



# AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:  
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A virtual meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020, at 7:00pm

## Those present:

Cllr Ken Steven      Cllr Morag Steven      Cllr Ron Badger      Cllr Chris Garrett  
Cllr Glenn Hyde      Cllr Paul Britton (joined 7:07)      Cllr Nigel Daniel

**In attendance:** Becki Davey (Clerk), Cllr Ian Hall (DDC), Cllr Ian Thomas (EDCC) (joined 7:17) and one member of the public Mr Robert Loveridge

The Councillors were summoned to attend a meeting of the Axmouth Parish Council to discuss the following matters;

- 1) **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Mather (family) Approved. No apology from Cllr I Hunt.  
  
Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- 2) **Declarations of Interests:** No interests were declared.
- 3) **The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020:** Cllr Britton wished for a couple of amendments to be made. Councillors approved the amendments and once these were completed, the minutes were **approved**. They will be signed as a true record at the next face to face meeting.
- 4) **To discuss correspondence received from Mr Loveridge regarding Axe Cliff Golf Club (Including a short talk from Mr Loveridge):** Chair invited Rob Loveridge (RL) to speak. He gave a background on the family, land and the golf course. He is the landlord of the Axe Cliff area and golf club. He had previously furnished the Councillors with a 30 page presentation which they had all read. He wants to make the golf club and surrounding area financially viable whilst making it sustainable and regenerating the area. He opened the floor to questions.  
Councillor Daniel asked if they were anticipating moving the main clubhouse at the Haven Barn site. RL advised Councillors that the workshops there need updating and they would be better relocated. There is an opportunity to move the pump houses and workshops to somewhere a more hidden environment to enhance the landscape and planting. Don't want to move the footpath but could open it up to re-join along the top – is there an opportunity to make better use of the workshops. Probably not move the whole clubhouse but may be able to have additional halfway house and club rooms (9 holes). It would need to be done synergistically and be set in to the landscape. Impact assessments have been done. They would try to use what is already there

as the base and perhaps facilitate the clubhouse in two places. Would not have a new car park in the cliff top. Maybe widen access and make better use. Need to ask if it can be made better for the members but also visitors/walkers alike?

Cllr Daniel advised that realigning the SWCP along the cliff edge would be welcome. RL advised that they wouldn't propose to do that but would offer an additional limb perhaps make it possible to allow people to walk past Higher Haven from the Pump house and along the top of the cliffs. (Cllr Thomas joined 7.17).

Cllr Hyde questioned the vehicle access to the site. RL advised that currently the only access is by deliveries and golf buggies. He would not be proposing to introduce a road all the way through the golf course. Would possibly need to consider disabled access. It is an AOB and believes it is better for vehicle access to be from where it is currently.

Cllr Hyde advised that the Council may be concerned about what RL was thinking of putting up there and that they couldn't really comment until they knew more. RL explained that they would put a renovated version of what is there, they are not proposing new buildings. Believe it would be a good idea to propose embedded hidden accommodation but they would only do this if it did not interrupt the impact of the landscape. Proposing during pre-application to offer up options to all Councils and locals, ask them what they think.

Cllr Garrett wondered how people staying in the planned holiday accommodation would get there. RL advised that there is currently access using golf buggies access across the site using main car park so could possibly utilise this but they would need to think carefully ensuring it is fair and equal for all-comers. Not wanting to build a large area of accommodation but instead a few carefully thought out, unique embedded, possibly buried within the landscape. It will not affect the landscape.

Cllr Daniel said that in the proposal it was suggested that treehouses and lodges be created in the woods, would these extend around the area above the coastguard cottages and Haven Cliff House. RL informed the Councillors that they would be very careful as some of the woods are designated ancient woodlands so would need to be very careful not to interfere in that, would need to consider where is suitable on the edge of the golf course where it could be concealed and where could it be done where there is an opportunity for ecological diversification and for re-planting. Lots to consider. Out of site but available. Cllr Daniel believes that a major concern is that it is such a special view looking from the harbour and just seeing Haven Cliff House and the coastguard cottages above and that any other development to be seen from that view would impinge on that. RL agrees although he believes the view from the beach up past Haven could be improved. The house is right in the middle of the pass of the valley. The architect has suggested opening up the vista and improving it.

Cllr Daniel asked about the proposal for a possible office and farm building along Stepps Lane, would RL anticipate any vehicular access from there across to the higher development. RL confirmed that this may be a possibility. The main farm offices and barns at Heathfield and the main offices are in the Manor. The Axe Cliff is now a separate area and has no agricultural buildings, but this does not have to form part of this proposal which is predominantly to do with diversification and regeneration of the area but it is natural to think of these things at the same time. Not keen to impose a big span of agricultural buildings on the landscape. Is there somewhere within the 240 acres that can have agricultural buildings. There is a series of possible approaches.

Cllr Hyde said that the Council would probably give their support as a local business but would not be able to unless they know and understand more.

RL advised that the next step is to sit down with the EDDC planners. Lots of paperwork has been sent to them and RL is awaiting their response to have a meeting. Once he has spoken with EDDC he will forward further updates to the Parish Council. It is all very conceptual at the moment.

Cllr K Steven thanked RL, and advised him that it was reassuring to hear direct from him rather than just see a presentation. The Council looks forward to further developments. RL thanked Councillors for taking the time to listen and ask question. RL left 7.33.

- 5) **Financial Matters:** (Unless stated otherwise, any items requiring signatures will be signed at the next face to face meeting)
- a) **To approve the financial statements to the end June 2020:** Councillors **approved** the financial statements.
  - b) **To review first quarter budget:** Councillors reviewed the budget and were satisfied with the current situation.
  - c) **To consider, approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Audit.** Councillors **approved** the Annual Governance Statement. This will be signed outside of the meeting by the Clerk and Chair.  
The Council also considered the Internal Auditors report at this time and the Clerk confirmed that she had carried out the recommendation and claimed the VAT for the basket swing.
  - d) **To consider, approve and sign the Annual Accounting Statement for the Annual Audit.** Councillors **approved** the Annual Accounting Statement. This will be signed outside of the meeting by the RFO/Clerk and Chair.
  - e) **To approve the following payments:**  
There were no payments required prior to the preparation of the agenda but since then two payments were due. The Clerk asked Councillors to consider the following payments:

Bradfords Building Supplies	Gravel for footpath no 4	BACS	£154.26
Mrs T Jenkins	Internal Audit Fee	BACS	£135.00

Councillors **approved** the above payments.

- 6) **Outcome of Clean-Up Day:** Cllr K Steven was very pleased with the turnout, a lot of work has been done and he wanted Councillors to consider having another day soon to help with the path at Coronation Corner alongside the brook and weeding along Church Street, although the jobs carried out will depend on the numbers of volunteers. The date of 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 at 10:00am was agreed. **ACTION: CLLR M STEVEN** to create and display posters.  
Cllr K Steven also mentioned that during the Clean-Up day, the safety post on the junction of Church Street and Chapel Street was found in the brook with damage to the adjacent posts. Cllr K Steven contacted DCC Highways who believed they were not safety posts and were only there for aesthetic reasons. Cllr K Steven then contacted Cllr I Hall about it. Cllr Hall has seen the evidence and understands the damage has occurred by a vehicle. He explained that the extent of the kerb edge is what negates this being a safety posts but does recognise the importance of the posts and the fence to the community and the benefit to the motorists and for this reason he has put in an order for the works to be undertaken. If this does not happen then Cllr I Hall will use his locality budget to ensure that they are repaired as soon as possible. Cllr Hall asked Cllr K Steven to let him know once the works were complete. Cllr K Steven confirmed that he met someone at the site yesterday. Axmouth Parish Councillors have in the past replaced posts in other areas before but due to their location they felt it was not safe for any of the volunteers to do.

- 7) **Planning Applications and Correspondence:** No new applications

- 8) **To accept reports and agree actions from the following:**
- a) **County Councillor: Cllr Hall** asked how the unlocking and trade at the public houses reopening in the village has been. Cllr K Steven advised that there had possibly been issues at one of

them but not the other. Cllr Hall confirms that there is still a lot to learn with Covid-19, he has regularly been sending reports to the Council and there are a lot of visitors to the area. There is a lot of learning still to be done but they are in a position with the area Track and Trace to see how people can support each other in the area. He is working with people in the area to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible and asked Councillors to let him know if they have any concerns. Cllr M Steven advised that Tesco have removed all of the one way systems causing chaos and social distancing was impossible. Cllr Thomas advised that it is national change. Councillors advised that Co-op is not as rigid. Cllr M Steven did not feel safe and will not be returning to Tesco. The concern is that due to these actions and the increase in visitors it may cause an increase in cases. Cllr I Hall was not aware of this change. He will visit Axminster store and will take to social media to raise awareness and concern.

- b) District Councillor: Cllr Thomas** attended the meeting and had also provided a report for the Councillors prior to the meeting. See [www.trinitymatters.co.uk](http://www.trinitymatters.co.uk) for information. Main area at EDDC is support for COVID-19 and the implementation of government policies. EDDC are provided a weekly bulletin to business and residents which he is putting on facebook local boards. The Great Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) is coming back. The first meeting is taking place this week to discuss consultation. It is in the public domain and the main interest for Axmouth may be potential for this area is the Axminster South Section with a significant area of just over 500 properties which is in addition to the other sites in Axminster. Not all sites will be developed but hopefully consultation will start in August/September. Cllr Hyde asked if the relief road would be resurrected. Cllr Hall confirms that on the site proposed there are some strategic pill boxes within the proposed areas. The relief road is nothing to do with the GESP. Cllr Hall believes the consultation is imperative. (Cllr Thomas left 8.07)
- c) Parish Councillors: Cllr N Daniel** raised the tombstoning issues again. He will contact the Axmouth Harbour Management Company as is not satisfied with the Harbour Masters response to the concerns raised by the Parish Council. Cllr Hall offered to put warnings on Twitter etc. Councillors agreed that witnesses may feel more comfortable to report any incidents if they are more aware of the concerns. Cllr N Daniel will check the harbour bylaws and contact Cllr Hall. Cllr Daniel asked that the Clerk send a letter of thanks to DCC for cutting the hedges by the footpaths, they have done a really good job. **ACTION: CLERK** to send a letter. **Cllr K Steven** has received a letter thanking the Council for the benches and picnic tables on Coronation Corner. They did also mention the bench on the riverbank by the road bridge and that although it is in a good position, the ground just in front of it is uneven and wondered if the Council could raise and level it. **ACTION: CLERK** to reply thanking them for the comments about Coronation Corner but also advising that the other bench is not on Council Land and they are unable to be involved.
- d) Parish Clerk:** The Clerk had no report this month.

- 9) To accept any relevant correspondence:** All correspondence accepted.

**Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7:00pm**

The meeting ended at 8:11

Date: .....

Chairman: .....