

## EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of a Council Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 7:30pm.

### **Present:**

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard (Chair), Mr Robert Takle, Ms Janette Webber, Mr Steve Rowe, Ms Tonia Matthews and Mr Andrew Moore (Clerk).

### **In Attendance:**

Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset Unitary Authority) and Ms Jennifer Yates (Parish Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023).

### **1. Apologies:**

Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset Unitary Authority)

### **2. Election of Chairman:**

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard offered to continue as Chairman and this was agreed unanimously. Mr Robert Takle agreed to continue as vice-chairman.

### **3. Declaration of Interests:**

No interests were declared.

### **4. Questions from the Public**

No questions were raised.

### **5. Approval of the Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023:**

The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **6. Matters Arising:**

Andrew Moore introduced Jennifer Yates to the Meeting. She is currently Clerk at Winsford and had agreed to take on Exton following Andrew Moore's retirement. Jennifer had grown up in Exton and was keen to renew her links with the Parish.

Steven Pugsley reported that due to it being discovered that green routes were not being gritted in winter as contracted for, there would be a review in the next couple of months of winter maintenance and Steve Rowe as Highways Warden agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish.

#### **Action Steve Rowe**

There was still concern that Highways did not feed-back on requests for gully clearing etc. It was noted that the damaged culvert in Week Lane had been reported several times but to no effect. Steven Pugsley agreed to take this forward.

#### **Action Steven Pugsley**

Steve Rowe reported that he had met with Kate Brown of Highways to consider alternative positioning of the give way and no footpath signs at the foot of Exton Hill that were located in a resident's garden.

The Council had notified Highways that the signs needed to be retained and at the site meeting Highways had agreed to come back with alternative sites.

It was agreed to nominate Roger Foxwell as a possible Parish Representative on the Exmoor National Park Governing Board. Robert Takle agreed to attend the hustings and report back.

**Action Robert Takle**

**7. Finance Report:**

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,620 in the Reserve Account and £3,829 in the Current Account after taking into account the following cheques to be approved: Fluid Labs £90, DM Payroll Services £120, West Somerset Flood Group £5 and Clerk £90.51.

The Clerk and Chairman signed a letter to NatWest notifying that the Standing Order to Andrew Moore be terminated from 1<sup>st</sup> June and a new one for Jennifer Yates be operative from 30<sup>th</sup> June and that Bank Statements should be sent direct to her in future..

**8. To Receive and Note the Internal Audit Report for 2022-23:**

The Report having been circulated in advance, there were no questions and it was approved

**9. To Approve and Sign the Exemption Certificate from Limited Assurance Review for 2022-23:**

Having been circulated in advance the Certificate was approved and signed.

**10. To Approve and Sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23:**

Having been circulated in advance, the Governance Statement was approved and signed

**11. To Consider, Approve and Sign the Accounting Statement for 2022-23:**

Having been circulated in advance the Accounting Statement was approved and signed.

**12. Planning:**

There were no Applications to be reviewed.

**13. Update on Highways Local Community Network**

Janette Webber confirmed that she would be attending the inaugural meeting of the Dulverton and Exmoor LCN on 8<sup>th</sup> July at the Moorland Hall Cutcombe. It was agreed that the Council would meet in June to discuss priorities for the Network and cast their vote on a Parish Representative on the ENPA Governing Body.

Tonia Matthews reported that she had attended a meeting of the Somerset Bus Partnership and it had been confirmed that the local bus service and the lower fare would be maintained.

**14. The Somerset Unitary Authority:**

Steven Pugsley advised that the Unitary Authority was in operation. There would be an Annual Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May. The Mendip Monitoring Officer had been appointed to act for the Authority.

**13. Date of Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting will be 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7:30pm,**

**The Minutes can be viewed at:**

[www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk)