

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Monday 29th November 2021 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present:

Mrs Valerie Carveth (acting chair), Mr Robert Takle, Mr Steve Rowe, Mr Doug Sherring, and Mr Andrew Moore (Clerk).

In Attendance:

None

1. Apologies:

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard, Mr Joshua Thorne, Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset West and Taunton District Council) and Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council)

2. Declaration of Interests:

None were declared.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 13th September 2021:

The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved.

4. Matters Arising:

The Clerk reported that Steven Pugsley had been in contact with the local MP concerning the problems with the Bridgetown Sewage Farm and was awaiting a response.

The hedge cutting on Exton Hill was expected to take place shortly

The bridleway to the Bomber Memorial had been cut back by ENP. Paul Williams had been asked to make directional signs. The Clerk was asked to obtain an update from David Lungley as to when the proposed unveiling was to take place.

Action Clerk

Valerie Carveth reported that due to the weather and lack of volunteers there had been no monitoring of speeding through Bridgetown since the last meeting.

The Clerk reported that the grant for solar panels for the Village Hall had been withdrawn because the Village Hall Committee had decided the scheme would incur on-going costs in excess of expected savings.

5. Finance:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,613 in the Reserve Account and £1,986 in the Current Account that included a donation received for the Bomber Memorial of £130. A cheque had been issued since the last meeting to Edward Martin Computers for the quarterly website maintenance of £109.00 and a cheque for the Clerk's expenses for the last quarter of £72.90 was approved.

6. Planning:

The Application 6/15/21/105 for changes to doors and washing facilities in the Exmoor Bunk Barn in Bridgetown was reviewed. The Application was supported by the Parish Council on the basis that there was no detrimental effect to the Village and there could be a benefit to the local economy.

Action Clerk

7. Update on Unitary Authority:

In the absence of Steven Pugsley and Frances Nicholson there was no report.

8. Update on Highways Meeting:

Robert Takle reported that he and Guy Thomas-Everard had had a short but useful meeting with the new Highways team. The latter had stressed their willingness to work with local knowledge and were supportive of the work that the Parish Lengthsman did and thought they could build on this.

9. Parish Precept 2022-23:

The Clerk reported that the Precept had last been increased in 2019. Over the last 5 years the Parish Council had overspent the Precept by £382 and this could not go on. The Parish Council agreed to request an increase of £136 which would be little more than £1 per household.

Action Clerk

10. Meeting re Changes to Waste Services 2022:

No Councillor was available to attend this meeting. However, it was thought that the process had gone smoothly elsewhere in Somerset and as long as residents were fully briefed there should be no problem.

11. Parish Lengthsman Contract 2022-23:

The Clerk reported that the price would be unchanged and an invoice would be received in the New Year.

12. Village Volunteers:

There was nothing to report. However, it had been noticed that delivery vans were becoming stuck in Lype Lane and the Clerk was asked to request warning signs be put in place by Highways.

Action Clerk

13. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2022:

The Clerk had circulated these in advance and the dates were confirmed.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be 17th January 2022 at 7:30pm dependent on social restrictions and the need to respond to Planning Applications.

The Minutes can be viewed at:

www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk