

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a “virtual” Council Meeting held on Monday 15th June 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:

There were none.

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 4th May 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:

The Clerk reported that he had received an update from David Lungley who was leading on the provision of a memorial to the Stirling Bomber crew who crashed in Exton in 1944. He had advised that an anonymous donation of £1000 had been received which with the earlier £500 would enable the project to move forward. A site had been identified and agreed with Guy Thomas-Everard and David would be shortly visiting to build a plinth to hold the memorial boulder and would also notify the National Park of what he was doing. Once the boulder is in situ there would be a formal consecration ceremony to which all would be invited.

The Clerk advised that approval had been received from the National Park for some pruning of the Jubilee Tree. He thanked Valerie Carveth for organising site visits and obtaining quotes. Three tree surgeons had attended but only two had quoted being A P Farmer and Kingfisher Tree Surgeons. The quote from Farmer’s was £420 including VAT of £70 that the Council could reclaim next year and that from Kingfisher was £450 but with no VAT. It was agreed to go with Farmer’s and Valerie Carveth was asked to arrange a date for the work and be present when it was done.

Action Valerie Carveth

6. Finance:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,612 in the Reserve Account and £4,291 in the Current Account. There were no cheques to approve but the Council's insurance would be shortly due for renewal at £168 unchanged from last year. The Clerk reported that he had sent in a claim for refund of VAT for last year of £23 and this should be received shortly.

7. Planning:

Application 6/3/20/101 for demolition of a bungalow in Armoor Lane and its re-provision was reviewed in the light of additional information on visibility provided by the Applicant. The Parish Council saw no reason to change their earlier decision to support this Application.

Action Clerk

Planning Application 6/15/20/104 for a barn at Howe Hill Farm was reviewed. The Parish Council were concerned that the farm was a bare farm with the farmhouse having been sold away some years earlier. There was concern that the barn could be used for sheep and that in due course an Application would come forward for a farm worker's house. In addition the Parish Council noted that the building would be visible from the Exton Church. The Council therefore agreed to object to the Application.

Action Clerk

8. To receive and approve the Certificate of Exemption from a Local Assurance Review

The Clerk advised that because the Parish Council had receipts and payments of less than £25,000 in the year it could claim exemption from an external audit. The Certificate was approved and would be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and then forwarded to the external auditors.

Action Guy Thomas-Everard and Clerk

9. To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20:

The Clerk advised that by approving this document the Council was confirming it has acted correctly and legally throughout the year. The Statement was approved and would be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Action Guy Thomas-Everard and Clerk

10. To review the Internal Auditor's Report for 2019-20:

The Clerk reported that yet again Mr Paul Mathews had acted as Internal Auditor. He had not found any issues that he wished to bring to the attention of the Council. The Parish Council thanked him for undertaking this review.

11. To receive and approve the Accounting Statements for 2019-20:

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had an overall surplus of £615 but this did include the donation to the Bomber Memorial and was after donations of £150 each to CLOWNS and towards a prescription delivery replacement vehicle.

The Clerk advised that all of the forgoing documents would be published on the website and also the Notice Board. Residents would have the right to inspect the records if they so wished for a period of 30 working days from a specific date to be agreed.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be agreed dependent on social restrictions and the need to respond to Planning Applications.

. The Agenda can be viewed at:

<https://democracy.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?ID=230&LS=1>