

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present:

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard (chair), Mrs Valerie Carveth, Mr Robert Takle, Mr Steve Rowe, Mr Joshua Thorne, 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:

None

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 17^h January 2022:

The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved.

5. Matters Arising:

Steven Pugsley reported that a response from the local MP about problems with the Bridgetown Sewage Works was still awaited. Janette Webber advised that there had been increased tanker traffic at the Works especially late at night. It was noted that the trees screening the site needed topping and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of South West Water.

Action Clerk

Hedge cutting on Exton Hill had been completed and a sign was now in place at the entrance to Lype Lane stating it was unsuitable for large vehicles.

Guy Thomas-Everard reported that he had met with the resident who was parking in the passing place on Exton Hill and had agreed to desist.

Val Carveth announced that due to lack of volunteers, speed monitoring through the Village had been suspended.

6. Finance:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,613 in the Reserve Account and £1,124 in the Current Account. A cheque for the Clerk's expenses of £63.38 was agreed together with one for £964.25 to Dulverton Town Council for the Parish Lengthsman for the forthcoming year.

7. Planning:

There were no Applications to consider.

8. Update on Unitary Authority:

Steven Pugsley and Frances Nicholson reported that plans to implement the new Unitary Authority were proceeding to time table. It was intended to establish 15 to 20 Local Community Networks of which one would be for Highways and the Exmoor Parishes.. The Networks were intended to ensure greater local influence.

9. Update on Highways Meeting:

Steven Pugsley updated the Council on the latest proposals for the Highways Local Community Network. It was planned to appoint a Highways Steward to cover the 23 parishes carrying out the functions of the Lengthsman but paid by the County Council. He thought that with the backlog of work identified there would still be a need for the Lengthsman working to the parishes. The intention was to appoint this person by June and also a Highways Supervisor who would plan strategically across the Network especially with respect to road closures and diversions. There would be a quarterly meeting with the Contractor to hold them to account for performance.

Val Carveth announced that she was not seeking re-election as a Parish Councillor and therefore someone else should replace her at the Exmoor Forum where this project was discussed. Janette Webber agreed to takeover and both would attend the meeting on 10th March.

Action Val Carveth and Janette Webber

10. Parish Lengthsman Contract 2022-23:

The Contract for 2022-23 was signed by the Chairman. Doug Sherring agreed to continue as the contact for the Lengthsman for the time being but as he no longer lived in the Village a replacement would be needed.

Action All

11. Offer of a Police Representative at the Parish Meeting on 9th May:

It was agreed that this offer be taken up.

Action Clerk

12. Village Volunteers:

Paul Williams had advised that there was nothing to report.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be 9th May 2022 at 8:00pm following on from the Parish Meeting at 7:30pm. These dates were dependent on social restrictions and the need to respond to Planning Applications.

The Minutes can be viewed at:

www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk