

Chair: Kevin Smith

Action

23/159 Present

Cllr Sarah Ladyman (SL), Cllr Derek Madge (DM), Cllr Lisa May (LM), Cllr Charles Nuttall (CN), Cllr Kevin Smith (KS), Cllr Lorne Smyth (LS).

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw (JD)

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Helen Hibbins (HH)

Teignbridge District Councillor: Charles Nuttall (CN)

Public:

23/160 Apologies accepted from

Cllr Brian Aird (BA) – personal reasons

Cllr Sheila Churchward (SC) – personal reasons

23/161 Declaration of interest on Agenda Items

None declared.

23/162 Dispensation requests regarding Code of Conduct

None received.

23/163 Public open session (maximum 10 minutes)

1. Members of the public kept moving the traffic cones placed on Dryfield Car Park by Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to enable remedial work. How could this be addressed?
2. The manager of Coffee on the Corner sought permission to place an advertising blackboard on the external wall of the Victory Hall Annexe. This would be on the agenda of a future meeting when dimensions had been finalised.

23/164 To confirm the Draft Minutes of the EPC Meeting held on 3 April 2023 are an accurate record

Resolved.

23/165 Clerk's Report

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1. Exminster Baby and Toddler Group thanked the Parish Council for its support and generosity following its recent grant application.
2. Cllr May would be attending the Teignbridge District Parish Council Planning Forum on the 25 May 2023.
3. A resident had complained about the abuse of public parking spaces (on Dryfield and near the Post Office). They were advised to contact parking enforcement at Devon County Council (DCC) and TDC respectively. Queries about the restriction on the parking space would be followed up with Cllr Connett and Highways. JD
4. The Government would be testing its emergency alert system on 23 April. This would be publicised on the Parish Council's Facebook page.
5. An email had been received expressing concern about the Parish Council taking a decision on the Matford Community Centre prior to a new Council taking office in May. The matter would be considered later in the meeting.
6. There was a Jackdaw's nest above the Victory Hall Door and there was concern that there may be internal damage to the loft. This would be addressed after the bird nesting season had finished.
7. A resident had written to thank the groundsman for clearing and preparing the Petanque area at Deepway ahead of the playing season.
8. A resident had written to Devon County Council to ask for access to be opened from Milbury Close to Old Quarry Drive during the closure of Milbury Lane due to roadworks. It was advised that this was not possible.
9. The Coronation on Saturday 6 May would be streamed live in the Victory Hall to allow members of the community to come along and watch and to bring a picnic. Volunteers were required to set up and remove tables. The hall would be open to the public between 10:30 and 15:30.
10. DALC E-bulletin #13 requested members to respond to a Government consultation regarding proposed changes to Permitted Development Rights. Cllr Churchward had submitted comments and a copy of these would be circulated to Councillors who may choose to send their own response as the closing date of the consultation was prior to the next Parish Council meeting. JD/
ALL
11. Major engineering works would take place on the A379 between the Devon Hotel Roundabout and Peamore during the installation of the footbridge. These would close the road from 10pm on Monday 29 May through until Friday 2 June, or completion of the work. A lengthy diversion would be in place. This would be advertised on Facebook nearer the time. HH
12. The Deepway Centre Trust does not accept the legal advice that the Parish Council had received regarding the responsibility of the footpath around the perimeter of the Deepway Centre. No further communication

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would take place on the matter until the new Trust was in place (following the AGM). In the meantime, the Trust had declared that it would not be responsible for the path, steps or bank. The Parish Council's solicitor had advised that in the event of an incident, it was likely that a solicitor would contact both the Parish Council and the Trust and leave it to insurers to agree liability.

23/166 To note receipt of the monthly Police report

Noted. The report would be displayed on the Parish Council notice board.

23/167 To report on meetings regarding Community Builders – Cllr May

Cllrs Aird, Churchward and May continued to work on the project first introduced to the Parish Council in January 2023.

A meeting with Laura Robinson from Exeter Community Initiatives (ECI), a charity working in partnership with Exeter City Council and local community groups, had taken place.

ECI's work was similar to that envisaged for an Exminster based Community Enabler position. ECI had experience of working in new communities outside Exeter, in particular Cranbrook (in the East Devon District Council Area).

The potential for ECI to assist the Parish Council with its aspirations for Matford had been discussed, and quotations for different scenarios had been sought. When these had been received and evaluated, the matter would be brought back to the Parish Council for further discussion.

PROPERTY & AMENITIES MATTERS

23/168 To consider remedial work to the footpath across Crockwells Meadow – Cllr Madge

A meeting with the contactor would take place on Friday 21 April and a quotation brought to the Parish Council meeting on 2 May.

DM/
JD

23/169 To consider the provision of a rose bed (to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III) in the grass verge on Dryfield – Green Spaces Group

Jeremy Pyne, Chair of the Green Spaces Group was present in the public gallery.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Jeremy Pyne to speak.

The proposal was associated with the Big Help Out. It was envisaged that 10 volunteers would be required to dig out the bed and do the initial planting. Ongoing maintenance would be approximately 10 minutes weeding per month if weed suppressing mulch was used at the outset.

It was suggested that the arrangement for maintaining the Victory Hall Flower beds could be extended to the rose bed. Alternatively, Green Spaces Group

Action

volunteers could maintain it. It was noted that there was no allowance in this year's budget for additional gardening.

Concern was expressed about the look of the bed due to the short lifespan of roses and the difficulty of cutting the grass around the bed.

Discussion ensued and although there was some reticence about the project it was agreed that the community volunteering aspect would be beneficial.

It was resolved to approve the rose bed subject to suitable ongoing maintenance arrangements.

JD

The Clerk would contact the flower bed gardener in the first instance.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

23/170 To consider renewing the Parish Council's Community Right to Bid for the Stowey Arms so that it remains on the List of Assets of Community Value for a further 5-years

The Clerk explained the background and implications.

It was resolved to renew the Community Right to Bid for the Stowey Arms.

JD/
LM

Cllr May offered to assist the Clerk with community justification when filling in the application form.

23/171 To discuss matters associated with the new Council – Chair/Clerk

An informal meeting would take place before the first formal Parish Council meeting on 15 May in the form of a social gathering in the Annexe at 19:00 on Wednesday 10 May to welcome the new Councillors and outline the roles within the Council.

ALL

On Monday 12 June (TBC) a briefing would take place on ongoing Parish Council matters, such as Matford.

FINANCE MATTERS

23/172 RFO's report

1. Direct Debits during March 2023

NatWest bankline	£6.00
Utility Warehouse	£565.60
EE	£31.46
NEST	£172.62
Communicate Better	£409.54
Royal Mail Finance	£378.00

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2. Bank error

In the 2021-22 financial year, there was a disputed credit of £660.00 close to year end. Correspondence with Nat West took place who concluded that it was a credit in the favour of the Parish Council. This had now been included in the accounts.

3. Fidelity Guarantee

The Parish Council's funds currently exceeded £2M. The Fidelity Guarantee covered deposits up to £2M. A quotation had been requested from the insurance company to increase the limit and advice had been sought from the SLCC Finance Specialist.

4. Electricity Costs

Correspondence from Utility Warehouse had been received regarding the withdrawal of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme. The Parish Council would no longer receive a discount and the cost per KWh had increased from 69.254p to 103.754p.

Alternative bulbs for the floodlights were being considered.

23/173 Accounts for Approval

It was resolved to approve payments in the sum of £7919.57.

HH

23/174 Draft accounts for March 2023

1. Budget Comparison Report

The following points were noted:

- Deepway Green General Maintenance and Existing Asset Maintenance budget lines were overspent. However, in both cases the lines included repairs or replacement items that had been funded from reserves.
- Year-end transfers to reserves had taken place for the Maintenance Contract Contingency Planning and General Asset Maintenance.
- Staff salaries were overspent due to a pay increment being agreed after the budget was set for last year.
- Funds had been transferred from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to offset staff time on the Community Facility project.
- Audit Fees were over budget due to additional costs incurred due to receipt of CIL.
- Room Hire was over budget due to an increase in provider rate after the budget had been set.

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2. Balance Sheet

Transfers to/from reserves as detailed above were shown on the balance sheet.

The Year End reports (income and expenditure and balance sheet) would be presented alongside the draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) figures at the meeting on 2 May. Following this, the reports would be submitted to the Internal Auditor with all the other information requested.

The AGAR would be presented for approval at the Parish Council meeting on 19 June following receipt of the Internal Auditor's report.

HH

PLANNING MATTERS

23/175 Planning Applications

1. 23/00437/HOU | Conversion of garage to internal room and replacement of garage door with window | 162 Milbury Farm Meadow Exminster Devon EX6 8FG (teignbridge.gov.uk)

There would be a permanent loss of an offroad parking space if this application was approved.

It was resolved to object to the application due to the loss of an allocated offroad parking space with the expectation of additional parking on a narrow estate road. This was contrary to Neighbourhood Development Plan policy EXM3 (quality of design).

If TDC approved the application it was requested that

- to meet Exminster Parish Council's Environment Policy regarding any development within the Parish, biodiversity enhancement measures are introduced on the property, ie. bat, bee, bird, hedgehog and insect habitats.
- a traffic management plan is provided to the Contractors by the residents to make them aware of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists accessing the public road and footway during the development.

HH

23/176 Planning Appeals

1. Matford Barton, Dawlish Road – Appeal against the non-determination of 17/02041/MAJ: Outline – residential development of up to 25 dwellings (approval sought for access). (Revised description). Planning Inspectorate Ref: 3313945

Noted.

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23/177 Planning Decisions

None to report.

23/178 To note any planning matters regarding the Matford development

1. Planning

No matters to report.

2. Community Centre

A meeting had taken place with DCC and NHS representatives on 17 April.

DCC intended to submit a single planning application for the site in May, including the Community Centre and GP Surgery.

It was reported at the Parish Council meeting on 20 March that a decision on ownership of the building would be made by the Parish Council on 2 May. This decision would now be deferred until August to allow the new Council to be advised of work on the project to date. It had been confirmed that this would not affect DCC's submission of the planning application.

23/179 Councillors' Reports – for information only

1. Cllr Nuttall asked about the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging points on Reddaway Drive. It was explained that the contractual obligations regarding subsidising car use made it unfeasible. Cllr Churchward had a file on the work carried out should it be revisited.
2. Cllr Ladyman mentioned that the bin that in the layby on Reddaway Drive was constantly full, with additional domestic rubbish regularly being dumped there. Cllr May mentioned that there had been some chargeable changes in TDC's refuse collection policy that may be exacerbating the situation. The Clerk would find out how often it was emptied.
3. Cllr Smith reminder Cllrs that the Deepway Centre AGM would take place on Wednesday 19 April at 19:30.

JD

23/180 Public Open Session – (Maximum 10 minutes)

1. Cllrs were invited to the Exminster Loves Nature event at 19:30 on 24 May in the Victory Hall.

The meeting closed at 20:43

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 19:30 in the Victory Hall

Signed:...Kevin Smith..... Date:.....2 May 2023.....