

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 8:00pm.

Present:

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard (Chair), Ms Tonia Matthews, Mr Robert Takle, Mr Steve Rowe, Ms Janette Webber, Mr Colin Rawle, Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council and Somerset Unitary Authority), Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset West and Taunton District Council and Somerset Unitary Authority), and Mr Andrew Moore (Clerk).

In Attendance:

None

1. Apologies:

None

2. Declaration of Interests:

None were declared.

3. Questions from the Public

No members of the Public attended .

4 Approval of the Minutes of 12th September 2022:

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

5. Matters Arising:

Janette Webber advised that there continued to be heavy traffic to and from the Bridgetown Sewage Works from tankers pumping out. There had been no smells. The bridge to the Sewage Works had been damaged. Frances Nicholson advised that she had reported this to the Bridges Team.

Tonia Matthews advised that she did have a potential Parish Councillor in mind and would discuss this informally with them.

It was noted that the Parish Magazine had published the advertisement for a replacement Parish Clerk. If there was no response by Christmas other nearby Clerks would be approached.

6. Finance Report:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,614 in the Reserve Account and £2,664 in the Current Account. The latter balance included a further donation of £100 received towards the Bomber Memorial, making a total of £230 held. The Clerk reported that he had contacted David Lungley about when the Memorial might be dedicated and had been advised that he had had no response from the two

senior RAF Officers that he had approached nor from David Weir the local vicar. He had agreed that the money held by the Parish Council would be transferred by 31st March 2023.

The Clerk reported that he had done a financial forecast to the end of the year and expected there to be a small surplus. He recommended that the Precept should remain unchanged for 2023 and this was approved unanimously.

There were two cheques to approve, being £108 for Edward Martin Computers for maintenance of the Website and one for £87.11 for the Clerk's expenses.

7. Planning:

Application 6/15/22/102 was for the regularisation of residential use of the ground floor of 1 Squash Court Flats Week Lane Bridgetown. It was noted that this had been the situation for many years and the Councillors had no objection.

Application 6/15/22/103 was for a two storey extension to Forge Cottage Week Lane Bridgetown. The Councillors had no objections.

The Clerk was asked to notify the decisions to the Planning Department at Exmoor National Park.

Action Clerk

8. District Council offer of Free Trees:

It was agreed that the Council would request 4 trees and ask the Parish Lengthsman to plant in the layby and cricket field.

Action Clerk

9. Update on Highways Local Community Network

Steven Pugsley reported that some 23 parishes had attended the Exmoor Panel Meeting on 13th October to discuss the potential make-up of the Local Community Networks. There had been 3 options put forward none of which were ideal. At the meeting a new option was put forward that West Somerset would be split between a Coastal and Hill district reflecting the significant differences between the priorities of the two. This received significant support and the Parish Council also supported it and asked the Clerk to communicate this to the County Council

Action Clerk

10. Update on Unitary Authority:

Steven Pugsley reported that as services were taken on by the Unitary Authority, District Council staff were increasingly being seen in Unitary Authority roles. It had been agreed that Taunton Town would become a Town Council which would have a major impact on the funding of bordering parishes.

11 Proposed Dates for Council Meetings in 2023

These were approved

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be 16th January 2023 at 7:30pm. 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