

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a “virtual” Council Meeting held on Monday 12th October 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:

Guy Thomas-Everard declared that he was the landowner in respect of Planning Application 6/3/20/106 for the construction of a memorial plinth but not the Applicant.

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 6th July 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 there had been some sessions of speed monitoring through the village of Bridgetown and offending drivers had been reported to the Police.

The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with ENPA to confirm that the Parish Council had notified the District Council that it wished to retain its red telephone boxes as working telephone boxes due to poor mobile reception locally.

The Clerk advised that work on the website continued and he was hopeful of it being operational by the end of the year. The Clerk welcomed input and comment from the Councillors.

Action All

The Clerk also advised that he had become aware of issues with e-mails sent to ENPA. It appeared that the IT Department at the Park had quarantined the Parish Council e-mails because they were not thought to be safe but had not told the Clerk or the recipient of the e-mails. The Clerk was trying to resolve this.

Action Clerk

Doug Sherring reported that he had checked on how full the salt bins were and the Clerk had passed this information on to Highways so they could be replenished as required.

It was noted that the Jubilee Tree had been pruned and the bill paid.

6. Finance:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,613 in the Reserve Account and £3,129 in the Current Account. No cheques other than the one for pruning the Jubilee Tree had been issued since the last meeting. The Clerk reported that the Payroll Provider had notified that the price would change to £120 per year from April, having been unchanged for several years.

7. Planning:

Application 6/13/20/119 for the demolition of a bungalow in Armoor Lane had been re-submitted having been previously refused. The Councillors noted that the following had been amended: reducing the amount of glazing on the south elevation, removing all external glass balustrades, changing the external pallet of materials to include the introduction of timber cladding, reducing the amount of proposed external lighting and alterations to the finished site levels so that the lower ground floor will only be visible in the south elevation.

The Councillors had previously supported the Application regarding the new building being infinitely better than the old. The Councillors saw no reason to change their earlier opinion.

Action Clerk

Application 6/3/20/106 for a memorial plinth to the crew of the Stirling bomber that crashed in 1944 was supported. The Parish Council had supported the initial proposal and was pleased to see that it had moved further forward

Action Clerk

8. Village Volunteers

Paul Williams had advised that he would take the dead branches and the basal growth from the trees in the lay by and noted that one tree does cover one of the signs and wondered if this could be dealt with by the Parish Lengthsman or by Highways.

Action Doug Sherring

Drainage channels at the Winsford end had been cleared fairly regularly, grass cut by Paul Matthews and Paul Williams had strimmed grass as required. It was noted that Paul Matthews had consistently kept the grass short and this year even bought a new grass topper for the job. The Flower box at the Winsford end had bedding plants and was now ready for some spring bulbs (which Lesley and Paul Williams have provided). The maintenance of the Flower box at the other end of the Village was being undertaken by Diane Piercy and Beverley Ludwinski who have planted spring bulbs and primulas.

Steve Rowe had circulated a suggestion from a resident that the Parish Council ask the landowner to plant trees in the water meadows. Robert Takle said that this was up to the landowner and was not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Guy Thomas-Everard advised that as the landowner trees would not be planted there but there were plans for elsewhere subject to grants being received.

Steve Rowe expressed concern about the over-grown hedges on Exton Hill. Robert Takle pointed out that there had been complaints last year that the hedge cutting had been too early and that it would be done by either the landowner or Highways when they were able.

.9. 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>