

## **EXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of a Council Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 7:30pm.

### **Present:**

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard (chair), Mrs Valerie Carveth, Mr Robert Takle, Mr Steve Rowe, Mr Doug Sherring, Ms Janette Webber and Mr Andrew Moore (Clerk).

### **In Attendance:**

Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset West and Taunton District Council) and Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council).

#### **1. Apologies:**

Joshua Thorne

#### **2. Declaration of Interests:**

None were declared.

#### **3. Questions From the Public:**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes of 29<sup>h</sup> November 2021:**

The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved.

#### **5. Matters Arising:**

Steven Pugsley reported that the local MP was still awaiting a response from South West Water about the Bridgetown Sewage Works. Janette Webber stated that there had been increased activity on the site recently.

The hedge cutting on the upper level of Exton Hill had been done. Steve Rowe agreed to approach the landowner about completing the lower part of the hill.

#### **Action Steve Rowe**

A temporary sign had been erected at the entrance to Lype Lane to warn drivers that it was unsuitable for delivery vehicles. Steve Rowe agreed to erect something more permanent.

#### **Action Steve Rowe**

Guy Thomas-Everard agreed to contact the resident who was permanently parking in the passing bay on Exton hill preventing drains being cleared.

#### **Action Guy Thomas-Everard**

Doug Sherring asked if the Cricket Club could plant a tree in recognition of the Queen's Jubilee in the space where diseased ash trees had been felled. Guy Thomas-Everard who owned the land supported this proposal.

## **6. Finance:**

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,613 in the Reserve Account and £1,642 in the Current Account including a donation received for the Bomber Memorial of £130. A cheque for computer security of £71.99 was agreed.

## **7. Planning:**

There were no Applications to consider.

## **8. Update on Unitary Authority:**

Steven Pugsley reported that there would be two rather than one councillor for the area elected in May 2022. The new Council would immediately assume the duties of the County Council and of the District Councils a year later. Councillors, including those for the Parish, would be elected for five years. Pilot Local Community Networks were being set up of which one was Highways for Exmoor with Kevin Bridgewater as the Area Manager.

## **9. Update on Highways Meeting:**

This was covered in the previous discussion.

## **10. Parish Lengthsman Contract 2022-23:**

There was concern that the proposed Highways pilot discussed above would duplicate the role of the Lengthsman who knew the Parish so well. Steven Pugsley replied that this would be kept under review by the Steering Group and also by him in his role as chairman of the Exmoor Panel. It was agreed to review the day-to-day management of the Lengthsman at the next meeting.

## **11. Changes in Waste Services:**

Janette Webber reported that she was piloting the new blue bags that would be issued to every household. It was expected that these bags would take much of what was currently going into the black bins which would then only be emptied every three weeks. New stickers for the recycling boxes would be issued making it clear what went in each. Val Carveth welcomed this because two of her neighbours had complained that items had been taken out of their recycling boxes as not being appropriate.

## **12. Bomber Memorial:**

It had been expected that the Memorial would be unveiled in January. However, the wish to have a senior RAF Officer present had put this back to April or May.

## **13. Village Volunteers:**

Paul Williams had advised that there was nothing to report.

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

**The next meeting will be 7<sup>th</sup> March 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](http://www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk)