

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 8:00pm.

Present:

Mr Robert Takle, Mr Steve Rowe, Ms Janette Webber Ms Tonia Matthews and Mr Andrew Moore (Clerk).

In Attendance:

Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council and Somerset Unitary Authority), Mr Doug Sherring and Mr Colin Rawle.

1. Apologies:

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard and Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset West and Taunton District Council and Somerset Unitary Authority).

2. Election of Chairman:

Guy Thomas-Everard, although unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment, had expressed his willingness to again serve as Chairman. The Councillors supported this unanimously, and also agreed that Robert Takle act as Vice-Chairman.

3. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance by Chairman and Councillors:

The Clerk advised that as Guy Thomas-Everard was not at the meeting he would arrange for the Declaration of Acceptance to be signed outside the meeting. All other Councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance in the presence of the Clerk.

4. Declaration of Interests:

None were declared.

5. Questions From the Public:

There were no questions raised.

6. Co-Option of Councillors to vacancies:

The Clerk explained that as the election on 5th May 2022 was uncontested and there were two vacancies, people could be co-opted. Colin Rawle was present, having expressed a desire to be co-opted. The Parish Councillors agreed this unanimously. It was decided that Councillors would consider filling the remaining vacancy at their meeting in July by which time someone else might have come forward.

7. Approval of the Minutes of 7^h March 2022:

The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved.

8. Matters Arising:

In the absence of Steven Pugsley, no update on the local MP's approach to South West Water about continuing concerns about the capacity of the sewage works was available. The Clerk was asked to seek an update from Steven Pugsley.

Action Clerk

Steve Rowe agreed to take over the day-to-day liaison with the Parish Lengthsman. The Clerk agreed to forward him the contract and the diary for his information.

Action Clerk

9. Finance:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,613 in the Reserve Account and £4,004 in the Current Account. Two cheques for the Clerk's expenses of £89.86 and £60.10 were agreed together with one for £108.00 for Edward Martin Computer Services for website maintenance. Janette Webber agreed to be a cheque signatory.

Action Clerk

10. Planning:

There were no Applications to consider.

11. Receive and Note the Internal Auditor's Report for 2021-2022:

The Clerk stated that this had been circulated to the Councillors in advance of the meeting to give them time to consider the report. He was pleased to report that the Internal Auditor had expressed no concerns about how the Council managed its finance and affairs. The Parish Council agreed to accept the report.

12. Approval of Exemption Certificate from Limited Assurance Review:

The Clerk advised that because the Parish Council had income and expenditure of less than £25,000 it could claim exemption from a Limited Assurance Review. However, the external auditors did call in 5% of Parishes claiming exemption for a limited assurance Review and this year Exton was to be included. The Councillors approved the Certificate and requested that the Clerk and the Chairman sign the Certificate and send to the external auditors.

Action Clerk and Chairman

13. Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022:

The Governance Statement had been circulated in advance of the Meeting to give the Councillors time to consider it. The Councillors approved the Governance Statement and requested that the Clerk and the Chairman sign the form

Action Clerk and Chairman

14. Consider, Approve and Sign the Accounting Statements 2021-2022:

As with the other Returns these had been circulated in advance having been previously signed off by the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer. The Councillors approved the Governance Statement and requested that the Clerk and the Chairman sign the form

Action Clerk and Chairman

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15. Update on Unitary Authority:

Frances Nicholson reported that the Liberal Democrats had taken control of the shadow Unitary Authority. The Local Community Network Projects would still continue.

16. Update on Highways Meeting:

Frances Nicholson reported that the Exmoor Forum on 9th June would discuss the local commissioning of Highways Services to ensure that it was relevant to local needs.

17. Adoption of LGA Model Code of Conduct 2022:

Somerset County Council, Somerset Shadow Unitary Authority and Somerset West and Taunton District Council had all recommended that parishes adopt the Code of Conduct. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to upload it to the Website.

Action Clerk

18. Somerset Jubilee Portraits:

The Councillors agreed that this should be cascaded to the residents.

Action Clerk

19. Village Volunteers:

The Parish Council was pleased to see that the flower boxes at either end of Bridgetown had been re-planted with summer bedding.

20. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be 11th July 2022 at 8:00pm. This date is dependent on social restrictions and the need to respond to Planning Applications.

The Minutes can be viewed at:

www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk