

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Monday 7th June 2021 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 8:00pm.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mr Paul Matthews (Internal Auditor), Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset West and Taunton District Council) Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council) and Mr Ross Norman to answer questions concerning Planning Application 6/15/21/102.

1. Apologies:

None notified.

2. Election of Chairman:

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard was proposed as Chairman and this was agreed unanimously. He thanked the Councillors for their support and stated that he wished only to serve for one more year. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

3. Declaration of Interests:

Mr Robert Takle declared an interest in Planning Application 6/15/21/102.

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard declared an interest in the Housing Survey under Matters Arising.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 9th March 2021:

The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved.

5. Matters Arising:

The Clerk represented the Councillors at the Last meeting of the 8 Parishes Housing Group at which the results of the Housing Survey were discussed. The proposed Exton site had received the most responses of any of the sites, most of which identified the impracticality of the site and the potential over-development of the Village. The Group had therefore decided not to pursue this site any further.

Mrs Valerie Carveth reported that she had been able to attract more volunteers to man the speed indicator device.

6. Finance:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,613 in the Reserve Account and £3,328 in the Current Account. The following cheques had been issued since the last meeting: Clerk's expenses for the quarter to April 2021, Edward Martin Computers for the quarterly website maintenance and DM Payroll Services for their annual fee.

7. Planning:

Application 6/15/21/102 for a yard and agricultural shed at Riverside Farm was reviewed. Mr Ross Norman (the Applicant) explained that he and his wife were looking to expand their farming interests on land they owned but had rented out. It was noted that no additional access from Armour Lane was required and that the building would be screened by the road side hedge and the slope of the field. The Parish Council agreed to support this Application by young farmers wishing to stay on Exmoor.

Action Clerk

Application 6/15/21/103 for retrospective change of use of a building at Luckyard Farm from agricultural to light industrial use was reviewed. The Council noted that there was no additional building and that a local job had been created as a result and agreed to support the Application.

Action Clerk

8. Grant for Solar Panels at the Village Hall:

The Clerk reported that Mary Le Coyte was in the process of making a Planning Application for the Panels with a proposed installation date for September. The Grant would come to the Parish Council who would then pay the Supplier's invoice to the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed that the Grant Agreement with Somerset County Council be signed.

9. Approval of Exemption Certificate from Limited Assurance Review:

The Clerk advised that because the Parish Council income was below £25,000 it could complete an Exemption Certificate from review by the External Auditors. He had previously circulated the Certificate and this was approved.

10. Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2020-21:

The Clerk had previously circulated this and it was approved.

11. Review of Internal Auditor's Report 2020-21

The Clerk had previously circulated this Report. Mr Paul Matthews (Internal Auditor) reported that the accounting records were well maintained and documented and he had found all of the information he required to sign off his Report. He was thanked for his work.

12. Approval of Accounting Statements 2020-21:

The Clerk had previously circulated the Statements and they were approved.

13. Village Volunteers:

Paul Williams had reported that the Parish Lengthsman had cleared road gulleys, Paul Matthews had cut the verges and the flower boxes at either end of Bridgetown had been re-planted.

Mrs Valerie Carveth expressed concern that the Parish Lengthsman had been asked to do work at the Village Hall but had received no help from the Committee and there had then been complaints that he had not done all that was expected. Doug Sherring advised that the Lengthsman's priorities were ditch and gully maintenance, verge cutting and ensuring that road signs were visible and clean. Anything else could only be done if there was time available and agreed with Doug in advance. The Clerk was asked to write to Linda Harris as Chair of the Committee to that effect.

Action Clerk

Mr Robert Takle expressed concern at the repeated flooding of the road from Heath Poul Cross to Machine Cross on the stretch between the Vinnicombe and South Huckham turns. Highways do put out warning notices but the drains are not big enough to cope with heavy rain. The Clerk was asked to report this to Highways.

Action Clerk

14. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be 13th September 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