



# AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:  
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The Annual Parish meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022, at 7:00pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

## Minutes

### Those present:

Cllr Nigel Daniel      Cllr Chris Garrett      Cllr Graham Mather      Cllr Ron Badger      Cllr Paul Britton  
Cllr Jonathan Wiseman

**In attendance:** Becki Davey (Clerk). There were 3 members of the public.

The Councillors were summoned and members of the public were invited to attend the Annual Axmouth Parish Meeting:

### Cllr Nigel Daniel welcomed everyone to the meeting:

- 1. Apologies:** Were received and approved from Cllr Ken Steven, Cllr Morag Steven, Cllr Paul Zisman, Cllr Ian Thomas (EDDC) and Cllr Ian Hall (DCC).
- 2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** were **approved** and signed as a true record.
- 3. Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Ken Steven.** Cllr Steven had written a report. Vice-Chair Cllr Nigel Daniel read it in his absence. The report is in full below:  
At the time of the last Annual Parish Meeting we were still in the full throes of the Covid Pandemic and meetings were, therefore, held via Zoom. This format allowed normal council business to be conducted but, in my opinion, not as satisfactorily as face to face meetings. Fortunately it was not long after this that restrictive rules were relaxed and face to face meetings were resumed.  
The relaxing of the rules meant that we were able to restart our clean-up days and my thanks go to those who gave, and continue to give, their time to help with the little jobs that can considerably improve our environs. It is amazing the difference a few working hours can make. My thanks also to those who do not necessarily join in on the allotted day but who make the extra effort adjacent to their properties in their own time.  
A new oak tree sapling has been recently planted in the show field. This is to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and was presented to the Parish by our District Councillor.  
Throughout the last year council have examined a number of planning applications making decisions always with due regard to the impact of all involved factors. In some instances we have even improved a submitted application! It is not always easy to please everyone, however we do our best to get the correct balance where there may be any conflict of interests.

In the hope of guaranteeing the future of the playground council have elected to disband the old Playground Association and to operate this facility through a Parish Council Committee. We thank the Bindon Estate for their co-operation and generosity in this matter.

I am very pleased to note the Parish Council sponsored defibrillator training was well attended. It is some comfort knowing that the unit is in place but let's hope our trainees never have to use it!

We are very much aware that traffic volumes and speed are of concern to many residents and have spent a lot of effort attempting to alleviate the problem. A Vehicle Activated Speed unit is being shared with other parishes and is located from time to time either on Coombe Terrace or Chapel Street. Some surprising results have been noted!

We have endeavoured for some time to have a permanent VAS sign on Church Street but our efforts so far have been in vain! However, we are encouraged by our County Councillor not to let up and to continue with our campaigning.

We have, recently, applied to have a 20 mph speed limit applied throughout the village. We shall find out in due course if this will be granted in whole or in part.

As you may know, after many years, both my wife Morag and I have decided to stand down as Parish Councillors. This will leave two vacancies on the council so it is time for some fresh blood and ideas.

There is some interest in fulfilling these vacancies but the more interest the better! Why don't you consider spending an hour or so each month for the benefit of all our community?

In the meantime, I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their work and support over many years. Of course, a special thanks to our clerk, Bec Davey, who has been and I hope will continue to be invaluable!

Ken Steven,

Chair, Axmouth Parish Council

4. **District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting he had provided a report which can be found on the Council website [Agendas and Minutes - Axmouth Parish Council](#)
5. **County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Ian Hall was unable to attend the meeting he had provided a report which can be found on the Council website [Agendas and Minutes - Axmouth Parish Council](#)
6. **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 Vice-Chair, Cllr Nigel Daniel).

**Axmouth PCC & Friends of Axmouth Church – Report from Ann Harding:** The report is in full below: On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank the Parish Council for the grants in support of the Parish Magazine and maintenance of the Churchyard.

The Parish Magazine is thriving thanks to the Editor, Dot Browning and Advertising coordinator Nancy Yeoman. It is now produced in full colour and well received by all. Many thanks also to the group of volunteers who deliver a free copy to every house in the village. With the support of our advertisers and the Council grant the magazine covers its costs.

The Churchyard is a credit to our village and is looking beautiful at the moment – full of spring flowers. Our thanks go especially to Chris Wakely for his excellent maintenance work, and all the volunteer work party helpers. The Council grant of £500 helps greatly towards the annual costs, but the balance has to be found from our Church collections. There is no help from the Diocese.

Joining the Axe Valley Mission Community has produced challenges, but the Church here in Axmouth has stood the test of Covid and our congregation has remained loyal. Like many other Churches we

were not able to pay our full Common Fund of almost £18,000 to the Diocese this year due to covid restrictions on services etc.

The Friends of Axmouth Church are a great support to the Church, this year enabling us to upgrade our heating system following the kind donation of a new oil-fired boiler. The Christmas Tree Festival in 2021 was, I think, our best ever, and fund-raising activities are planned for the year ahead.

Ann Harding

Churchwarden [www.axmouthcommunity.org](http://www.axmouthcommunity.org)

Questions: Councillors questioned the £18k common fund. AH explained that it was calculated by the number of the congregation, clergy and staff and works out at £10.50 per congregation head per week and that is just the common fund. No funds are given from the Diocese, it all has to come from donations. The church are never going to make the full fund. They paid £12k this year and made a loss of £3k this year. Churches within the deanery made about 60% payment this year. Neil Williams, finance director, came and spoke to the church and explained that they are subsidising to cover those churches who can't afford anything. They are very lucky in the village, as they have some villagers who take some of the services. The church looks fantastic at the moment.

**Axe Canoe Club – Report from Deb Stamp:** The report is in full below:

My name is Debs. I am a Level 3 coach and I coach Canoe, Kayak & SUP at Axmouth Canoe Club. The club is based at the harbour in Seaton. We have around 70 members at present.

During the last 2 years we have tried to keep the club running when we were able. The club house was closed to members so we managed to operate outside changing in cars to keep a safe distance during covid. Last week we opened the club house up using a strict way of only 5 people using showers and changing rooms at a time which has worked well.

This Summer is going to be very busy. All of our courses are booked. On Tuesdays and Fridays we are coaching Canoe and Kayak. Saturday mornings the club runs a Junior Academy which is very popular. It is for 11-15 year olds. They have an introduction to paddle sports which can lead to Start, Discover and Explore British Canoeing Awards. Through May, June and July the club runs school days where local schools come or a day of fun on and in the water. We are running 10 days this year and Seaton, Beer, Colyton and Musbury primary schools as well as Colyton Grammar School coming for a 2 day course. All of these days are run by qualified volunteers.

During some evenings we join EDDC and do river safaris with rangers from Seaton Wetlands explaining about all the wildlife that lives on the river banks. This is always fully booked. We provide the boats and equipment and paddle the people up the river in canoes. Bookings are made on the EDDC Countryside website.

During the Summer we have club trips on a Sunday and we paddle; Salcombe, Portland Bill, Old Harry's Rock, Hope Cove, Port Quin, Dartmouth, around Seal Island and a great favourite Crackington Haven to Boscastle where ice-creams and cream teas are essential.

In July we have our annual open canoe weekend where paddlers from all over the country come to paddle on the sea in open canoes. A lot of the open canoeists only paddle on rivers and estuaries so this is a great opportunity for them.

During the Winter we tend to paddle on the rivers – what we call white water paddling. We paddle the Dart, Barle, Exe and Tavy rivers.

If you are interested in learning or trying out canoeing or kayaking have a look at our website

[www.axevalecc.co.uk](http://www.axevalecc.co.uk)

Deb Stamp

**Axmouth Children's Theatre – Report read by:** The report is in full below:

We have just completed our new play after a long break due to Covid, we restarted in August only to find that we had lost a lot of members during the lockdown period. We gradually got the numbers

back up to 11 for the last performances which were sold out on both nights. Next week we start again with our popular Drama Club sessions, all of the current group have signed up and we have 2 maybe 3 new ones joining us. The Drama Club sessions will lead into our next show which looks like being a Pantomime either in December or early 2023. The groups ages range from 8 to 14 and they attend 8 different schools, they are a young and enthusiastic group and are very supportive of each other. The long lockdown has also meant that we have had to renew our Safeguarding certificates plus our first aid and DRS certificates. We have also renewed our membership to SAFEcic. All of these cost money so we are grateful to everyone who attended our shows and in doing so helped cover some of these outgoings.

One of our former cast members who is currently doing a four-year drama course in Exeter will be joining us to assist with the Drama Club.

Finally, we would like to thank the various groups who use the hall plus the Village Hal Committee for their understanding and co-operation during rehearsals and shows.

For further information see our website [www.axmouthchildrenstheatre.org.uk](http://www.axmouthchildrenstheatre.org.uk)

Or our community Facebook page.

Many thanks

Malcolm Henty, ACT Chairman

### **Axmouth United Football Club – Report from Chris Salter, Club Secretary read by Cllr Nigel Daniel:**

The report is in full below:

Like many other organisations, Axmouth United FC has experienced plenty of difficulties over the past two years due to the Covid pandemic and associated lockdowns, and local football in general has been considerably affected, with seasons 2019/20 and 2020/21 both being cut short in the Devon & Exeter Football League (DEFL).

This time last year we found ourselves without a team manager, which significantly impacted on our preparations for season 2021/22, particularly in respect of player recruitment. Then, not long after the season began, we lost several regular players to injuries and illnesses, some of them long-term, leaving us with a very small pool of available players and with no sign of that improving in the immediate future. We were consequently unable to guarantee being able to field a team every week. In such circumstances it was felt it would be unfair on the DEFL and other clubs/teams if we tried to carry on, and so our committee decided reluctantly there was no viable option but to withdraw the team from the DEFL for the remainder of the season.

Nevertheless, despite these recent disappointments we are looking to the future. Next year will be the Club's centenary year, and we want to celebrate that fact and do justice to the excellent facilities we have at our Boshill Cross Ground. We will once again be entering a team in the DEFL and are already working towards that. The Club is entirely run by volunteers and we would welcome more people from the village coming to support us in our desire to return Axmouth United to the success on the field that it enjoyed during the previous decade.

Chris Salter

Club Secretary [www.axmouthunited.co.uk](http://www.axmouthunited.co.uk)

**Axe Yacht Club – Report from Commodore Nigel Daniel:** This was presented as a PowerPoint presentation and is can be found on the website [Agendas and Minutes - Axmouth Parish Council](#).

Questions: Councillors asked whether there was a maximum number of members. ND confirmed that it was around 950 but this would be reviewed again if membership gets near to that limit. The Club has put in place a criteria for joining new members in order to attract those actively involved with boating. Details can be found on the Club's website [www.axeyachtclub.co.uk](http://www.axeyachtclub.co.uk)

**Public Forum: Questions and answers:**

A member of the public raised the issue of parking in the village, especially Chapel Street. It is becoming difficult. They wondered if there was any hope of ever having a village car park in the future? Most of the houses in the village have car spaces. Where would a public car park go? The showground was discussed but would it be used? The riverside could be an option but there are questions to consider including who owns the riverside? Cllr Britton advised that a survey/consultation was carried out about 15-16 years ago which considered requesting Highways to move the road across and putting the pavement on the riverside. There would be about 6 culverts to move. The Council agreed to investigate this.

No further questions were raised. Cllr Daniel thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7:37

**Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – TBA**

Date: .....

Chairman: .....

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