

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Exminster  
Monday 11 March 2019 at 19:30 in the Victory Hall, Exminster  
Chairman: Josie Walledge**

**Present from the Parish Council**

Cllr Brian Aird, Cllr Peter Chandler, Cllr Sheila Churchward, Cllr John Goodey, Cllr Kevin Smith,  
Cllr Josie Walledge, Cllr Derek Madge, Cllr John Ponsford, Cllr Charles Nuttall

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Helen Hibbins

**Members of the Public in Attendance: 37**

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Lorne Smyth

Devon County Councillor Alan Connett

Mr Philip Warner

**3. To approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting**

Resolved and signed accordingly by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting**

- It was suggested that the draft minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting were put on the Parish Council notice board prior to the meeting.
- The B bus would continue running to its present timetable until at least 2021 when a commercial decision would be made by Stagecoach.

**5. Guest Speaker: Mark Rattenbury – Vocational Services Manager for Devon Partnership NHS Trust – An Introduction to New Leaf**

New Leaf had a 35-acre site at the top of Farm House Rise that included greenhouses and fields that were leased to farmers.

New Leaf assisted the recovery of people struggling with mental health issues by helping them to reengage with work-based roles without the targets and pressure of the workplace. It provided opportunities to upskill and build confidence. The atmosphere was calm and sensitive and provided a safe environment for social contact.

The 5 businesses at New Leaf were outlined:

- The nursery – selling hanging baskets, tubs and poinsettias (depending on the season).
- The woodwork department – creating bespoke rustic furniture and bird boxes; sold on site.
- Catering – a cake making and outside catering service.
- Apple pressing – apples from the on-site orchard were pressed to produce juice.
- The print shop – producing leaflets, photography and banners.

Individuals may spend up to 18 months with New Leaf, with many then returning to paid employment.

Services provided to the community by New Leaf had evolved and changed over the years. The remit was to be commercially active, but the core function was rehabilitation. The businesses would not be viable without the backing of the NHS. Currently, the services provided by New Leaf were increasing as there was an appetite for expansion of vocational services.

On Wednesdays at 13:45 there was an open access tour of the services.

Contact details for New Leaf would be shared with the Green Spaces Group as there may be the potential to work in partnership on village projects.

## **6. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Exminster Parish Council Chairman, Josie Walledge, reported:

### **a. Membership/Appointments**

There had been no changes to the membership of the Parish Council over the last 12 months.

Councillors had special areas of responsibility:

- Planning – Cllr Churchward
- Finance – Cllr Walledge
- Property & Amenities – Cllr Madge
- Media & Communications – Cllr Aird
- Footpath Warden – Cllr Goodey
- Data Protection – Cllr Smith
- Green Spaces – Cllr Chandler
- Neighbourhood Development Plan Implementation Group – Cllr Ponsford
- Community Plan – Cllr Churchward
- Community Resilience – Cllr Smith
- Traffic & Highways – Cllr Nuttall

Cllr Madge explained the work of the Feoffees and the Chairman thanked the Council's Feoffees representatives; Mrs Carole Smith, Cllr Derek Madge and Mrs Rosemary Sanders.

Councillors had been appointed to serve as Trustees on the Deepway Trust (Cllr Ponsford) and the Victory Hall Trust (Cllrs Smith and Walledge).

Cllrs Madge and Goodey were representatives on Teignbridge Association of Local Councils.

The Complaints Committee was convened in October. The complaint was not upheld, and no further action was necessary.

The Parish Council continued to hold two meetings per month, with working parties convened as necessary who reported back through the Parish Council. Members of the Public were welcome to attend Parish Council meetings.

### **b. Property & Amenities**

- (i) Deepway Centre

The centre was now connected to the mains sewer at a cost of £35,000.

A Rural Aid grant had supported the refurbishment of the men's toilets  
The Parish Council had formed a working group with the trustees of the centre to advance plans for improvement.

- (ii) Victory Hall  
The Parish Council had contributed towards the purchase of a new projector, screen and sound system.
- (iii) Exminster Recreational Trust  
The football field had been used to land the police helicopter  
Plans to increase parking were being considered.
- (iv) Allotment Society  
A new management agreement had been put in place this year.
- (v) Deepway Green and Spurfield  
The four-way springer in the under 8's play area had been replaced.  
Backboards for the basketball hoops had been replaced.  
A footpath connecting the main path across Deepway to the MUGA had been installed.
- (vi) Gissons playing field  
A new footpath across the field was planned, pending legal agreement.
- (vii) Other  
Additional grass cutting (to supplement that contracted by Devon County Council) was taking place in order to enhance the appearance of the village.  
A bench had been installed on Milbury Mound.  
It had been necessary to fell a large Scots Pine tree on Hospital Drive.  
This had been replaced with a new oak tree, courtesy of Mr Henry Fowler.  
The Green Spaces Group had put together a nature trail throughout the village.  
The Parish Council were putting together a Strategy for Parish Asset Management.  
The Parish Council were considering how it could take responsibility for the environment and natural resources.

**c. Traffic & parking**

Unfortunately, efforts to set up a community Speedwatch campaign had been unsuccessful, but discussions were continuing regarding extending the 20mph zone throughout the village, installation of vehicle activated signs and provision of a controlled crossing near the motorway bridge.

Teignbridge District Council had re aligned the disabled parking bays on Dryfield car park, making provision for motorcycle parking and enforceable "pop and shop bays".

**d. Finance**

The precept per band D property for the 2019/20 financial year would increase by 1% to £84.43, with a total budget of £147,000.

Kenn Cricket Club, Exminster School Association, Exminster Recreational Trust, Westbank and Coffee on the Corner had received Community Small Grants from the Parish Council.

**e. Planning & Development**

(i) Local matters

The Parish Council had responded to many small-scale planning applications within the parish.

Roads on the Milbury Reach estate had now been adopted by Devon County Council. A traffic order was proposed to improve parking. All houses were now occupied on the Sentry's Farm development.

(ii) Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP)

It was explained that this was a formal statutory document to provide overall spatial strategy and level of housing and employment land to be provided up to 2040. The Parish Council had responded to the issues consultation in 2017 but no further. Details could be found at [www.gesp.org.uk](http://www.gesp.org.uk)

A draft plan was expected Autumn 2018, but the timescales had slipped: Stage 2 was now expected in June 2019 (Policy & Options), with stage 3 to follow in November 2019 (Draft Plan).

(iii) TDC Local Plan review

The lifetime of the plan would be extended to 2040 in line with GESP. An issues consultation took place in 2018, to which the Parish Council responded in detail.

The draft plan was expected to go out for consultation in March 2020 with publication proposed in April 2021.

It was likely that Exminster would be designated as a "key rural settlement" within the plan.

**f. Community Plan**

The issues consultation was completed Spring 2018 and a questionnaire had been drafted and reviewed independently by Catalyst Consultancy. It was envisaged that the questionnaire would be distributed to all households during the summer and there was a call for volunteers to distribute and collect the questionnaires.

**g. Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Community Plan would inform potential updates to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Parish Council were pushing for a South West Exeter forum with representation from Exeter City Council, Devon County Council and Teignbridge District council.

The Parish Council had supported Devon County Council's successful Housing Infrastructure Fund Bid to bring forward infrastructure for the new development.

#### **h. Other highlights**

The Chairman thanked the Women's Institute and Victory Hall Trust for the weekend of Remembrance Day commemorations and Peter Constantine and Ruth Sutherland for their work on the new memorial.

A Celebration of life of ex Parish Councillor Gladys Gush, who passed away late last year had taken place.

The Chairman concluded by thanking:

- Guest speaker - Mark Rattenbury
- Community members of Parish Council working parties especially Karl Walker (Exminster Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group), Caroline Aird (Community Plan Working Party) and John Tucker (Green Spaces Group)
- Staff and regular contractors of the Parish Council: Henry Fowler, Katie Langdon, Carole Smith, Julie Coke and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, Jill Daw and Helen Hibbins.
- District & County Councillors.
- Parish Councillors, especially Kevin Smith in his role as Vice Chairman.

### **7. Reports from the following Parish Council Working Parties**

#### **a. Neighbourhood Plan (Exminster Neighbourhood Development Plan Implementation Group)**

Karl Walker gave a power-point presentation explaining the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan and associated Implementation Group.

The group met regularly to discuss Community Infrastructure Levy and the South West Exeter development, reporting back to and making recommendations to the Parish Council.

The four policies with the Neighbourhood Development Plan were explained and the Parish Councils progress towards meeting the objectives was outlined.

An update on how Community Infrastructure Levy was being spent was available on the Parish Council website.

A map of the South West Exeter development was shown outlining the application areas and associated developers.

Questions were raised about transport, affordable housing and the speed of development.

#### **b. Green Spaces group**

John Tucker gave a powerpoint presentation assisted by Jeremy Pyne and Peter Chandler.

During the last 12 months the group had planted trees and sowed wildflower seeds in Crockwells meadow, planted bulbs, developed the Community Orchard and introduced the Green Spaces Nature Trail.

There were 14 regular volunteers in the group with 3 now trained to use a strimmer.

Details of the group's work were publicised in Scene and on Facebook and leaflets outlining the Nature Trail were available at the Post Office and Coffee on the Corner.

The group were intending to feed into the Parish Council's environmental planning. Future plans included further development and maintenance of the Community Orchard, seeking additional areas for bulb planting and potential improvements to the Bowling Green.

The following were appointed as Community Members of the Green Spaces Group: Philip Warner, John Tucker, Rick Blower, Pat Blower, Haf Edwards, Jeremy Pyne, Ian Pannett and David Nappin.

## **8. Public Forum**

- Clarification of the difference between the various plans (Community Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan, Local Plan and Greater Exeter Strategic Plan) was sought.

The Parish Council chairman briefly explained the legal status and hierarchy of the plans.

- The footpath between Old Quarry Drive and Brunel View remained as loose pebbles, instead of a tarmacked pavement.

It was explained that the road had been adopted by Devon County Council and that the Parish Council had attempted to address the issue without success.

- The Chairman reminded residents that Parish Council elections would take place on 2 May. All Councillors were required to step down and were eligible to stand for re-election.
- It was noted that a Community Litter Pick would take place on 27 April.
- The Chairman was thanked.

The meeting closed at 21:22