

Exminster Parish Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 4 January 2021 at 19:00 – Remote meeting via internet

Chairman: Kevin Smith

Action

21/1 Present

Cllr Brian Aird (BA), Cllr Sheila Churchward (SC), Cllr Derek Madge (DM), Cllr Charles Nuttall (CN), Cllr Kevin Smith (KS), Cllr Lorne Smyth (LS)

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw (JD)

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Helen Hibbins (HH)

Devon County Councillor: Alan Connett (AC)

Teignbridge District Councillor: Charles Nuttall (CN)

Public: 0

21/2 Apologies accepted from

Cllr John Ponsford (JP) – work commitment

Cllr Renata Szewczyk (RS) – illness

Cllr Rebecca Watts (RW)

21/3 Declaration of interest on Agenda Items

None declared.

21/4 Dispensation requests regarding Code of Conduct

None received.

21/5 Public open session (maximum 10 minutes)

No public present.

21/6 To Approve the Minutes of the EPC Meeting held on the 7 December 2020

Resolved.

21/7 County Councillors Report on items other than those on the agenda

Devon County Councillor Alan Connett reported:

1. Overgrown vegetation and debris obstructing the road and pavements, at various locations in the village, had been reported to Highways.
2. The Chairman asked if the Parish Council needed to act regarding the provision of a pedestrian refuge underneath the motorway bridge. Cllr Connett explained that he would continue to pursue the matter with Highways in the first instance.

21/8 District Councillors Reports on items other than those on the agenda

Teignbridge District Councillor Charles Nuttall reported:

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1. Discussions continued about Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and the impact on their installation if the 20mph speed limit in the village was extended.

Cllr Aird noted that the signs were programable and it was agreed that a proposal could be made, at a future meeting, to purchase the signs, without precise details of location or speed being finalised.

BA/
JD

21/9 Chairman's Report

1. The Chairman had virtually attended the Leader of Devon County Council's (DCC) briefing to Teignbridge District Council (TDC) parishes on 15 December. The financial pressures on DCC were explained including additional expenditure due to COVID-19. Notes from the meeting would be circulated by email.

KS

21/10 Clerk's Report

1. An appeal notification had been received regarding 92 Sentrays Orchard, against the refusal of planning application 20/00103/FUL (change frosted glass to clear glass in ends of bay windows). Council was given the opportunity to withdraw its original comments on the application but Cllrs Churchward, Aird and Smith agreed that they should stand.
2. The Victory Hall Trust (VHT) and Deepway Centre Trust (DCT) had declined Airband's offer of free internet connections. Airband had approached the Parish Council for details of other sponsorship opportunities. The Clerk had requested an indication of the sum of money involved.
3. Following a request for advice, the Green Spaces Working Party (GSWP) had been informed that the Council would permit work to continue in the village if Government guidelines relating to COVID-19 were followed. The GSWP Risk Assessment already covered this.
4. The Mother and Toddler Group and ExAct were required to remove their sheds to allow drainage work to take place at the rear of the Victory Hall. This would incur costs for both groups.
5. The Limes surgery had confirmed that the next round of COVID-19 vaccinations would take place in Exminster this week.
6. Two residents had responded to the letter regarding the disposal of garden waste on the banks of St Martins football ground. Both respondents strongly refuted that they had disposed of rubbish there.

21/11 To approve the revised Community Emergency Plan

A draft version of the revised plan had been circulated.

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	<p>The plan had been updated to align with the new template from Devon Communities Together.</p> <p>Additional maps and locations of services had been identified and included. Contact details had been checked and updated throughout.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the Community Emergency Plan and update the website accordingly.</p>	JD/ KS/ HH
21/12	<p><u>To consider renewing the annual subscription to Tozers Solicitors for their Council Legal Advice Service in the sum of £1,500 + VAT</u></p> <p>The Clerk outlined the advice that had been sought and received over the last year.</p> <p>It was resolved to continue the subscription in the sum of £1500.00 plus VAT.</p>	
	<p>FINANCE</p>	
21/13	<p><u>Update from the Budget Working Party</u></p> <p>Two meetings of the Budget Working Party had taken place.</p> <p>An options paper would be circulated for the next Parish Council meeting when the budget would need to be approved and the precept set.</p> <p>Of considerable concern was the drop in the housing base – a metric influenced by rates of building, council tax support, council tax collection rates and the restrictions due to COVID-19. Exminster’s Housing base had decreased by 3.2%. This meant that if the precept per band D property remained at the same level as last year, the Parish Council’s income would decrease by 3.2%.</p>	JD/ HH
21/14	<p><u>To consider a Community grant application from Exminster Recreational Trust in the sum of £500</u></p> <p>The grant had been resubmitted with further information and a breakdown of costs for the provision of the kit. Currently, it was proving difficult to secure sponsorship.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the grant for the provision of kit for the under 7’s football team in the sum of £500.00</p>	JD/ HH
21/15	<p><u>To consider a Community grant application from ExAct pantomime group in the sum of £500</u></p> <p>The Chairman explained that the sheds belonging to both the ExAct pantomime group and the Baby and Toddler group had had to be dismantled due to the drainage works carried out by the Parish Council at the Victory Hall.</p> <p>The grant applications (see also 21/16) had been submitted to partially cover the cost of new sheds.</p>	

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The Clerk outlined the total costs for the replacing one shed and dismantling and re siting the other shed. It was agreed that the groups should not have to incur unforeseen costs caused by the work that the Parish Council were undertaking.

ExAct had been proactive in dismantling its shed and the Victory Hall Trust shed, thereby saving costs. A saving could be made on the dismantling of the Toddler Group shed if the work was carried out alongside the removal of the Christmas tree.

It was proposed that the Parish Council paid for the works in the sum of £2125.00 plus VAT. Resolved.

JD

The long-term ownership of the large new shed would be determined at a future meeting.

21/16 To consider a Community grant application from Exminster Baby and Toddler Group in the sum of £500

See 21/15.

21/17 To consider a request from St Martins PCC for payment of:

1. the electricity bill for external lighting to the tower of St Martin's Church in the sum of £60.98

Resolved.

2. annual maintenance bill for the Church clock in the sum of £165 (VAT not applicable) for financial year 2020/21

Resolved.

HH

PLANNING

21/18 Planning Applications

/1 BGX/DCC/4208/2020, Construction of a footbridge/cyclebridge over the A379 at Land adjacent to the layby on the east bound carriageway of the A379 east of Chudleigh Road, EX2 9SQ

The bridge would look similar to the bridge over the M5 linking the Science Park to Sowton.

Concerns were raised about the safety of the bridge for pedestrians based on the experience of the bridge at Powderham which had sharp corners and restricted views; causing conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

It was agreed to ask if Highways had liaised with the Police over the design of the bridge, not only for road safety, but to ensure that it would not support criminal activity.

HH

It was noted that lighting should be contained within the bridge to avoid light pollution.

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It was resolved to support the application with the aforementioned comments.

21/19 Planning Decisions

Noted as listed beneath.

- /1 20/02016/TPO, 66 Miller Way - Crown reduce one horse chestnut laterally by up to 2m – REFUSED
- /2 20/01299/FUL, Milbury Farm, Main Road - demolition of existing bungalow and garage and construction of four dwellings, garages, associated parking and infrastructure - GRANTED
- /3 20/02012/HOU, 50 Berrybrook Meadow - two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and extension to garage - GRANTED

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

21/20 To note any planning matters regarding the Matford development

A Matford Working Party meeting would take place on Wednesday 6 January to discuss the needs' assessment for the Community building and potential provision of drainage and electrical services over and above those to be provided by the All Through School to access community facilities.

Cllr Aird and the Deputy Clerk had attended a meeting with partners from the Ide Lane surgery and Sarah Ratnage. The outcome of the meeting would be discussed in conjunction with the needs' assessment and reported back to the Parish Council at its meeting in February

JD

21/21 Councillors' Reports – for information only

1. Cllr Aird reported that discussions were continuing regarding the future of Coffee on the Corner.
2. Cllr Churchward asked whether a member of the Environment Working Party (EWP) could be present at the Parish Council meeting on 18 January to clarify matters relating to the EWP report. It was agreed that this would be useful.
3. Cllr Churchward had been liaising with Airband regarding the positioning of a pole in Crockwells Close. A meeting would be set up with residents and a representative from Airband. Cllr Nuttall agreed to attend alongside Cllr Churchward. It was noted that there was a similar issue in Gissons, and Cllr Churchward offered to liaise with residents there. Council agreed that this would be helpful.
4. Cllr Churchward noted that the reconfirmation of the members of the Community Plan Working Party had not taken place at this meeting as expected. The Clerk explained that this was not a requirement of the Terms of Reference.

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5. Cllr Madge noted that the Christmas tree should be removed on Thursday 7 January. However, it may have to remain in place due to the latest COVID-19 restrictions.

21/22 Public Open Session – (Maximum 10 minutes)

No public present.

21/23 It is proposed that in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act of 1960, the Press and Public will be excluded from items 21/24 (part II) having due regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved.

PART II

21/24 To discuss the potential acquisition of a local property for Council use

The meeting closed at 20:25

Signed:.....Kevin Smith..... Date:...18 January 2021.....