

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Exminster

Monday 12 March 2018 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 Charles Nuttall, Cllr Kevin Smith, Cllr Josie Walledge

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Helen Hibbins

Members of the Public in Attendance: 36

1. Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Cllr John Ponsford, PC Jon Croft, PCSO Carl Thomas, Teignbridge District Councillor Kevin Lake, Devon County Councillor Alan Connett.

3. To approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

Resolved and signed accordingly by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

- It would be three to four years before there would be a significant amount of fruit produced by the village orchard, to be made available to the community.
- The B bus would continue running to its present timetable until 2019 when a commercial decision would be made by Stagecoach as to whether off peak services remained viable.
- A community notice board had been installed in the bus shelter on Reddaway Drive as a trial. As it was well used, further notice boards would be installed in the bus shelters at Milbury Reach and at the Royal Oak.
- The Exminster Signal Box sign was displayed in the window of the Victory Hall.
- The surface of the footpath between Old Quarry Drive and Brunel View remained unsatisfactory. The matter would be raised with Cllr Connett as the road was awaiting adoption by Devon County Council.

5. Guest Speaker: Peter Finch - Campaign to Protect Rural England

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is a voluntary, politically independent organisation, relying on subscriptions and fundraising to meet operating costs.

Nationally, the countryside was under threat from development and the CPRE had concerns about development of green field sites due to the loss of productive agricultural land, inappropriate size and design of housing and lack of infrastructure provision; preferring development of brown field sites as a sustainable alternative.

Partnership working between the CPRE, Parish Councils and environmental organisations was encouraged.

Recently, a planning consultant had been engaged to assist with responding to planning proposals.

Disappointment was expressed about the granting of planning consent for the Peamore industrial estate development.

Locally, the CPRE were campaigning for the re-opening of the Newton Abbot to Heathfield railway line, to alleviate traffic congestion. Network rail had been receptive to the proposal.

A seminar took place in January regarding the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). Various issues were addressed with the politicians and officers present from the four local authorities involved. Concern about the short length of the proposed consultation period on the draft plan was expressed. The CPRE had written to the four local authorities and had received responses from East Devon District Council - sympathetic to an increased consultation period and Exeter City Council – indifferent. Teignbridge District Council and Mid Devon District Council were yet to respond.

A housing needs survey had been commissioned to challenge the proposals that may come out of the GESP; specifically, the type of properties needed.

The CPRE was involved in a number of projects to engage children and young people in the countryside.

Mr Finch took questions from members of the public.

The Chairman thanked Mr Finch for his presentation.

6. Reports from the following Parish Council Working Parties

a. Community Plan

Caroline Aird gave a power-point presentation illustrating the history of Exminster's Community Plan, explaining that it had given the Parish Council a mandate to invest in community facilities; citing the installation of the facilities at Deepway Green as an example.

The lifespan of the original Community Plan had now come to an end with the final report from the Community Plan Steering Group received at the Annual Parish Meeting last year, after which the Steering Group disbanded.

A new Working Party had recently been formed to refresh/renew the plan and it was noted that the village had expanded considerably since the original process was undertaken. Issues for the new questionnaire were currently being sought from residents.

One issue that continued to concern residents was that of speeding traffic in the village. Mrs Aird continued to pursue the Community Speedwatch project in conjunction with the local Police. This was a lengthy process.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Aird for her presentation.

b. Neighbourhood Plan (ENDPIG)

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

Due to the Neighbourhood Plan, Exminster was entitled to receive 25% Community Infrastructure Levy, whereas Parishes without at Neighbourhood Plan would only receive 15%.

Mr Walker explained the four policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Implementation Group and Parish Council were working with a number of parties to ensure that appropriate infrastructure would be provided at Matford. It was now known that there would be a through school in Matford, run by the Ted Wragg Trust and members of the Implementation Group had visited Cranbrook School, run by the Trust, to see how the school's facilities were made available to the community.

The Sports and Community Facilities outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan would be adjacent to the school in the Community Hub of the settlement.

Mr Walker took questions from members of the public.

The Chairman thanked Mr Walker for his presentation.

c. Green Spaces group

John Tucker and Peter Chandler gave a power-point presentation summarising the work that the Green Spaces Group had undertaken over the last twelve months:

- Approximately 200 hours work had been volunteered by members of the group
- Numerous saplings had been planted.
- Wildflower seeds had been sown.
- Work on the community orchard was nearing completion and an open morning had taken place in the Autumn.
- Work had taken place on Crockwells Meadow and in the Wilderness.

Grants had been received from the Parish Council and Teignbridge District Councillor John Goodey to support the work.

In the future, further work would take place to the hedge on Crockwells Meadow. A wildlife viewing platform was also proposed.

There was an intention to build a scrape in the Wilderness for nesting birds.

The following community members of the Green Spaces Group were appointed:

Rick Blower, Pat Blower, Haf Edwards, David Nappin, Jeremy Pyne, Barbara Simpson, John Tucker and Philip Warner.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tucker and Cllr Chandler for their presentation.

d. Community Resilience

Cllr Smith introduced the concept of a Community Resilience Working Group and why one was needed using the example of the recent bad weather. Due to the pressure on emergency services during such times, communities needed to provide assistance in their own locality and therefore it was important to have an emergency plan in place to co-ordinate efforts. Exminster had had an Emergency Plan since 2012; one of the first in Devon. The Plan was due for an overhaul and advice was sought from the Devon Resilience Forum.

Risks to the community needed to be understood in order to formulate a response to each risk. The Community Resilience Working Party would investigate the risks and take advice on how to mitigate them.

The Parish Council needed community volunteers for the Community Resilience Working Group and interested parties were invited to contact the Clerk in the first instance.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Smith for his presentation.

7. Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported:

Parish Council membership and appointments

Mrs Sheila Churchward, Mr Brian Aird and Mr Charles Nuttall had recently been co-opted to the Parish Council. There was still one vacancy for co-option.

Mr Chris Maynard and Mr Gordon Evans had resigned from the Parish Council and were thanked for their service.

Property and Amenities

The Parish Council had taken over the maintenance of the banks to St Martins' football field from Exminster Recreational Trust.

Works were planned for the Victory Hall: Redecoration had already taken place and the fire doors had been replaced, a new heating system had been installed.

Work had taken place at the Deepway Centre to install a new kitchen and future works would include refurbishment of the Ladies Toilets. There was an intention for the building to be connected to the mains sewer. Longer term plans to extend or redevelop the building were being considered.

The Green Spaces Group continued to work on the Community Orchard, Reddaway Drive, Crockwells Meadow and the Wilderness.

Cycle racks had been installed outside the Victory Hall and Deepway Centre.

A bus shelter had been installed at Milbury Reach.

Defibrillators were in place at the Royal Oak, Victory Hall and Stowey Arms.

The recent RoSPA inspection of the equipment at Deepway Green had found it to be well maintained and in good order.

The cemetery was managed by the Clerk.

Graffiti and vandalism continued to be of concern around the village. Residents were encouraged to photograph the graffiti and report it to the Police.

Finance

The precept had been raised by 1% to £83.59 per band D property for the forthcoming financial year, supporting a budget of £140,000 including asset sinking funds.

Community Small Grants had been awarded by the Parish Council to Kenn Cricket Club, Exminster School Association, Exminster Summer Playscheme, Exminster Recreational Trust, the Deepway Centre and Coffee on the Corner.

Grants received by the Parish Council over the past year included £2,260 from Devon County Council towards the bus shelter at Milbury Reach, £3338 from the Elector Fund to support the refurbishment of the toilets at the Deepway Centre.

Planning

The Parish Council had responded to many small-scale applications and the Lead Councillors for Planning were thanked for their work.

Regrettably, planning permission had been granted for the Peamore industrial estate development. The Parish Council had employed the services of a traffic consultant to help respond to the application and there had been much local opposition.

The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP), a formal statutory document to provide an overall spatial strategy and the requirements for the level of housing and employment land up to 2040, was in development. The Parish Council had responded to the issues consultation in April 2017. A draft plan was expected this Autumn and the Parish Council were campaigning for at least an 8-week consultation period.

The Teignbridge District Council Local Plan Review was taking place, extending the plan in line with the GESP to 2040. It was likely that Exminster would be defined as a “key rural settlement”. Settlement boundary workshops were planned for Parish Councils in April with a public consultation planned for May to July.

Thanks

Thanks were extended to community members of the Working Parties, local organisations attending the evening’s showcase, Mrs Gladys Gush for her years of service on the Feoffees, Mr Henry Fowler for his groundwork, Miss Katie Langdon for her caretaking/litter picking and Mrs Carole Smith for deputising in Miss Langdon’s absence, District and County Councillors for their support, Parish Councillors - especially Cllr Madge as Vice Chair and the Clerks.

8. Public Forum

Comments:

- Could anything be done about the slow broadband speeds in the village?
Mr Karl Walker, who had previously looked into the situation, would be asked for an update.
- The Parish Council was thanked for its efforts in objecting to the Peamore industrial estate development.
The Chairman noted that there was still work that the Parish Council could do to ensure the best possible outcome for the village from the development and discussions had already taken place at the Parish Council meetings to address this.
- Residents who had attended the Teignbridge District Council Planning Committee meeting where the Peamore application was heard expressed disappointment regarding the democratic process. Questions were raised as to whether it was possible to appeal the decision.
The Chairman explained that the only course of action would be a judicial review.
- The Chairman and Parish Councillors were thanked for their work.

The meeting closed at 21:18.

Signed...Josie Walledge..... Date...11th March 2019.....