



AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:
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A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 12th October 2022, at 7:00pm at Axmouth Village Hall

Those present:

Cllr Graham Mather Cllr Chris Garrett Cllr Paul Britton Cllr Jonathan Wiseman

In attendance: Bec Davey (Clerk), Toby Russell (Devon Air Ambulance) and 7 members of public from Colyford

- 1) **To receive and acknowledge apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Zisman (Holiday), Cllr Ron Badger (Meeting) Cllr Nigel Daniel, Cllr Jane Drown, Cllr Ian Thomas (EDDC) (Sick) and Cllr Ian Hall (DCC) (Work).

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

- 2) **Declarations of Interests:** Cllr G Mather declared an interest in item 10c as his report will mention the Village Hall and he is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Britton declared an interest in item 4 as a member of the PCC.
- 3) **Devon Air Ambulances' work with communities to establish night landing sites:** Toby Russell (TR) from the Devon Air Ambulance attended the meeting to discuss a possible night landing site in Axmouth. He explained he had previously met with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk to discuss possible sights and wanted to give an update to the whole Council. DAA works until 2:00am. At night, they operate using community night landing sites. During the day they land anywhere possible. Each night landing site has to meet certain criteria including; size of area, flat area, road access & away from livestock. All areas are surveyed so the DAA know where features and hazards are. There also needs to be remote controlled lighting for the site. The DAA use night vision goggles and spotlights but it is always safer to have a lit up area, and it also helps to facilitate the site. TR explained that these are voluntary initiatives and he has nearly finished his report. Work in the area began a while ago and they now have 194 operational sites and 30-40 in the pipeline. TR has done some work in Musbury where land was identified and the process had progressed including lighting but unfortunately when they carried out a safety flight it was discovered it was not possible to use the site. DAA have since improved their processes. The next best site was Axmouth Football Club (AFC). There are wires along the site but these can be allowed for. AFC are very supportive of the initiative. The football club is within the Parish of Axmouth and is equi-distance between Musbury and Axmouth (1.2 miles). DAA realised they should discuss this with Axmouth Parish Council. Funds have been raised by Musbury for a site in

their Parish, not Axmouth, and TR believes they may be reticent to go forward with a dual project. Councillors were disappointed at this news because Musbury Parish Council contacted Axmouth Parish Council back in September 2019 to discuss just this. TR has checked the other areas in Axmouth that were mentioned during the initial meeting with Cllr Garrett, Cllr Daniel and the Clerk but none of them were suitable. The details will be in his report. AFC is the only possible site. There is some more work to be done before the report comes to the Council but the DAA know there is a possible site and know what lighting would work. They now need to calculate the costs. DAA can offset some of the cost through a grant (% of lighting cost), the other monies needs to be collected from the community. This would be part of 'stage two'. There is already a site at Seaton Cricket Club and Councillors wondered how would a site at AFC compare with the one already at SCC. TR explained that they need to take the central point of the village for comparisons which is over 2.1 miles from SCC via road whilst AFC is 1.2 miles. This is one of the considerations but it costs nothing to calculate the costs. Councillors thanked TR for his update and requested that he continue with the report, calculate costs and then once the community figure is known, they will get in touch with Musbury. (TR left 7:22).

- 4) **The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 20th July 2022:** The minutes were **approved** and signed. Cllr Garrett advised that she still has to write an item about Tombstoning problems at the harbour for the Parish newsletter. Cllr Britton confirmed that the church have been talking with the Deanery and Dr Loveridge about a possible graveyard extension. (Cllr Britton declared an interest in this item as a member of the PCC).
- 5) **To agree any items to be discussed after the public, including the press have been excluded:** No items to be discussed after the public have left.
- 6) **Highway Matters including Community Speed Watch:** Cllr Mather confirmed that the VAS is currently installed in Chapel Street. The Clerk is to obtain an update on the possibility of a fixed VAS along Church Street. Cllr Mather advised Councillors that he has been looking into a Community Speed Watch advising them that if the Councillors wish to progress the plan there needs to be a co-ordinator. This would not have to be a Councillor although Cllr Mather would be willing to take on the role. Cllr Mather has spoken with a member of the Colyford Speed Watch group who have invited Councillors to attend a speed watch session at Colyford. He has also been in touch with the Devon & Cornwall community speed watch group who have sent him information about the processes; the group needs to be registered, complete training and needs a minimum of four people in the group, with more volunteers to do the actual speed watch. They indicated that a police officer would visit and could provide a speed gun when required or the Council could purchase one for themselves. Members of the Colyford speed watch team were present at the meeting and explained that they carry out a check a couple of days per week at approved sites. They have funded two speed cameras and confirmed that the police are very keen to be involved, and the Speed watch team have their support. They believe that their VAS are ineffective and should Axmouth be successful in getting a VAS installed on Church Street, would recommend Axmouth getting one which flashes number plates of speeders or the actual speed. Cllr Mather explained that one of criteria for a 20mph zone was Community Speed Watch. There is a Speed Watch conference at Westpoint on 18.10.22 (9:30am - 1:00pm) which Councillors could attend. Cllr Mather and Cllr Garrett offered. Councillors wondered if the speed watch team receive abuse. They confirmed it is possible, but team members can take car details of drivers who are offensive and report them.
Councillors decided that they would like to go ahead but to wait until the Spring.
Cllr Garrett advised that Cllr Daniel has reported the posts missing by the brook in Chapel Lane again. **ACTION: Clerk** to Contact Cllr Hall for assistance.

7) Fixed Assets including bus shelter and viewing platform: The Bus Shelter roof needs repairing and also a new coat of paint. **ACTION: Cllr Britton** to look into this. The bus shelter is used every day by the school buses. The Clerk advised Councillors that the person who was going to repair the stilts in the Playground is unable to do so. **ACTION: Cllr Britton** offered to arrange for the works to be completed.

A temporary fix has been carried out at the Viewing Platform. **ACTION: Cllr Daniel** to contact Ian Hunt to make a permanent repair.

8) Financial Matters:

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end September 2022. The statement was approved.
- b) To review the first half budget: Councillors reviewed the first half budget. The Clerk advised that the insurance had increased and will no doubt continue to do so which must be considered when preparing the budget for 2023/24.
- c) To ratify the agreement whether to opt-in to the SAAA External Audit procurement: Councillors agreed to opt-in to the SAAA External Audit procurement.
- d) To approve the following payments:

Mr J & Mrs L Widger	Waterside & Riverside contract	BACS	690.00
Gallagher Insurance	Annual Insurance Premium	BACS	796.86
Blaze Concepts	Remembering Queen Elizabeth II	BACS	33.00
Trowers & Hamblins	Deed of Assignment for playground	BACS	2769.00

The Clerk also asked for the following payments:

Mrs C Garrett	Reimburse Expenses	BACS	36.00
Mr R Badger	Reimburse Maintenance Expenses	BACS	252.68

Councillors approved the above payments.

9) Planning Applications: No new applications.

10) To accept reports and agree actions from the following:

- a. **County Councillor:** Cllr Hall was unable to attend the meeting. See [Agendas, Minutes & Reports - Axmouth Parish Council](#) for a copy of his reports.
- b. **District Councillor:** Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting. See [Agendas, Minutes & Reports - Axmouth Parish Council](#) for a copy of his reports.
- c. **Parish Councillors:** Cllr Garrett asked about Reports from two Ian's. Add something to the front of the website - latest news.

Cllr Mather advised that the Village Hall is owned by the Parish Council and is managed by a management committee (Charity Number 300751) of which he is the Chair. The management committee have had a meeting to discuss the cost of the maintenance repairs and believe that as the Parish Council owns the building, they should be responsible for the maintenance costs of the building. The committee would continue with the minor works and utilities. Costs have changed. Electricity itself is now over £1k per annum. Most of the funds raised is via fundraising and it is getting harder to raise. They are limited with how much can be raised by people hiring the hall. It is a small hall so it is not always suitable as it is not big enough. They have managed to get some grants. The committee are getting concerned because it is an old

building (Grade II) and there is becoming more to maintain. Cllr Garrett asked what needs doing and what the costs would be. Cllr Mather explained that there are currently two holes in the roof that need fixing asap. Cllr Mather proposed that the committee obtain quotes and bring it to the Parish Council for approval. These costs will need to be considered in future budgets. Councillors agreed. **ACTION: Clerk** to add item to the next agenda. Cllr Mather will bring the Hall's finances.

Cllr Britton discussed the refurbishment of the parking area opposite 6 & 7 Higher Axmouth. He has reservations concerning the works and ownership of the land. The Clerk explained that it had been confirmed that the land is not registered to anyone and that the correspondence from those undertaking the work was merely a courtesy.

- d. **Clerk's report:** The Clerk advised Councillors that the assignment of the lease for the playground is still ongoing.

11) To accept any relevant correspondence: All correspondence was accepted.

12) Public Forum: No questions were raised.

Parish Council Meeting 16th November 2022 at 7:00pm

Date:

Chairperson:

Meeting ends 8:02