

AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

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A meeting of the Axmouth Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15th February, 2012 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 Morag Steven
Cllr Ken Steven	Cllr Jim Knight (DCC)	Cllr Ian Thomas (EDDC)

1. Apologies were received and acknowledged from Cllrs Britton and Cannan.
2. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on January 18th 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Cllrs Lawes and McIvor asked for copies of the councils Standing Orders. There was a discussion on making the agenda more specific.
Action – Clerk to forward copies of the Standing Orders
3. Declaration of Interests
Cllr Rapley clarified the present declarations of interests procedure to those present. Cllr Thomas advised he was attempting to get clarification from EDDC as the present regulations will be amended later this year.
4. Ward Officers Report
The ward officer was unable to attend but had sent an e mail to advise that information would be placed on the Seaton Rural web page.
5. Highways
 - a) B3172 Estuary Road
The Clerk circulated a map of the Estuary Road to the Councillors.
 - b) Potholes / Other
It was noted that RPM Motors have recently placed a sign on the pavement. The Clerk reported that EDDC Streetscene are monitoring the site after our previous complaint.
Hedges intruding onto the highway were reported near Stedcombe Lodge on the east side of the B3172 and on the A3052 east of Boshill Cross.
Action – Clerk to notify DCC Highways.
Cllr Knight reported that the future of the Parish Lengthsman service will be discussed shortly at DCC.

6. Public Forum – No members of the public were present.
7. Planning.
 - a) To consider new planning applications.

12/0202/ADV Tesco Stores Ltd, Swan Rd, Seaton – Fascia and projecting signs. (as adjoining parish).
The Council objected to this application as they felt the number of signs was excessive and they did not want to see a proliferation of signage on the site.

12/0329/TRE Mrs Grey, Barley House, Axmouth – Felling of trees
The Council supported this application.
 - b) Planning Correspondence

The Council noted an e mail from Mr Willis-Flemming advising that he would like to meet the Council informally to be updated on the Councils ideas on future amenities for the Axmouth parish.

Action – Clerk to arrange suitable dates
It has been reported that the Axe Farm campsite have possibly replaced the shop building with the new larger one.

Action – Clerk to contact EDDC to clarify re planning permission.
Fence at 29 Chapel St (Cllr Lawes declared an interest) new information has been released on this but to date the Clerk has received nothing from EDDC.
8. Reports
 - a) County Councillor

Cllr Knight reported that the DCC budget is being decided this week and that the Fire and Police are requesting an increase in their precept. The Coastal Traffic Group will in future meet on Thursdays.
Local Project Grants - The Council discussed the various projects and decided to support the proposals from Uplyme PC and Beer PC.
 - b) District Councillor

Cllr Thomas reported that there was likely to be no increase in the Council Tax set by EDDC. It was also thought that the a feasibility study into a possible relief road as part of a review of the transport in the whole of the lower Axe valley could be included in the Local Plan.
 - c) Parish Councillors

Cllr Harrison reported on the recent Axminster DAPC meeting in Kilminster. Report attached. He also noted that the ‘Best Kept Village’ certificate need to be moved to the Harbour Inn.
Cllr McIvor reported on the possibility of obtaining a tree to mark the coming Jubilee and the locations such as Stepps Cross, car park at Village Hall etc.
 - d) Parish Plan groups

Footpath Group – Cllr Lawes noted that the working name was the Heritage Trail but that it could be named the ‘Jubilee Footpath’. Mr Steve Gardiner the Footpath Development Officer for DCC is undertaking land searches and will be contacting land owners. Any footpaths created will be ‘permissive’ only which will involve a contract between the landowner and DCC and they may qualify for funding for fencing etc. Axmouth PC will not have any part in the contract or any

liability. Cllr Rapley on behalf of the Council thanked the Footpath Group for all their work on this project.

Leaflet Group – the village leaflet is formatted and ready to go to print with an initial run of 1500. Funding from the East Devon AONB ‘Sustainable Development Fund’ should be confirmed by March. Cllr Knight offered £350 from his ‘Discretionary Grant’ fund towards increasing the print run by another 1500 copies which will allow the leaflet to be circulated more widely.

Action – Clerk to obtain grant application form and make application.

e) No other reports

9. Financial Matters

a) The financial statement was received and signed.

b) Cheques required

Project Cosmic	£150.00	Website hosting
Axmouth Village Hall	£22.50	Hall Hire July – Dec 2011
Axmouth Village Hall	£50.00	Donation re Christmas display
St Michaels Church	£350.00	Donation re upkeep of burial ground
Information Commissioner	£35.00	renewal of registration (Direct Debit)

c) Fixed Assets

Estuary Benches – the Clerk has contacted EDDC to advise we do not have the resources to take on the upkeep of the benched on the Estuary side and is awaiting an answer. The benches at Coronation Corner etc will be repaired in the next few weeks.

Action - Clerk to contact Mr Upperdine to request he removes the seat that it is in a very bad condition for assessment.

10. Seaton Redevelopment – No report this month

11. Other Matters

a) Village Hall

The Clerk advised the Council that she has hear from the DCC County Solicitor who advised that the Parish Council was already the managing trustee at the time of the grant. It now seems likely that the trusteeship changed prior to 2008.

Action - Clerk to ask the Charities Commission for documentation.

Cllr K Steven reported that it is possible that the Village Hall Committee will ask for a grant via DCC to update the decor to make it more acceptable to rent for private and social functions but this grant would often expect a level of funding from the parish council as well. Cllr Knight declared an interest as he is on the grant committee. Grants may also be available from other sources. The cost of the updating will be about £1,200.

b) Viewing Platform

It was reported that the licence provided by SWW is a fairly standard document with no unusual clauses. Aspects of insurance cover are being checked. The group are also looking at an extra interpretation

board with separate funding. The Clerk advised she has not had a reply from Mr Davis.

c) Burial Ground

Cllr Rapley has contacted Dr Underwood with the aim of getting an idea of the costs of procuring the land.

d) Footway Project

The Clerk was asked to chase for a copy of the Highways survey and to ensure that the plan is included for discussion at the next HATOC meeting on March 26th. Cllr Rapley advised that a new traffic survey is needed.

Action – Clerk to contact Meg Booth of DCC. Cllr Rapley to organise traffic survey.

e) Playground

The Clerk updated the Council on the progress with Mrs Simpson forming a committee. Mrs Simpson reported that the grass has already been trimmed. Cllr McIvor will be contacting her shortly.

f) Clerk s CiLCA submissions

The Clerk advised on the progress of her CiLCA submission.

g) War Memorial

Cllr Rapley read out an e mail from the War Memorial Trust which advised the Council would hear from them in the next month or so.

12. Correspondence.

CPRE newsletters

E mail – Lets Celebrate – Queens Jubilee.

13. Date of next meeting Wednesday, 21st March 2012.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

Notes on DALC: Axminster Committee Meeting

Kilmington Village Hall: 31st January 2012

- 1) The meeting was very well attended with 39 representatives plus the guest speaker present.
- 2) The Chairman said that any Parish Project would be welcome to have a Table Exhibit and short presentation at any meeting.
- 3) Jubilee.
 - a) Devon County Highways have stated that they will only require 6 weeks notice for a road closure connected with the Jubilee and will waive their normal fee. However, a risk assessment will still be required.
 - b) West Dorset are giving a grant of £250 for any Village Party. Enquires as to whether EDDC would also be generous were made.
- 4) The talk for the evening was on The Localism Bill, which has now become the Localism Act, by Leslie Smith, County Secretary DALC. Points worthy of note:
 - a) There are 2 versions of the Bill: the full version which runs to over 400 pages and the short Plain English version which is only 24 pages long. Unfortunately, they are not exactly the same!
 - b) Not all parts of the Act appear to be finalised.
 - c) County Council Tax is limited to 3.5% for the next financial year but there will be no cap on Town or Parish precepts. This may change in future years.
 - d) Internet Banking for Councils is being proposed for later this year. Not finalised.
 - e) The Audit Commission is being axed. The Internal audit will be unchanged, the External Audits are being Contracted Out. The system is still in transit.
 - f) The Standards Board will finish 31 March 2012 and the Code of Conduct will cease 31st July. However, proposals are being made for a Devon wide Voluntary Code.
 - g) The Neighbourhood Plan will be expensive. Pilots at Dawlish and Ivybridge are costing from £40k to £50k.
 - h) The Plan will involve an input from DCC Planning, an independent assessment and a referendum before acceptance. Also, it has to be in compliance with the Local plan. With Planning Authority compliance, it may be possible to adapt the Parish Plan.
 - i) There are 64 Towns/Parishes in Devon and the Planning Department will probably only be able to process 4 or 5 each year.
 - j) A Neighbourhood Plan is not mandatory.
 - k) The Localism Act will include the right to challenge/bid for services e.g. Lengthsman
 - l) My general impression was that a lot is not yet finalised.
- 5) Next meeting: 24th April at Dalwood Village Hall. This would be a Training Meeting and Parishes are requested to submit subjects they would like to be included.

Alan J Harrison

1st February 2012