

## **EXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft Minutes** of a “Zoom” Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 8:00pm.

### **Present:**

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

### **In Attendance:**

Mr Bryce-Cochrane a member of the public. Mr Steven Pugsley Somerset West and Taunton District Council (part) and Mrs Frances Nicholson Somerset County Council (part).

### **1. Apologies:**

Mr Doug Sherring.

### **2. Housing Survey:**

This item had not been on the Agenda but due to residents’ concerns was being dealt with first. In 2017 8 parishes (including Exton) got together to explore sites for possible rural housing. A survey has now been issued asking residents for their views on a potential 7 sites one of which was in Exton. The Parish Council was unaware that a site had been identified as when it was last discussed in March 2019 there had been no such site and the Parish Council had heard nothing further from the Steering Committee until the issue of a survey of potential sites last week. Guy Thomas-Everard stated that he was the owner of the site and had put it forward but had not advised the Parish Council that he had done so. Mr Bryce Cochrane stated that in his opinion this was a breach of the Code of Conduct and Guy Thomas-Everard responded that he had made the submission as a private person and had already disclosed in the Register of Interests that he was a major landowner in the Parish. Mr Guy Thomas-Everard offered to resign but Mr Bryce-Cochrane stated that he was not asking him to do so only to agree that he had not observed the Code of Conduct. Mr Bryce Cochrane asked why Exton had made the shortlist given that in the original survey of housing need in 2017 only one person had identified a need for additional housing in the Village and asked what criteria the Steering Group had used to determine their short-list. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the Chair of the Steering Committee Mr Vivian White to seek answers to the questions posed by Mr Bryce Cochrane and why the Parish Council had never been advised of the site as it would have been able to contribute to discussions as to whether it should be short-listed.

### **Action Clerk**

### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020:**

The Minutes had been circulated and no amendments requested and would be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record when social distancing would allow.

### **4. Matters Arising:**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council website was now operational. He had had training and had uploaded Minutes for the current year and the Statutory Returns relating to last year.

## **5. Finance:**

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,613 in the Reserve Account and £2,245 in the Current Account. No cheques had been issued since the last meeting. The following cheques were approved: Clerk's expenses for the quarter to January 2021, Edward Martin Computers for design and construction of the website, Dulverton Town Council for the Parish Lengthsman, Edward Martin Computers for maintenance of the website and Somerset Association of Local Councils for a Course fee.

## **6. Planning:**

There were no current Applications.

## **7. Request for donation to Clowns:**

The Clerk advised that councillors had approved a similar donation as last year of £150.

## **8. Proposed Bid to Somerset Climate Emergency Fund:**

The Clerk advised that a bid had been submitted and further information requested that was being actioned by Mary Le Coyte.

## **9. Local Elections May 2021:**

The Clerk advised that currently these were going ahead.

## **10. Village Volunteers**

Valerie Carveth had advised that speed monitoring had stopped during lockdown but the Police had now authorised it to begin again.

It had been noticed that take-away food litter was being dumped in the layby near the Badgers Holt and Eric Carveth had done some litter picking.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 8pm dependent on social restrictions and the need to respond to Planning Applications.**

**The Minutes can be viewed at:**

[www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk)