

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Exminster  
Monday 9 March 2020 at 19:30 in the Victory Hall, Exminster  
Chairman: Brian Aird**

**Present from the Parish Council**

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

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw

Admin Support: Mrs Julie Coke

**Members of the Public in Attendance: 34**

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**2. Apologies**

Devon County Councillor Alan Connett

**3. To approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting**

Resolved and signed accordingly by Cllr Josie Walledge.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting**

None.

**5. Guest Speaker: Alison Skyes – Chairman of Exminster Twinning Association**

Twinning with Sannerville started in 1979 and a tree of friendship was planted in the two villages to mark the event. Yearly exchange visits are made between the Associations. Sannerville is a similar sized village to Exminster, located on the outskirts of Caen, which is similar in size to Exeter. The village is close to Pegasus bridge where there is a memorial to British soldiers who fought there in WWII. The residents of Sannerville like the fact that some of the roads in Exminster are named after their village. Since 2015, 10 new families have been recruited to the Twinning Association and will be taking part in the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations which will take place from 21 to 23 May, activities will include the planting of a French apple tree, a trip around Exeter and a day trip to SS Great Britain.

Alison expressed her thanks to all of the Twinning committee members for their commitment and hard work.

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

Exminster Parish Council Chairman, Brian Aird, reported:

- A great deal of work and discussions had taken place over the last 12 months with the Ted Wragg Trust and DCC about the new Matford development in relation to the Housing Infrastructure Fund and bus services, NHS England and the Westbank Practice and scrutinising planning applications via the Matford Planning Working Party.
- A project has been initiated to assess the feasibility of extending the Deepway Centre.
- The Council funded and supported the Green Spaces Group.
- Had agreed an Environmental Policy and set up an Environment Working Party.
- Initiated a refresh of the Community Plan.

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- Funded an improvement to the pedestrian crossing point at the south end of the village and a new footpath through Gissons Park and one connecting the MUGA to the main footpath at Deepway.
- Is actively pursuing the possibility of extending the 20mph zone in the village.
- There had been a Parish Council election (everyone was returned unopposed).
- Discussions regularly took place with the Victory Hall Trust, Exminster Recreation Trust, Deepway Centre Trust, the Exminster Pre-school and the Westbank Healthy Living Centre.
- Further information on the work of the Parish Council and copies of all minutes from the bi-weekly meetings were available on the PC website <http://www.exminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp/>
- The Chairman expressed thanks to his predecessor, Josie Walledge, who served for 4 years as Chair of the Council, for her commitment and sound leadership during a very challenging time for the Parish.
- The work of the Council is carried out by 11 Councillors and in last May's election welcomed two new members – Cllrs Rebecca Watts and Renata Szewczyk. The Chairman thanked them all for their commitment and support for the community during this past year.
- The Chairman also thanked the two part-time paid staff – Jill Daw and Helen Hibbins, for their commitment, knowledge and the care they show about what happens in this community.
- The Chairman also expressed his thanks to the many volunteers from the general public and the Council who work hard in many different ways for the community:
  - John and the Green Spaces Group
  - Jeremy and the Environment Working Party
  - Caroline and members of the Community Plan Working Party
  - The members of ENDPIG
  - The Deepway Centre and Victory Hall Trustees
  - Coffee on the Corner Trustees and staff
  - David and the team behind the village litter picks
  - Sara, Carol, Andrew and Miriam who make regular check on the Defib machines available in the village
  - Ian who looks after the Community noticeboard
  - Carole, Rosemary and Derek who represent the Council on the Feoffees

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

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

Cllr John Ponsford

- Work had focused on the Matford development and liaison with the District Council. An event has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> May beginning at 6pm when

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representatives from the Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council and the developers would provide more information on the proposed works.

- Work will begin in June or July in regard to access to the two sites and the developers should start the work shortly afterwards.
- Discussions about the Free School are ongoing, as are the discussions around the community and medical centres.
- Archaeological work has just started, and trees have been cut down.
- No news yet on how we will be impacted by the increased traffic.
- The Working Party has had some influence over the plans for South West Exeter and has enabled us to have a voice at meetings which has been good for the community.

**b. Green Spaces group**

John Tucker

- Over the last 12 months the Green Spaces Group has had 15 regular volunteers and three of those being teenage volunteers, who have given over 200 hours of volunteering. Four of the volunteers are trained to use the strimmer, primarily in the Orchard.
- The Group received £250 from the Parish Council.
- Work in Crockwells Meadow and Wilderness area has included tree planting, and wild flower seed sowing.
- Over 5,000 autumn bulbs were planted at the Deepway Centre and Pottles Close.
- Tree planting at the cemetery will provide spring colour and autumn fruit.
- The village orchard hosted an apple morning and Wassail.

Peter Chandler

- Through the Woodland Trust, some saplings have been planted around the village. Children had taken them home in pots and will look after them at home until the autumn when they can be planted.

Jeremy Pyne

- The Wilderness has been planted with some hazel and a woodpile was also created to encourage wildlife and small animals. The silver birches planted in Crockwells Meadow have done well and there is an ongoing maintenance schedule in the village orchard. The Exeter Woodcarvers made a sign for the village orchard which has been displayed.
- A wassail is a celebration of the turn of the year and to look forward to the upcoming Spring; this took place in January and was attended by approx. 70 people.
- Work planned for this year includes bulb planting in the autumn and hedge development in Crockwells Meadow.

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**c. Community Plan Working Group**

Caroline Aird

- The first Community Plan was first produced in 2012 from which an action plan was collated and many of those actions were implemented, although some of the larger aspirations were not completed. One success was the placing of a red post box on the junction of Millar Way and Reddaway. The litter picks were also as a result of the 2012 survey.
- The Plan was refreshed in 2019.
- The Community Plan is not a legal document, but it formed part of the planning decisions of Teignbridge District Council.
- There are more properties and residents now compared to 2012 and it is important that the Parish Council know what the residents now think about the community and the services.
- The 2019 questionnaires were distributed by volunteers and there was also an online version for residents to complete. 885 surveys were returned, and another 220 responses were received online.
- Over half of those who did respond do not volunteer within Exminster.
- The top concerns were speeding vehicles through the village, dog fouling and pavement parking.
- There was support for the Parish to spend money on environmental measures. A summary of the 2019 questionnaire will be available within the next couple of months.
- Over the last three years, we have tried to have a community speed watch and a recent response from the Chief Constable of Devon & Cornwall Police indicates that we are moving towards that.
- We are also trying to get vehicle activated speed signs in the village and to expand the 20mph speed limit, but these will take time.

**d. Environment Working Party**

Jeremy Pyne

- An environmental policy was published in April 2019.
- The working party was formed in the summer of 2019.
- The Environmental Plan themes are biodiversity, communications, sustainable energy, reduce/ reuse / recycle, transport
- Biodiversity – green spaces
- Communications – social and printed media to promote awareness
- Recycling – mini recycling banks to supplement those covered by TDC
- Transport – public transport, positive action around electric cars
- Sustainable energy – promote green energy options, i.e. solar energy
- Next steps: The revised draft plan will be considered at the Parish Council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> March

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**8. Public Forum**

- Coronavirus: further information can be found on the Parish Council Facebook page where there are links to the NHS website.
- Exminster Feoffees: if anyone knew of a local resident who may need extra support, then this fund could help.
- Cllr Josie Walledge expressed her thanks to Cllr Brian Aird for his efforts and commitment to the Chairmanship of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 21:08

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