

AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual Parish Meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17th April, 2013 at 7.00pm in Axmouth Village Hall

Minutes

Those present:

Cllr Carol Rapley (Chairman)

Cllr Alan Harrison

Cllr Irene Harrison

Cllr Keith Lawes

Cllr Emily McIvor

Cllr Ken Steven

Cllr Morag Steven

Annie Dallaway (Clerk); Cllr J Knight (DCC); Cllr I Thomas (EDDC)

Representatives from community groups: Judith Simpson - Playground Committee; David Simpson – Natural Axmouth; Ann Harding – Friends of Axmouth Church; Hilary Harron & Rose Tidball – Axmouth Church

There was one member of the public present.

1. **Apologies** were received from Cllr Crescy Cannan
2. **Welcome and introductions by the Chairman of Council, Cllr Rapley.**
3. **The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25 April 2012 were confirmed and signed.**
4. **Public Forum**
The member of the public present expressed concern about the levels of traffic in the village. Cllr Rapley reported that funding had been allocated for a traffic scheme but DCC Highways had yet to finalise details.
5. **Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Carol Rapley presented her report produced in full below.** The report is also published on the website and a copy of the report is available on request.

“The year from April 2012 to March 2013 has been a busy one for the parish councillors who have been skilfully guided by our new parish clerk, Annie Dallaway, appointed in May 2012.

Local Plan Consultation – Village Boundary Consultation

Following on from the Local Plan consultation EDDC asked each village to participate and undertake a review of their village boundary. The parish council were tasked to consider areas that may be large enough for potential small housing developments to help meet the Local Plan target of 10 dwellings for Axmouth. Landowners were contacted and asked if they wished to submit a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). These areas were reviewed by EDDC, only one being acceptable. This was the land behind Axe Farm, above the Flood Zone. This was followed by a public consultation in the village to

gain local views about this site and other local priorities. The results of these consultations have been fed into the Village Plan which forms part of the Local Plan process which is currently due for adoption during 2013.

Traffic issues

Several schemes to control traffic through the village have been designed and discussed over the past years and for various reasons rejected by DCC's HATOC committee. Funding from Cllr Knight's locality budget over the past 2 years enabled the parish council to fund a traffic study for the village. The item was reported to HATOC at their meeting in March 2012. Funding for 2012/13 was set aside to implement a scheme in the village. However, problems with the design have meant that this pot of funding has now been carried over into 2013/14 whilst an acceptable scheme is designed by DCC engineers.

Viewing Platform

The viewing platform at Coronation Corner was officially opened by Cllr Jim Knight on July 14th, 2012. The walkway and the new viewing platform and the Interpretation Board have all received praise from the public. Funding was secured from the 'Investing in Devon (airport money)' Devon County Council, the Davis family as a memorial to their parents and grants secured from Axe Vale & District Conservation Society and Devon Bird watching and Preservation Society. Funded by Cllr Knight's locality budget, a series of bird silhouettes have been attached to the close boarded fence along the SW Water site. This silhouette collection will continue to grow as more funds become available.

Community Day

On Saturday July 14th 2012 the first Community Day was held in Axmouth and it was a great success. A list of maintenance work was compiled, focussing mainly on the brook, which had flooded the previous weekend during torrential rain on Saturday July 7th. A huge number of local people of all ages spent much of the day working very hard. This was followed by a celebratory barbecue organised by The Ship Inn. We intend to repeat this event this summer.

Community Flood Plan – Emergency Snow Plan

A community Flood Plan is being developed with the assistance of the Environment Agency to ensure that we are prepared for any further flash flooding events. This plan is in the early stages and will undoubtedly involve community volunteers to take responsibility individually and collectively for actions in this plan. This plan will be closely linked to our winter snow warden arrangements where volunteers hold 25kg bags of grit salt for use on steep parts of the road network in the village. We also have use of a towable spreader for salting the roads to be undertaken by our Snow Warden Julian Langworthy.

Active Villages

In December, we were approached by the Active Village project, aimed at promoting sport and physical activities within the local community for ages 5 to 95. Subsequently we applied for 2 Table Tennis tables and associated equipment and taster sessions will be organised in the Village Hall. We are also discussing the possibility of Jive dancing taster sessions through this project.

Bus Services

Our concerns over the loss of the X54 have been registered with First Group and DCC and we have urged them to look at alternatives. We have also approached AVMT for details of their local bus routes and how they connect so that a more comprehensive timetable can be displayed in the Village.

Burial ground

The site for a new burial ground is being discussed with the landowner and it is hoped to finalise this over the next few months. Funds are allocated annually towards the purchase and enclosing of a new site, currently £8500.

Telephone Box

The Council has procured the redundant village telephone box from BT. Repairs to the Box have been organised and painting will follow this summer. Sarah Williams has offered to erect the first display in the Phone Box, focussing on ecology and the brook and many thanks to her. Other suggestions from residents for future displays would be appreciated.

Parish Plan

To help us reach our objectives set out in the Parish Plan, several groups have been active this year. The Council continues to work with outside organisations to look for funding to allow us to reach these village objectives.

Neighbourhood Plan

The parish council have registered their wish to produce a neighbourhood plan which will help ensure that proposals for our parish are considered in the future. Until now there has been no funding for these plans but very recently the Government has announced a 2 year support programme for local communities however details have yet to be divulged.

The Footpaths Group

A proposal for a number of circular walks is being developed by this group. With the help and support of a DCC rights of way officer, Steve Gardner, steady progress is being made to develop a permissive path along this route.

Negotiations are underway with landowners for the section running from near the Village Gateway to Stedcombe and Boshill and an additional section running down to the estuary edge.

Playground Committee

The playground committee, led by Judith Simpson, is continually looking for volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the Jubilee playground. The council will continue to support them financially with an annual grant. A big vote of thanks to Judith for taking this on.

Jubilee Day

A sponsored walk, suggested and led by the late David Tresize, raised funds for a fantastic jubilee celebration in the Church and the Churchyard. Although it poured with rain, it was a wonderful day of music and drama, culminating in the Teddy zip wire from the church tower and the launch of Rocket Ted.

A plaque to commemorate the donators and the planting of the six Jubilee Oaks around the Show field has been placed on the gate to the field.

Commemorative Jubilee Mugs were purchased and given to all children in the parish.

Jurassic Coast Forum

Mike Green of Beer parish is a Jurassic Coast Ambassador and he gave a short talk to the parish council about the Jurassic Coast Community. Carol Rapley volunteered to get involved as an Ambassador and anyone else who is interested in this please make contact. Mike is very keen to promote this part of the Jurassic Coast.

Best Kept Village

The village entered last year but was not selected in the top three. We have entered again this year and hope to gain a better result!

Parishes Together Fund

This new fund represented £1.10 per elector, approx £450 in total. The fund had to be used jointly with other parish/es. Therefore, in partnership with the coastal town and parish councils of Seaton, Exmouth, Sidmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Beer and Branscombe, Axmouth joined a Jurassic Coast Marketing project. Exmouth Town Council is taking the lead on the project which aims to produce a leaflet featuring all the Jurassic towns and villages and promoting the World Heritage Site.

A further use of this fund was to enter a joint venture with Beer to use a contractor to clear areas of waterway in the parish.

Next financial year we are told that this fund will be allocated to each parish to spend without the need to collaborate.

Precept

The precept has been increased by 2% to £6834 this year to reflect increased salary costs associated with the ever increasing demands from local and central government initiatives.

Finally, we would like to thank all those members of the community who help keep our village looking clean and tidy by cutting grass, reporting potholes, picking up litter and numerous other helpful tasks.

We are proud to represent our small, vibrant village and look forward to serving the residents through the next year.”

6. Police Report

There was no representative from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary present at the meeting and no report had been received.

7. EDDC report - Cllr Ian Thomas

Report highlights:

- Cllr Thomas is EDDC Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and this year has been actively promoting improved rural broadband services and increased access to online services.
- The EDDC Local Plan 2006 - 2026 has yet to be adopted.
- A small social housing development is nearing completion in Uplyme. Cllr Thomas looks forward to visiting the completed development with Axmouth Parish Councillors in due course.

8. DCC report – Cllr Jim Knight

Report highlights:

- Cllr Knight thanked Councillors and residents for allowing him to serve the community throughout his term of office as County Councillor. Elections are due to take place on 2 May 2013.
- The Highways department has had a challenging year due to the impact of the extreme weather conditions on the road network.
- £10,000 *Invest in Devon* funding (from the sale of Exeter airport) was provided towards the costs of the Viewing Platform at Coronation Corner which was opened in July 2012.
- The DCC Locality Budget has once again been shared amongst the parishes throughout the last year with Axmouth receiving funding to refurbish the footbridge, to frame the Tithe map and to install bird silhouettes at the Viewing Platform.

9. Reports from community groups:

All reports are published on the website and copies of the full reports are available on request.

Axmouth Village Hall Committee:

- Income is received from hall hire courtesy of both regular community bookings and occasional event bookings. Of significance was the loss of Axmouth Pre-school at the beginning of 2012 who were the main users of the hall.
- The committee has carried out a range of fund raising activities during the last year, some in partnership with The Friends of Axmouth Church, notably the very successful Mega Breakfast.
- Maintenance carried out in 2012 includes a replacement to the water main, major repairs to the kitchen roof and a repair to the front porch.
- The AGM is due to be held on the 13 May 2013 when the accounts for 2012-13 will be available.

Natural Axmouth

- The group is preparing for a community survey of the ecology of the brook on 11 May which will result in recommendations to the parish council on a management regime which balances flood prevention with the encouragement of bio-diversity.
- Plans are in hand for the telephone kiosk to be used as an information point for the publicly accessible green spaces within the parish.
- Judith and David Simpson have been appointed as the new Tree Wardens for the parish.

Axmouth Playground Committee

- The committee is struggling to attract new committee members and the AGM in July was not quorate.
- The committee has carried out basic maintenance at the playground throughout the year and a rota has been produced for mowing from March – October.
- The annual play area inspection was carried out in November with only minor low risk items identified. It may be possible for some of the work to be carried out by the community.
- A donation of £500 has been gratefully received from the Parish Council.

Friends of Axmouth Church

- Fundraising to date has raised £20,000 towards the essential masonry repairs to the Church tower. £60,000 is required in total. Depending on the outcome of grant applications, it may be necessary to do the work in stages.
- Wednesday evening work parties are held weekly from 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Axmouth Church

- The Parish Magazine continues to be produced by the church.
- Messy Church sessions for families are currently available on the first Thursday of the month.
- A Friendship Lunch is organised monthly for those in the village who are of pensionable age and live alone.

10. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting – April 2014 - TBA

The meeting finished at 8.10pm.