

EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2023 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present:

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard (Chair), Mr Robert Takle, Ms Janette Webber, Mr Colin Rawle and Mr Andrew Moore (Clerk).

In Attendance:

Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council and Somerset Unitary Authority)

1. Apologies:

Mr Steve Rowe, Ms Tonia Matthews and Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset West and Taunton District Council and Somerset Unitary Authority).

2. Declaration of Interests:

None were declared.

3. Questions from the Public

No members of the Public were in attendance.

4 Approval of the Minutes of 17th October 2022:

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

5. Matters Arising:

In the absence of Tonia Matthews it was suggested that she should liaise with the Chair concerning a possible replacement councillor.

Action Tonia Matthews

Andrew Moore reported that he had placed an advertisement for a replacement Clerk on the website of Somerset Association of Local Councils with a closing date of 31st January. He had also contacted neighbouring Clerks to see if they might want to add to their portfolio.

Guy Thomas-Everard had collected the free saplings and these would be planted by the Lengthsman. It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that a security light was on 24 hours a day at the Old School House creating light pollution and a nuisance to nearby residents. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner asking for the nuisance to be abated.

Action Clerk

6. Finance Report:

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,617 in the Reserve Account and £2,063 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 Budget for 2023 prepared by the Clerk was approved.

There were two cheques to approve, being £90.36 and £70.18 both being for the Clerk's expenses.

7. Planning:

There were no Applications to be reviewed.

8. Donation Requested by Exmoor News:

The Parish Council noted the request and requested that the Clerk write requesting more information as to the need for such a donation given the large number of paid advertisements in the latest issue.

Action Clerk

9. Update on Highways Local Community Network

Frances Nicholson reported that a new Highways Steward had been recruited and that the Scheme would continue for a further year as a pilot. It was noted that the drainage work carried out on the Vinnicombe Straight had made a big difference in reducing flooding.

10. The Parish Lengthsman:

The Clerk reported that the Contract would be signed at the March Meeting and Steve Rowe had agreed to continue to act as his supervisor.

11. Somerset Emergency Community Contact and replacement Flood Warden:

It was noted that Viv Garner wished to stand down as Flood Warden. Guy Thomas-Everard advised that he had a potential person to fill these important roles and requested that the Clerk forward such information as he had about what the roles entailed.

Action Clerk

The Clerk reported that Exton did not seem to be part of the West Somerset Flood Group and that there was a potential £5,000 grant available via this Group for flood defences.

12. Update on change of Web Site Host:

The Clerk reported that this was all in hand and should be completed by the end of the month.

13. Update on the unitary Authority:

Frances Nicholson reported that there had been changes to the grouping of the Local Community Networks following the consultation carried out. There would now be 18 rather than 11 and Exton would be grouped with Dulverton. She added that there would be representatives from Schools and Primary Care within the Networks.

It was noted that Boundary Changes now meant that West Somerset was linked to the Tiverton Constituency.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be 6th March 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