

Chair: Kevin Smith

**Action**

**23/548 Present**

Cllr Sheila Churchward (SC), Cllr John Goodey (JG), Cllr Sarah Ladyman (SL), Cllr Lisa May (LM), Cllr Charles Nuttall (CN), Cllr Kevin Smith (KS), Cllr Lorne Smyth (LS), Cllr Gary Wheatley (GW), Cllr Adrian Wood (AW).

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw (JD)

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Helen Hibbins (HH)

Devon County Councillor: Alan Connett (AC)

Teignbridge District Councillor: Charles Nuttall (CN), Kevin Andrew Lake (KAL)

Public: 5

**23/549 Apologies received from**

Cllr Nicola Guagliardo (NG) – personal reasons

**23/550 Declaration of interest on Agenda Items**

Cllr Wood declared an interest in item 23/564.

**23/551 Dispensation requests regarding Code of Conduct**

None received.

**23/552 Public open session (maximum 10 minutes)**

No comments.

**23/553 To confirm the Draft Minutes of the EPC Meeting held on 20 November 2023 are an accurate record**

Resolved.

**23/554 County Councillors Report on items other than those on the agenda**

Devon County Councillor Alan Connett reported:

1. Correspondence had been received from a resident concerned about the inconvenience caused by suspension of bus services during roadworks on Main Road at the junction of Dryfield. Cllr Connett had clarified that this was not a matter for DCC but the contractor and utility company. However, as the school transport was provided by DCC, it should have

**Action**

- been notified of the disruption. Cllr Connect and the Clerk/Deputy Clerk would respond to the resident. JD/HH
2. The abandoned car on Farmhouse Rise was still in situ. Procedures at TDC were being reviewed due to a loophole in legislation for dealing with it and Cllr Connett expected to hear the outcome of the review later this week.

**23/555 District Councillors Reports on items other than those on the agenda**

Teignbridge District Councillor Kevin Andrew Lake reported:

1. Fly-tipping at the top of Deepway Lane continued to cause issues. Although it was on private land, it was spilling onto the lane itself. Because there was a risk of vermin, TDC had been asked whether there was anything that could be done about clearance.
2. The Give-Way lines at the junction of the Limes and Church Stile had still not been re-painted despite other work being carried out in the vicinity. This was being followed up.
3. The poor road surface near the junction with Milbury Farm Meadow and Hospital drive had been reported to DCC alongside various potholes throughout the village. Updates on repair progress had been requested. Cllr Nuttall added that he had also reported potholes on Days Pottles Lane.

**23/556 Chair's Report**

1. Parish Councillors and volunteers were thanked for their work throughout the year.
2. Seasons greetings were extended to all residents.

**23/557 Clerk's Report**

1. The Parish Council "Office" would be closed from Thursday 21 December until Friday 28 December. Agenda items for the meeting on 2 January needed to be received by the Clerk by 18 December latest as the summons would be sent on 20 December.
2. Delegated Authority was used in the sum of £495 for maintenance work to be completed on trees following the recent report.
3. Delegated Authority was used in the sum of £30 over and above the amount agreed within the Devon Communities Together contract for printing of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Household Questionnaires.
4. Delegated Authority was used in the sum of £400 for clearance of the dykes in Crockwells Meadow.
5. National Grid had advised that it would be surveying trees at the edge of the Wilderness in order to maintain a Storm Resilience contract relating to the high voltage power line. There were 3 or 4 Oaks in the Wilderness that were in falling distance of the lines and these would be assessed by an expert. The assessment would take place over the next month.

All

**Action**

6. A community member had kindly cleared the brambles from the front of the fence outside Spurfield (near the bus stop).
7. Either a Creation Agreement or a Modification Order would be made between DCC and Exeter City Council to add the section of path connecting the marshes and canal to the definitive footpath map.
8. A representative of Residents Against the Landfill (regarding the Lower Brenton Farm landfill planning application) had asked what points the Parish Council would make if it spoke at the TDC Planning Committee meeting when the application was considered, to prevent duplication. Cllr Goodey gave an update on the current situation with the application, explaining that it was unlikely that it would be heard until mid-2024.
9. A consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had been received from TDC. The closing date was 8 January and the Clerk had confirmed that there was no opportunity for an extension to respond. Disappointment was expressed about the inflexibility, considering the Christmas break, and it was asked that this should be fed back to TDC by the District Councillors. Cllr Wood and the RFO would prepare a response for the meeting on 2 January.
10. A response had been received from Phil Shears, TDC, thanking the Parish Council for its letter dated 10 November.
11. Correspondence had been received from a resident enquiring whether a DCC or Exminster Parish Council contractor had cut the grass in a couple of areas of the village in the last month as it could influence new growth and affect insects that hibernate in the grass in the winter.

KAL/  
CN/  
HH/  
AW/  
JD

**23/558 To receive the report on the Addendum to the Teignbridge District Council Local Plan and agree the letter on the addendum consultation to be sent to TDC**

The report had been circulated.

Cllr Nuttall queried recommendation 6 (Exminster Parish Council is fully involved in the proposals for additional passing places down Days Pottles Lane) and it was agreed to change the wording to "*The Parish Council remains concerned about the likely increase in traffic on Days Pottles Lane and is actively engaged in the proposals for additional passing places.*"

It was resolved to approve the report with this wording. The report would be , formatted to align with report produced to the previous consultation to the Local Plan, and published on the Parish Council website.

AW/  
HH

**NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN MATTERS**

**23/559 It is proposed that:**

1. **The Communications programme shown in the Operational Plan document be approved.**

**Action**

Resolved.

2. **The 'Coming soon' leaflet circulated with the agenda be approved.**

Resolved.

3. **The sum of £929.00 (excluding VAT) be authorised for printing and delivery of aforementioned leaflet to every household in the Parish.**

Resolved.

4. **The printing and associated delivery cost, totalling £2,416 (excluding VAT) for the supply and printing of the envelopes, instruction leaflets and reminder leaflets together with the stamps and delivery costs be authorised.**

Resolved.

HH

**PROPERTY & AMENITIES MATTERS**

- 23/560 To review the result of the 6-month pesticide free trial on Parish Council land, agreed at the meeting of the 5 June (minute 23/260 refers) and agree any recommendations as a result of the trial.**

Cllr Ladyman proposed that Exminster remained pesticide free for a further 6 months while a longer-term management strategy was formulated. It was explained that a build up of organic matter (dead leaves etc) was providing an ideal environment for weed growth on paths and pavements and that this needed to be addressed by sourcing suitable equipment and/or contractors. This clearance work previously used to be carried out by DCC.

TDC were responsible for the Dryfield Car Park and had a policy of only spraying hard surfaces with pesticides.

The Tennis Court, MUGA and Petanque areas were exempt from being pesticide free because of potential damage to the surfaces.

It was noted that there were questions in the Neighbourhood Development Plan Household Questionnaire about the management of green spaces in the parish. It was suggested that the response to the questionnaires (that would be available at the end of February) would give the Parish Council a mandate about how to move forward. Cllr Ladyman was not of the opinion that the question was specific enough about the use of pesticides and weed growth.

It was noted that one suggestion of a non-glyphosate based treatment had been trialled but had not been effective.

Questions were raised as to why there was no feedback available about the trial.

**Action**

Disappointment was expressed that after 6-months, there were no viable alternatives identified.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was proposed that Exminster remained pesticide free until the end of February (when the results from the Neighbourhood Development Plan questionnaire were available) and that the matter was on the first agenda in March for further action.

JD

Resolved.

**23/561 To consider a request from the National Grid to access the rear of a residence in Crockwells Close via the Gissons play area and Crockwells Meadow**

It was resolved to permit the access ensuring the safety of pedestrians and animals and subject to care being taken when crossing the ground and path. Any damage caused would need to be reinstated.

JD

**FINANCE MATTERS**

**23/562 Accounts for Approval**

The Chair noted that a donation was a being made to St John's Ambulance for the defibrillator training session that had been delivered by his wife.

It was resolved to approve payments in the sum of £718.50.

HH

**23/563 To agree the following:**

- 1. To pay staff wages for the month of December on receipt of details from the payroll bureau.**

Resolved.

- 2. To pay invoices that are received up to 13 December, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Council**

Resolved.

HH

**23/564 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 £136.03**

Resolved.

- 2. The annual maintenance bill for the Church clock in the sum of £195 for financial year 2023/24**

Resolved.

JD  
/HH

**Action**

**PLANNING MATTERS**

**23/565 Planning Applications**

**1. 23/01911/FUL, Greenacre, Trood Lane - Dwelling and garage**

Cllr Churchward explained the history of applications for this site. This application was more appropriate for the size of the site than those previously submitted.

The Parish Council resolved to comment on the application as follows:

- The Arboricultural report recommendations should be met (subject to approval of the TDC Arboricultural Officer) as they align with the Parish Council's Environment Policy.
- For the amenity of neighbouring households, it is suggested that the developer works Monday to Friday 08:00 – 17:00 and Saturday 08:00 -12:00.

**2. 23/01894/FUL, 6 Exe View, Townfield - Division of existing house to create two dwellings**

Currently there are two parking spaces for this dwelling. This was deemed insufficient for two dwellings. Additionally, the road was narrow and on-road parking would cause safety issues.

It was noted that Townfield was a private road, owned by Teign Housing, and it was suggested that the application was drawn to their attention.

JD

It was resolved to comment on the application as follows:

- The application will not meet TDC Local Plan Policy S1, b) road safety and congestion, or EXM3 – Quality of Design with its current parking configuration.
- For the amenity of neighbouring households, it is suggested that the developer works Monday to Friday 08:00 – 17:00 and Saturday 08:00 -12:00.
- Biodiversity enhancement measures such as bat, bee, bird, hedgehog and insect habitats should be put in place to meet Exminster's Environmental Policy.

HH

**23/566 Planning Decisions**

- 1. 23/01657/ADV, Land Adjacent Parcel 9, South West Exeter - Advertisement sign - CONSENT TO DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 2. DCC/4275/2021, Trood Lane Landfill Site, Trood Lane, Matford – temporary retention of the existing construction, demolition and excavation waste recycling facility and the retrospective and**

**Action**

**proposed importation and landfilling of 250,000 cubic metres of inert waste materials and temporary retention of associated infrastructure including drainage infrastructure and altered vehicular access, and the proposed change of use of land to Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space - GRANTED**

**23/567 To note any planning matters regarding the Matford development**

**1. Planning**

The Reserved Matters planning application for Parrs Farm had been received. The Matford Working Party would prepare a recommendation for the Parish Council's response for the meeting on 15 January.

JD

**2. Community Centre**

Various issues regarding the Community Centre had been discussed at the Matford Working Party meeting on 1 December. The notes from the meeting would be circulated later this week.

HH

**ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**23/568 The Environment Working Party requests the support of the Parish Council to maintain a 2-year only wildflower demonstration bed on the visibility splay verge at the bottom of Exminster Hill**

The purpose of the bed was to encourage residents to plant wildflower seeds in their gardens. Similar beds had been successfully planted at Broadclyst and on the outskirts of Teignmouth.

The Green Spaces Group would maintain the land and provide the seeds for the duration of the project.

The Parish Council would initially need to liaise with DCC to secure the area for a period of 2-years.

Resolved.

JD

**23/569 Councillors' Reports – for information only**

1. Cllr May reported she had been appointed as the town/parish representative on the Standards Sub-committee at Teignbridge District Council and thanked the District Councillors for their support with her appointment.
2. Cllr Ladyman had received confirmation that local contractors responsible for the grounds around Deepway Centre do not use pesticides but that vinegar (acetic acid) could be used as an alternative. This was queried as the Council's contractor maintains this area, so clarity needed to be sought about this.

**Action**

**23/570 Public Open Session – (Maximum 10 minutes)**

1. A resident thanked the Parish Council for the work that they had carried out over the past year.

The meeting closed at 20:32

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2 January at 19:00 in the Victory Hall Annexe

Signed:...Kevin Smith..... Date:...2 January 2024.....