

Annual Parish Meeting of Exminster

19:30 Tuesday 28 March 2017

Draft Minutes subject to approval at the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Present from the Parish Council – Mr Peter Chandler, Mr Chris Maynard, Mr John Goodey, Mr John Ponsford, Mr Kevin Smith, Mr Derek Madge, Mr Gordon Evans, Mrs Josie Walledge (Chairman), Mrs Jill Daw (Clerk), Mrs Helen Hibbins (Deputy Clerk)

20 members of the public in attendance

Apologies

PC Jonathan Croft, Sharon May, Barbara Edmunds, Lorne Smyth, Brian Aird, Jeanette Pearson

Guest Speaker: Richard Pike – The Nayamba Trust

The Trust supported a rural primary school in Zambia; set up in 2006.

Members of Exminster's community had been involved in projects to enhance the school and visited Nayamba on an annual basis to carry out improvements to the buildings and to support the teaching staff.

Exminster School, Pre-school, the uniform groups, the Churches and the Monday Knights' had all recently fundraised for the charity. In 2016 over £83,000 was raised towards building accommodation for teachers, a water hole and a sanitation block.

Future initiatives included adult numeracy and literacy classes, a solar powered water pump and HIV awareness for the whole community.

Richard Pike took questions from members of the public.

Final Annual Report from the Community Plan Steering Group

David Nappin gave a presentation outlining the history of the Community Plan, which comes to the end of its 5 year term this year.

Each year, the Community Plan Steering Group reported back to the Annual Parish Meeting and a copy of its report was available on the Parish Council website.

The successes of the Plan were celebrated, such as new bus stops, a new post box near Miller Way, the flourishing Townfield Orchard and the facilities at Deepway Green.

John Tucker spoke about the Green Spaces Group, formed in March 2014.

Projects undertaken included planting bulbs, sowing wildflower seeds, the reinstatement of a hedge at Crockwells Meadow and planting of the Townfield Community Orchard. The work to date had taken 176 volunteer hours.

Future work would continue in the same vein and interested parties were asked to contact John Tucker for more information about volunteering.

The Green Spaces Group would become a Working Party of the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked David Nappin for his work on the Community Plan Steering Group and John Tucker for his presentation about the work of the Green Spaces Group.

To Appoint Community Members to the Green Spaces Group

Terms of reference for the Green Spaces Group Working Party had been drawn up and approved by the Parish Council in conjunction with the Green Spaces Group.

The following were appointed to the Working Party:

Jeremy Pyne

Haf Edwards

Tracey Middleton

John Tucker

Rick Blower

Pat Blower

Ernie Davey

Philip Warner

David Nappin

The Parish Council representatives would be appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council in May.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

The surface of the path from Old Quarry Drive to Brunel View was still unsatisfactory. Cllr Alan Connett explained that the roads had not been adopted by Devon County Council and this would need to be addressed prior to adoption.

Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported as follows:

Parish Council membership and appointments:

- Gordon Evans was co-opted to the Parish Council in May 2016.
- Councillors Adrian Wood and Richard Morgan, who left the council during the last year, were thanked for their input and work.
- Councillors Maynard and Madge were thanked for their supportive roles as Vice Chairs.
- Councillors and Community Members were thanked for representing the Parish Council on various organisations.
- The Parish Council continued to hold two meetings per month, with Working Parties formed as required.

Property and Amenities:

- Planning permission was refused for a grasscrete car park on Farmhouse Rise. Other opportunities to increase parking in the village continued to be sought.
- Spurfield House had been sold and it was understood that the new owners would continue to run it as a care home for patients with mental health issues.

- Monitoring of the steep banks to the Football Pitch at St Martins continued.
- The legal position regarding the Victory Hall had been ascertained and funding to carry out repairs was under discussion between the Parish Council and the Victory Hall Trust.
- Problems with drainage and damp had been identified at the Deepway Centre.
- The Community Orchard at Townfield continued to thrive, thanks to the Green Spaces Group and a commemorative tree was planted at Reddaway Drive for the Queen's Birthday.
- Defibrillators had been installed at the Royal Oak and Victory Hall, with a third due to be sited at the Stowey Arms, thanks to a generous donation from Scene Magazine.
- Litter bins had been sited at the bus stops underneath the Motorway bridge and additional bins had been sited at Deepway.
- Graffiti and vandalism took place in July 2016. PC Jon Croft continued to have a visible presence in the village when possible.
- A Community Speedwatch campaign was being explored.

Finance

- The precept was held at £82.76 per band D property for the coming financial year.
- The total budget of £140,000 included provision for assets sinking funds.
- Community Small Grants had been awarded by the Parish Council to: Coffee on the Corner, Kenn Cricket Club, Playscheme, School Association, Twinning Association, St Martins Church (for repairs to the clock) and Exminster Recreational Trust.
- Grants had been received towards a Teen Shelter from Rural Aid, a projector for the Victory Hall via the Elector Fund and towards Street Furniture from Devon County Council.

Planning and Development

- The Parish Council continued to respond to many small-scale applications within the Parish and to monitor that planning consents were being adhered to, particularly with regard to the larger scale developments. Councillors Morgan, Smith and Evans were thanked for their roles as Lead Councillors for planning.
- The Exminster House development and Sentrays Farm development had attracted Community Infrastructure Levy, which was earmarked for spending in the village.
- The Parish Council were concerned about the proposed industrial development at Peamore.
- The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan – a joint initiative between several district councils – would be a Formal statutory document to provide overall spatial strategy and level of housing and employment land to be provided up to 2040. An issues consultation was taking place until 10 April 2017 with an opportunity to comment at www.gesp.org.uk.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

- The NDP annual report had been sent to all households in December 2016.
- Conditional outline planning approval had been granted for the Bovis Homes application for 1350 homes at South West Exeter in January 2017.

- The Parish Council continued to ensure that the appropriate facilities and infrastructure would be provided for the development. The Section 106 Working Party and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Implementation Group were thanked for their ongoing work on this.

Community Plan

- The plan was now reaching the end of its five-year lifespan. Members of the Community Plan Steering Group were thanked for monitoring the plan over that time.
- Should the Parish embark on putting together a new plan?

Thank you

- Former Parish Council Chairman Ken Beer, who sadly passed away last year, was remembered and thanked for his work for the village.
- John Rice was thanked for his work as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and for attending most Parish Council meetings.
- Henry Fowler was thanked for all his grounds work and maintenance.
- The District and County Councillors were thanked for their support.
- The staff, Katie Langdon (caretaker), Carole Smith (locum caretaker), the Clerk (Jill Daw) and Deputy Clerk (Helen Hibbins) were all thanked for their work.
- The Parish Councillors were thanked.

Public Forum

- Was there a fear that the complexity of issues was too great for a Parish Council?
 - The Parish Council were working in partnership with TDC on the Matford Development and would have a lease arrangement to run the facilities at Matford. The Council were mindful of its own limitations as plans developed and would seek to appoint a project co-ordinator to look after the interests of the Parish Council during the development of the facilities.
- Councillor Madge highlighted that there were two vacancies on the Parish Council.
- Thanks to the Parish Council for supporting the Victory Hall Trust over the past year.
- Would it be possible to have notice boards placed at either end of the village to advertise local events?
 - This matter would be on the agenda for discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 18 April.
- What would happen to the fruit from the Community Orchard?
 - A member of the Green Spaces group responded that it was a long term aim to provide fruit for produce, possibly in conjunction with New Leaf. In the meantime, it would be available to members of the community.
- In response to the question raised about whether a new Community Plan should be investigated, it was noted that the previous plan had drawn the village together during its production.
- A Community Plan gave the Parish Council a mandate; particularly for the expenditure of CIL.

- The existing Community Plan could be updated or refreshed. The workload for Parish Councillors had increased since the original plan and Community Members would need to be heavily involved. Interested parties were invited to speak with the Clerk.
- A new plan would hone in on and help to prioritise the list of projects that the Parish Council were currently considering.
- What type of Care Home was proposed for Spurfield House?
 - Similar to its previous use catering for patients with mental health issues.
- When did the B bus service start and what would happen when the subsidy finished?
 - Cllr Connett responded that the continuation of the service would be a commercial decision of Stagecoach when the subsidy ran out, in 12 to 18 months.
- Residents were invited to comment on what should happen to the Exminster Signal Box sign currently held in storage by the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 21:15

Signed.....Josie Walledge.....

Date...12th March 2018.....