

## EXTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of a Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Bridgetown Village Hall at 8:00pm.

### **Present:**

Mr Robert Takle (Chairman), Mr Colin Rawle, Ms Tonia Matthews, Mr Steve Rowe and Mrs Jennifer Yates (JY, Clerk). Councillor Steven Pugsley was also in attendance.

The meeting was opened at 8.00 precisely.

### **1. Apologies:**

Mr Guy Thomas-Everard and Ms Janette Webber

### **2. Declaration of Interests:**

Tonia Matthews re planning item 7.

### **3. Questions from the Public**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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

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

The application for change of signatories was rejected by the bank as incomplete, JY requested and was given a phone number and will retry. It was noted the previous clerk had also had difficulty with this.

Discussion was held re the sign at the bottom of Exton Hill as previously discussed. This issue has now been rectified, the sign has been moved and the hedge lowered.

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

The Clerk reported a balance of £1,620 in the Reserve Account and £3,384.42 in the Current Account, no new statements had been received since the previous meeting, JY to follow up with the bank. Approval was given for payment to the website team of £90.

### **7. Planning:**

Since the publication of the agenda an email was received re

Planning Application 6/15/23/003 - Exe Valley Caravan Park, Bridgetown, Dulverton, TA22 9JN – lawful development certificate for the existing use of caravan as managers accommodation, together with, the existing siting of shop/office, information space and store.

This was discussed and the view was held that as originally all were in support of the original application, and that the buildings currently in place have been used for the stated purpose over more than ten years therefore the council were in agreement to support this proposal.

## **8. Code of Conduct.**

JY recently attended training by the Somerset Association for Local Councils re the updates to the Code of Conduct. Somerset are keen for all councils to move from the previous 2012 model to the new Local Government Association document. Some councils are 'tweaking' this slightly to meet their needs but the Monitoring Officer would prefer it to be adopted unaltered. Once all councils are aligned under the same model it means that he is able to apply the same advice and procedures to all should any difficulties arise. It also mean that the same expectations re behaviour and practice apply across all meetings. A reminder was given that the same level of behaviour is expected both in and out of meetings whenever a councillor is engaged in communications or actions linked to their councillor role.

Action – JY to circulate the LGA model Code of Conduct and for it to be on the next agenda.

**9. Reports from Somerset Councillors:** Cllr Pugsley noted that Janette Webber had attended the most recent LCN Meeting. Salting Routes were on the agenda. This role is now being taken over by Somerset Council who will shortly be visiting the area and checking all of the bins which are on their map. Cllr Pugsley recognised that Green routes are not always being salted and discussion is underway to make sure they are included whenever the weather forecast merits it. He advised that the portal will be used as a communication method for reporting empty bins/low stock. He also advised that the jetting is being organised through Dulverton, and Mr Rawle mentioned the need for them to visit Quarne Lane, he is happy to direct them if they contact him.

The local LCN now has subgroups set up for housing, business and other areas. It is hoped that they will be able to feed back to Somerset Council re the need on Exmoor for affordable housing.

## **9. Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended:**

Ms Matthews reported that the Bus Partnership had met and it would appear that the bus service is secure for the next four years.

Mr Takle will be attending the ECPF meeting to be held next week.

## **11. Correspondence and Emails received: None**

## **12. Any other business:**

Thanks were given to Mr Rowe for his work re Highways, in particular the repairs to the A396

## **13. Date of Next Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30 in Bridgetown Village Hall**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.33pm

## **The Minutes can be viewed at:**

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