rear extension to the Old School on Exton Hill was supported because it was in keeping with the property and an improvement to the area.

Action Clerk

Application 6/15/20/103 for a workshop, storage, hard standing and track at Kendle Farm was supported because it was not visible from the road and made use of land that was too poor for grazing.

Action Clerk

8. Local Response to Covid-19:

The Parish Council wished to place on record their thanks to Tonia Matthews who has worked tirelessly to support the community by keeping the Caravan Park shop open even though the site itself is closed. She has broadened the range of goods available and delivered where necessary. In addition Dick Longman was thanked for curating the Village e-mail group forwarding updates from the District and County Council and keeping residents in touch with each other.

9. The Jubilee Tree:

The Clerk advised that the National Park had still not made a decision on whether the tree could be pruned and by how much.

10. Village Volunteers:

Doug Sherring reported that the Lengthsman had been cutting the foliage back from behind the Village Hall and on the approaches to the Village from Dulverton. Eric Carveth had tidied up around the Notice Boards.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for 13th July 2020 at Bridgetown Village Hall at 8:00pm. However, this will be dependent upon social distancing requirements.