

## EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of a Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 7:30pm.

### **Present:**

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

### **In Attendance:**

Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council and Somerset Unitary Authority) and Mr Steven Pugsley (Somerset West and Taunton District Council and Somerset Unitary Authority).

### **1. Apologies:**

None necessary

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023:**

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

### **5. Matters Arising:**

There had been no further progress on identifying someone to fill the Councillor vacancy. It was agreed to leave this in abeyance for the time being.

Andrew Moore reported that he had expected a neighbouring Clerk (who had expressed an interest in the role of Parish Clerk for Exton) to attend to meet the Councillors. However, this had not happened and he would make contact again.

**Action Clerk**

It was agreed that the Parish Lengthsman would be asked to plant the saplings in the layby.

**Action Steve Rowe**

Replacement salt bins had been delivered and the Highways Steward had been asked to position them on Exton Hill and Week Lane and then they could be filled by Highways.

**Action Steve Rowe**

It was agreed that a donation of £50 be made to Exmoor News

**Action Clerk**

It was noted that the security light at the Old School House on Exton Hill was no longer permanently on.

#### **6. Finance Report:**

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,617 in the Reserve Account and £1,632 in the Current Account.

The following payments were approved: £150 for Fluid Labs for website hosting, £230 for R Brown for the Bomber Memorial, £1016.75 for Dulverton Town Council for the service of the Lengthsman, £79.66 for the Clerk's expenses and £50 donation to Exmoor News.

#### **7. Planning:**

There were no Applications to be reviewed.

#### **8. Update on Highways Local Community Network**

Steven Pugsley advised that the Exmoor Panel meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March would become the first meeting of the Exmoor Local Community Network which would be known as the Dulverton and Exmoor Local Community Network. It had been agreed that only elected members should attend and Janette Webber agreed to represent the Parish.

##### **Action Janette Webber**

Frances Nicholson reported that Tim Williams the new Highways Steward had been recruited and she was acting as his mentor. There had been problems with his computer access that were being sorted out.

Steve Rowe expressed concern that there was never any feedback from Highways when defects were reported on the Portal other than supplying a request number. Frances Nicholson agreed to investigate.

##### **Action Frances Nicholson**

Concern was raised at the lack of gritting of green routes.

#### **9. The Parish Lengthsman:**

The Contract was signed and Steve Rowe agreed to act as the day-to-day link for the Parish.

#### **10. Somerset Emergency Community Contact and replacement Flood Warden:**

Guy Everard-Thomas reported that Ted Williams had agreed to be the Emergency Contact and also deal with flood issues. Steve Pugsley suggested that he attend the Panel Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March that would also be addressing Emergency Planning. Ted should also be asked to attend the West Somerset Flood Group

##### **Action Clerk**

#### **11. Update on change of Web Site Host:**

The Clerk reported that the transfer over had gone very smoothly.

**12. Update on the Unitary Authority:**

Frances Nicholson and Steen Pugsley reported that all was in progress for the change on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Senior staff were being recruited.. Steven Pugsley agreed to find out what was happening to the Somerset West and Taunton Lottery.

**Action Steven Pugsley**

**13. Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 7:30pm, following on from the Parish Meeting at 7pm. 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](http://www.extonparishcouncil.co.uk)