



AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual Parish meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17th April 2019, at 7:00pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

Minutes

Those present:

Cllr Ken Steven (Chair) Cllr Nigel Daniel Cllr Morag Steven Cllr Glenn Hyde Cllr Ian Hunt
Cllr Chris Garrett Cllr Graham Mather

In attendance: Becki Davey (Clerk), PC Adam Speers and Cllr Ian Thomas. There were 9 members of the public.

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

Cllr Ken Steven welcomed and introduced the new Councillors; Christine Garrett and Graham Mather to the Council and Parishioners.

- 1. Apologies:** Were received and approved from Cllr Alan Harrison, Cllr Paul Britton and Cllr Ian Hall (DCC).
- 2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May 2018:** were **approved** and signed as a true record.
- 3. Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Ken Steven presented his report produced in full below:**

Good evening to all and thank you for coming.

I am pleased to say that the council is at full strength. We say farewell to Alan Harrison, after many years' service, and we will welcome Ron Badger on board.

Spring is now with us, following a reasonably mild winter, and we have not had to press our emergency plan into service. However, we must not be complacent as global warming continues and we are, more and more, likely to experience flash flooding.

The illustrated, abbreviated history of the village boards placed in the old Chapel Street 'phone-box and the Church Street bus shelter have been well received and many favourable comments have been forthcoming. As regards the 'phone-box, it is hoped to provide some internal illumination in the near future.

Councillors have walked all the parish footpaths over the last twelve months to ascertain their condition and have made some recommendations regarding their upkeep. It is hoped, that in the near future, we will, ourselves, make some improvements to the path from the Chapel Street bus stop to Higher Lane including the removal of the stiles at either end. This should greatly improve accessibility for all.

We have also made some improvements to the land at Coronation Green and hope to enhance this area by replacing the old faded information board with a new updated version.

Council is responsible for the maintenance of this area as well as grassed verges of Axmouth Road, keeping the pavement clear for pedestrians walking to and from Seaton.

Council continue to support many local organisations by way of financial grants. Please bear in mind that requests for funds must be made on the appropriate form and that each application is for one occasion only.

Council also scrutinise planning applications that affect the parish, keeping in mind the aspirations of all parties concerned together with legal constraints. The views of the council are considered by the planning authority

who make the final judgement. Unfortunately, their decision does not always suit all, including the parish council!

If you have any views on any aspect of planning, we are happy to hear them or, alternatively, you can use the East Devon planning website.

In order to keep the village clean and tidy and to help reduce flooding risk we held three clean-up days last year. These were well supported and indeed, quite enjoyable with a bit of fun and banter amongst the participants. It is intended to hold a further three this year, the first being on the 27th of this month. Why not come and join us, have a bit of fun and enjoy coffee and a bacon buttie at the end of the morning's labour!

Our meetings are normally attended by the District and County Councillors as well as the police. This close relationship can help us bring any relevant matters quickly to those organisations.

I thank, for his support since his election a couple of years ago, County Councillor Ian Hall. Also, District Councillor Ian Thomas who has been a constant ally for the past ten years or so. Finally, I would like to thank our clerk, Becki Davey, for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

Local elections take place early next month so please remember your vote for the best candidate for Trinity Ward will count.

4. Police Report:

No member of the force was able to attend the meeting, but had provided annual figures. The totals include Axmouth and surrounding areas including Boshill Cross. The Police always try to come to the monthly Parish Council meetings or supply a report if they are unable to attend.

5. District Councillor's Report: Cllr Thomas presented his report.

Cllr Thomas is the leader of EDDC, it is the first time someone from this ward has been.

There are 4,200 Council houses in East Devon, 37 of which are in the Trinity Ward. Cllr Thomas tries to visit each of the tenants in the ward at least once per year.

Cllr Thomas is the chair of the enterprise zone which is a business park at the Exeter end of the region.

EDDC are the national champion of bins! Cllr Thomas has received a letter from the minister asking for help with future plans. EDDC recycles 60% of waste, and nothing goes to landfill.

Seaton Wetlands were voted the 2nd best nature reserve in the UK in 2018.

EDDC has more and more digital services and have over 200 services available online 24/7 although they are making sure that people who do not use this service are not excluded.

EDDC no longer receive a grant from Central Government but still manage to balance the budget.

EDDC have the lowest CTax in Devon and one of the lowest in the UK. £2.72 of each bill is for EDDC, 7p per week.

EDDC have a local plan. They have a 5 year land supply and have enough planning consent in place to meet 5yrs of demand. EDDC can manage where the housing goes.

LED (Leisure East Devon). £millions goes into this each year.

Questions:

Parishioners asked, if 60% of waste is recycled, where does the other 40% go? Cllr Thomas advised that the 60% that is recycled goes to a facility in Greendale where it is sorted and sold, so also get a revenue from it. There is also the green waste which now has 10k customers (out of 65k homes) which is composted at Hill Barton and the compost is then used by EDDC. The remaining non-recyclable waste 40% goes to a power plant just outside Exeter where it is burnt and combusted and converted into power.

6. County Councillor's Report: Cllr Ian Hall was not present at the meeting and had not provided a report.

7. Reports from Community Groups: Members of Community Groups gave the following reports. (Reports had been sent by those who were unable to attend which were read out by the Chair, Cllr Ken Steven).

Axmouth Children's Theatre – Report read by Imogen Oldfield (Longest serving member of the group): The report is in full below:

Good evening. Here is the ACT report for the past 12months

Following on from our musical in March 2018 we went straight into our very popular Drama Club sessions, these continued throughout May and June, we were then fortunate enough to have the playwright Paul Sherman come up from Kent to launch his new play "Penny for your Thoughts" with us, this he had written specifically for

ACT to perform, he also came down in August to oversee two rehearsals and came to both of the end productions. Paul has now asked Malcolm to work with him on a very exciting new play with music based on Cornish folklore. In between times the cast have acted as waiters and waitresses at both of the Village Mega Breakfasts and will be doing so again on Saturday and we also manned the water station at the Axmouth Run. In the summer we also did our first full singing engagement at the Music on the Green event, this led to two more at Christmas, one in the Seaton Jurassic Centre and one at The Seaton Christmas Craft Market, we hope to do more of this type of event later this year including the second Music on the Green here in Axmouth. During December we were very grateful to Seaton Council for allowing us to use Marshlands whilst the hall was being renovated and it was there that we launched our new musical which we have just performed. This saw 4 new members join the cast, we also have 2 on our waiting list. We are thankful to all those who support our shows and to those who supported us in TESCOS tokens grant scheme, we do rely heavily on grants and donations, our shows get more and more expensive and elaborate to put on, so it all helps. We received £1000 from the TESCO bags of help scheme, this went on a new lighting and a lighting tower plus a new mixing amplifier. We have also just been awarded £261.00 from the Waitrose Community fund, this will be going on more new equipment. Our priority now is to get our own dedicated ACT laptop to control our lighting and sound system and some decent hand held Microphones before adding to the lighting system. We are however, also aware of others and so the profits from one of our last shows will be given back to the Village Hall towards their restoration fund. The hall after all is our home. That's it for now, our new Drama Club starts Tuesday, not sure yet of further productions but there will definitely be a musical next March. Thank You for your time.

Axmouth Yacht Club – Report from Amanda Parker:

This was presented as a PowerPoint presentation and is attached to these minutes.

Axmouth Village Show – Penny Sweetland: The report is in full below:

We are lucky living in such a wonderful village, with a great community spirit, fun loving friends and neighbours.

Our small Show committee of 8 people generously give their time and effort to ensure this annual village event is a huge success.

The show also has a team of dedicated volunteers that work tirelessly during show week, and other events, without whom the show would not be such a success.

The following donations were made from the 2018 show profits.

£500.00. presented to the Village Hall Committee towards repairs to the Village Hall ceiling.

£500.00 presented to the Village Playground maintenance.

£66.00 to for maintenance of the village defibrillator

Also a previous donation that supports the annual replenishment of the plants and maintenance for the little boat - Harwood on Coronation Corner in memory of Mr & Mrs Harwood of Blue Hayes, Stepps lane.

The 6th May 2019 the show is holding a coffee morning and plant sale in the village hall from 10am to 12pm.

On the 27th July 2019 1-5pm we will be holding Axmouth Village show's 76th show The show will be opened this year by Mr Philip Hurford, who has been judging the village show vegetables and flower classes for 25 years, so we are delighted he has accepted our invitation.

The theme for the 2019 show is "Where ever I lay my Hat" and we hope everyone in the village will enter the hat parade!

We also have Seaton's sunshine samba drum band, Selway sheep shearing and Devon flyball contributing to the show, plus the favourite dog show, tea tent and produce marquee.

We would like to thank everyone that supports us.

Jubilee Playground Association – Report from Sam Miller read by Cllr Ian Hunt: *Prior to reading the report, Cllr Hunt advised parishioners that he is on the playground committee but it is Sam Miller who does all the work!* The report is in full below:

We would first like to thank Axmouth Parish Council for continuing to support the Axmouth Playground by way of a maintenance grant of £500 each year. The Axmouth Playground needs a lot of regular maintenance which includes mowing, trimming, weeding and ensuring that the playground equipment - most of which is now over 10 years old is maintained to comply with safety standards. On Saturday 31 March we did have a clean-up day in

the playground and thanks go to Sandra Millman and Jay Wiseman who came along to help with refreshing the playground before the Easter Holidays! On top of all the volunteer hours, over the last year we have had to pay for repair and service to the playground mower (£106), repairs to the play equipment (£82) and purchase of additional bark for the play surfaces last summer (£166).

General maintenance aside, we now need to focus all energies on replacing three pieces of playground equipment which are sadly reaching the end of their life spans, namely the toddler swings, the agility unit in the corner and the large multi play unit in the centre of the playground. We can continue to pay for repairs and maintenance to these pieces of equipment - but our playground expert estimates that they will need to be replaced in the next year or so. We estimate to replace these pieces of play equipment with similar pieces but with better surfacing will be around £30k. To that end we have begun fund raising. We are very grateful to the Axmouth Village Show Committee who in November awarded us with £500 grant. Similarly we were granted £1,000 from Tesco Bags for Life campaign. Sam Miller also raised £100 as a donation from the recent Grizzly event. We are now focusing our energies on applying for further grants (have already applied to Calor Funding and Norman Trust) as well as having invited a number of different play equipment companies in the area to provide us with possible designs and quotes for the playground. If you are interested in helping with either fund raising or potential new designs for the playground then please contact either myself or Sam Miller on 07951 346 364 - all help will be gratefully received! Cllr Hunt finished by advising parishioners that if the playground is lost, the village will not get it back.

Axmouth United Football Club – Report from Chris Salter, Club Secretary read by Cllr Ken Steven: The report is in full below:

Axmouth United FC is a small 'grass roots' football club with about 60 members and entirely run by volunteers. The Club has one adult football team playing in the Devon & Exeter Football League. Currently the team plays in the league's Division 3.

Last season finished on something of a low, with the adverse weather causing many postponements that then had to be rearranged in a ridiculously short period of time. The upshot was that we dropped down a division. After several years of success this was of course a disappointment, but such are the highs and lows of sport it was perhaps inevitable that it would happen at some point.

When the present season began last August our team was under a new manager, with several new faces amongst the players. After the problems at the end of the previous season this one was always likely to be difficult and so it proved during the early part of the season. Since then however we have had a number of young players join us and now, nearing the end of the season, our fortunes are much improved, with wins in our last four home games.

It is interesting to look back and remember that at this time last year we still had twelve games to fit in. Now, because the weather has generally been so much kinder, we only have one game left, away on Easter Saturday. We always endeavour to be a friendly and welcoming club and on match days at home we are usually well supported. We have also had good support at most of our away games. This is very much appreciated.

Although the Club's Boshill Cross Ground is within the parish of Axmouth, it is over a mile from the centre of the village. We realise that the distance may deter some from the village from attending our home games, certainly if they want to walk, but we have very good parking facilities at the ground and would encourage more from the village to come and support us and become club members.

The clubhouse and football facilities at our Boshill Cross Ground continue to receive compliments from visiting teams from much larger clubs in Devon, but of course we always need funding in order to maintain them and to improve them even further. The Club's primary sources of income are from various activities organised by our fund-raising committee and from bar sales at our clubhouse on match days. In 2015 we received Section 106 money from EDDC that was used to replace the existing goalposts/nets on the main pitch with new ones to the latest standards and to replace the floodlights on the adjoining training pitch. This year we are pleased to have received part-funding through the Football Foundation for the replacement of the ageing boiler system in the clubhouse. This work will be carried out during the summer. We are also planning to build new dugouts on a DIY basis with funding for the materials hopefully coming from the Devon FA.

As our ground is not much above the level of the River Axe, with a stream running along its southern boundary, any prolonged wet weather during the football season is likely to result in games being postponed due to water logging. The preceding winter has been relatively kind to us in that regard. Nevertheless, it is only through the continuing excellent work put in by our volunteer groundsmen that the playing pitch is in such good condition.

Once we complete the current playing season in a couple of weeks' time we will have our annual dinner and awards night and then, after a short close-season, we will prepare for the next season that will commence in August.

Village Hall Management Committee – Report from Graham Mather:

Public Forum: Questions and answers:

Parishioners asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do about the condition of the old estate workshop as it becoming a danger to the public with masonry falling into the road. Cllr K Steven advised parishioners that the Parish Council regularly report it to EDDC building control but as it is a private building there is not much that can be done. The Clerk will report to EDDC again requesting that they complete a structural survey.

Parishioners asked about the cycle path from Axminster to Seaton. There are no parts of the proposed path that is part of Axmouth – perhaps speak to Seaton Town Council. Cllr Daniel did update parishioners on the hope that a footpath may be created towards Boshill Cross and that ownership of land was currently being established.

Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – 15th April 2020.

The meeting ended at 8.14pm

Date:

Chairman: