

AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Carol Miltenburg, Colhayne Close, Colhayne Lane, Shute nr Axminster,
Devon, EX13 7QQ

(Telephone – 01404 831080, e-mail - clerk@axmouth.eastdevon.gov.uk)

A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18th January, 2012 at 7.00pm in Axmouth Village Hall.

Minutes

Those Present

Cllr Carol Rapley (Chairman)

Cllr Alan Harrison

Cllr Emily McIvor

Cllr Ian Thomas (EDDC)

Cllr Paul Britton

Cllr Irene Harrison

Cllr Ken Steven

Cllr Jim Knight (DCC)

Cllr Crescy Cannan

Cllr Keith Lawes

Cllr Morag Steven

PCSO Mike McGauley

1. All members of the Council were present.
2. The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on December 14th 2011 were approved and signed.
3. Ward Officers Report
PCSO McGauley reported that there had been 14 reported crimes in 2011 (11 in 2010) all of which were criminal damage or theft. In January there was a theft from a yacht in storage at the Harbour. He spoke on the new Farm Watch scheme and the Community Messaging Scheme. The speed of traffic on the B3172 Estuary Road has been monitored and while speeding has not increased since the opening of the Tesco store traffic volume has. The full results and information are on the D&CC website. He also noted that there will be more changes to the community policing structure for Seaton and Axmouth.
4. Highways
It was agreed that the Clerk was to write to all the residents from Southcombe Terrace to Coombe Farm to request that they do not park on the part of the verge near the playground sign as the bank is collapsing. The Council discussed the e-mail concerning the duties of the Lengthsman. As DCC are not aware of these duties the Clerk will ask SWH Ltd for information. It was reported that the blocking of the pavement outside RPM Motors was worse. Clerk to contact EDDC Streetscene. It was reported that a bench belonging to EDDC on the side of the estuary is in need of repair. Clerk to contact EDDC Streetscene. A utility cover in Chapel St is sinking. Clerk to notify the relevant electricity company.
5. Public Forum – No members of the public were present.

6. Planning.
- a) Planning applications.
No new planning application had been received.
- b) Planning Correspondence etc.
Mrs Sweetland, 8 Higher Axmouth – 11/2368/FUL – Planning permission refused.
Trees at Meadow View – email to advise that trees adjacent to this address are not subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
Local Plan – Comments are to be returned to EDDC by January 31st. It was considered essential that the document notes the village would supported a feasibility study into the provision of a relief road in Axmouth. Cllr Rapley will circulate a document to Councillors for comments and agreement before forwarding this for inclusion. The Council was surprised this had not been included previously.
7. Reports
- Cllr Jim Knight (DCC) reported that the DCC budgets will be discussed in the next week or so. There has been a very high demand for grit bins from the parishes. He confirmed his district councillors' Locality Grant has been used to fund the transport survey for the footway project, and this is now underway. The Local Project Grant funding should be decided shortly.
- Cllr Ian Thomas (EDDC) reported that the budget for EDDC has been drafted and is being discussed. The budget should be a balanced one and so Council Tax should stay stable. EDDC is using improved technology to save costs ie a new document management system to reduce storage costs. He reported that the telephone exchanges in Axminster and Seaton have been upgraded and broadband speeds nearby will improve radically but this falls away with distance.
- Cllr McIvor reported on a meeting on the new Localism Act. Details are on the EDDC website. Guidance notes on the Act will be issued in the near future. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council be the body within Axmouth to initiate a future Neighbourhood Plan. The Council would possibly consider collaborating with nearby Parishes to share costs etc. Clerk to write to local Parishes. Clerk to write to EDDC advising we would like to apply for funding to start this process and to ask for advice on how the Parish Plan can be adapted.
- Cllr Lawes reported on behalf of the footpath group. He advised that the project to construct a footpath down the cliff to the Harbour has been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Cllr Lawes was asked write to Natural England to express the Councils disappointment. The DCC Footpaths Officer will be visiting Axmouth for a tour and to give guidance. The footpath group will gradually start making informal contacts with local landowners.
- Cllr Cannan reported on the January meeting with the EDDC Conservation Officer Stephen Guy at Axmouth Harbour. He confirmed verbally that the Harbour area would be suitable for categorising as a Conservation Area. The Clerk confirmed that an e mail received from him indicated that due to workload and staffing levels any categorisation could not be undertaken in the near future. The Parish Plan report by Cllr Cannan has been circulated by e mail and is attached to the minutes. The new Axmouth Visitors Leaflet should be available in April funded by the Wildscapes Project. The draft copy should be available at the Councils February meeting.
- Cllr Rapley reported that the Bindon Estate have been undertaking a topographical survey of the Pound Hill and local area recently.

8. Financial Matters
- a) The financial statement was received and signed.
 - b) Cheques required
 - Project Cosmic £30.00 Domain name renewal
9. Seaton Redevelopment - Nothing to report.
10. a) Village Hall.
The Clerk reported on the findings about the Village Hall managing trustees. At present the Parish Council are registered with the Charity Commission as the sole Managing Trustee. In discussions it has emerged that this was possibly at the instruction of DCC in 2009. The Village Hall committee members are reluctant to take back the liabilities of trusteeship. Clerk to investigate the costs of liability insurance. Clerk to write to DCC County Solicitor for clarification.
- b) Viewing Platform
Cllrs Cannan and Rapley met with the Structural Engineer. The bid for a Local Project Fund grant has been forwarded to Cllr Knight. The Council is awaiting a permission from the Environment Agency. It is likely that a bird interpretation panel will be funded by local bird charities. Clerk to advise Mr Davies of progress.
 - c) Burial Ground
Cllr Britton will liaise with the PCC to agree the location of access and permission to cross existing graves.
 - d) Footway Project - See Reports section.
 - e) Playground
Cllr Rapley reported that the Playground Committee resigned in 2011. Enquiries have been made and there have been expressions of interest for residents interested in forming a new committee. It was reported that the Playground Committee has funds of approximately £900 in its bank account. The Clerk is to write to Mrs Judith Simpson to ask if she would be prepared to take this on with the support of the Council and also to Mrs Julie Paynter to thank her and the previous committee for all the work they have put into the playground and to ask for relevant documentation to be passed on. Cllr McIvor agreed to be the Councils representative on the new committee. Cllr Britton agreed to temporarily look after the strimmer and mower. I
 - f) Coronation Corner Planter - On going.
 - g) Dog Warden - On going.
 - h) War Memorial
The Clerk reported that neither the Royal British Legion nor the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are able to give grants to add the name of Charles Bole to the memorial. The Clerk is now going to apply to the War Memorials Trust.

i) Jubilee Celebrations

The Council discussed the possibility of planting a Jubilee oak or hedge. The Councillors agreed to investigate obtaining trees and to work with the Village Hall Committee to arrange the celebrations.

11. Correspondence.

CPRE Fieldwork & Planning Explained - newsletters

EDDC Connect - newsletter

DALC newsletter & Axminster DALC agenda

Devon Community Recycling Junk Mail – newsletter

RD& E NHS Trust 24Seven – newsletter

Clerks & Councils Direct - newsletter

12. Date of next meeting Wednesday, 15th February, 2012.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm