



# AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:  
BECKI DAVEY  
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**A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, at 7:00pm at Axmouth Village Hall**

**Those present:**

Cllr Nigel Daniel      Cllr Graham Mather      Cllr Paul Britton      Cllr Paul Zisman  
Cllr Ron Badger      Cllr Jane Drown

**In attendance:** Bec Davey (Clerk), Cllr Ian Thomas (EDDC) and 4 members of public from Colyford

- 1) **To receive and acknowledge apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Garrett (holiday), Cllr Jonathan Wiseman (work) and Cllr Ian Hall (DCC) (holiday). Approved.

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

- 2) **Declarations of Interests:** Cllr G Mather & Cllr R Badger declared an interest in items 6d, 6e, and 6g as members of the Village Hall Management Committee.
- 3) **The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022:** The minutes were **approved** and signed.
- 4) **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.
- 5) **Highway Matters including Community Speed Watch and VAS results:** Cllr Mather advised that the VAS is still up so the report will come to the January meeting. Councillors questioned if it would be possible to put a 20mph sign up anyway, would it be legal? There is a '20 is plenty' campaign going on all over the country. Councillors will not give up but the criteria bears no relation to the issues. Members of the public mentioned that Colyton PC put a request in through '20 is plenty'. The parishioners wanted it but very few fit the criteria so they were unsuccessful. Councillors have demonstrated previously and considered doing this again. They know that money is tight but believe the cost is minimal. The VAS report are for Chapel not Church Street. **ACTION: CLERK** to get an update on the pole outside Marandellas. The police won't necessarily enforce the speed limit but evidence from VAS would hopefully allow for a stronger case. Cllrs Mather, Daniel and Hall have visited the whole parish and supplied a lot of data and photographic evidence but it was not considered relevant because it did not fit the criteria. Cllrs Mather and Zisman offered to meet with Cllr Hall outside of the Council meetings (with Cllr Garrett).

## 6) Financial Matters:

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end October 2022. The statement was approved.
- b) To discuss budget items for 2023/24 and review the forecast for 2022/23: Councillors reviewed the forecast for 2022/23 and discussed budget items for 2023/24. The final budget and precept will be agreed at the next meeting.
- c) To acknowledge clerk's national pay award (backdated to April 2022). The clerk advised Councillors that the national pay award of £1925 per staff member (pro rata) and one additional days leave, all backdated to April 2022, has been approved. This equates to an additional £1.00 per hour for the clerk.
- d) To consider grant request from Axmouth Village Hall Committee for £75.00 towards the Christmas Tree, Decorations and Electrics: *Cllrs Mather and Badger had declared an interest on this item and were not involved in the conversation.* Councillors considered the grant request and agreed to make a grant payment of £100.00. **ACTION: CLERK** to arrange payment.
- e) **Village Hall & Fixed Assets Maintenance:** Councillors discussed the maintenance of the village hall and fixed assets. A quote has been received to replace the boards on the Viewing Platform and as it is over £500.00, the Council will need to obtain two more quotes. Cllr Britton is going to source some shingle tiles to repair the roof of the Chapel Street bus shelter.  
The bench at Higher Axmouth (entrance to bridle path) needs replacing. Mr G Loveridge has offered a cast iron bench. Councillors considered using this or replacing the bench with another wooden one. **ACTION: CLLR DANIEL** will research further.  
*Cllrs Mather and Badger declared an interested on this item. Cllr Mather answered questions by the Council in his capacity as chair of the village hall committee.* The outside of the Village Hall is starting to require repair; two leaks in the roof and general maintenance. Stones are starting to fall out of the walls. Cllr Mather confirmed there is £5k in the contingency account and £7k in the bank. (Financial report will be sent to Clerk to forward). Committee are not experts, they need a structural report completed. Once works and costs are known, grants could be applied but many are only available is price matched by APC. Councillors requested that a plan of works with associated costs be supplied by the committee to consider further. The building is Grade II listed, so may need to apply for listed building consent too. Slates have slipped on the porch; repairing this would be straight forward. **ACTION: CLERK** to check with EDDC about Listed Building Consent. Cllr Thomas advised that the Community Buildings Fund applications closes on 09.01.2023. It is for Capital spends only.
- f) To consider projects for the balance of the Jubilee Grant: There is a balance remaining from the Jubilee Grant. Councillors agreed to spend this on either a picnic bench in the playground or a bench at the bottom on Stepps Lane (with a plaque) and that the final decision be made by the parishioners. **ACTION: CLERK** to ask **Cllr Garrett** to add an item in the Parish newsletter asking Parishioners for their preferred option. **Clerk** to add to Januarys agenda.
- g) To approve the following payments:

Mrs C Garrett	Jubilee Photo Album	BACS	273.18
DALC	AGM & Conference	BACS	42.00
Blaze Concepts Ltd	Annual Website Hosting Fee	BACS	633.60
Axmouth PCC	Poppy Wreath	BACS	20.00
Axmouth Village Hall	Hall Hire; April - November	BACS	90.00
GeoXphere Ltd	Annual Subscription	BACS	36.00

The Clerk also asked for the following payments:

Councillors approved the above payments.

- 7) **Planning Applications:** No new applications. The Draft Local Plan 2020-2040 is now out as a draft which indicates the allocation of strategic sites for potential housing. They are mainly in the Western side of the district - close to Exeter. Individual possible sites for development have been detailed and are available to see on the EDDC website; [Emerging Local Plan - East Devon](#) Settlements within Axmouth are not listed; it is considered open countryside so there is a presumption there is nowhere for development. It is also considered to be a Coastal Preservation Area. There are a number of public exhibitions. Councillors asked if they take the Village Plan into consideration? Cllr Thomas explained that it could be argued to carry some weight but it is not made formally in the same manner as a neighbourhood plan. (Axmouth Parish Council did start a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) several years ago but then decided that the Local Plan did what the NP would have done so felt it was not necessary to continue). Axmouth is also within an AONB which is one of the highest protections, but this does not mean there cannot be allocation within the area. There are additional policies that apply within an AONB. Councillors asked for Cllr Thomas's view on phosphates in the river Axe. More building works mean more phosphates. Cllr Thomas agreed that it was significant. It could potentially put a stop on development in the area but people are still trying to find the source. Cllr Thomas has a paper on the matter and will forward it to the clerk. Cllr Daniel has seen the report, it is in the public domain. It is a serious issue. Cllr Daniel asked what happens if a site has planning permission granted for a development but the area is then subsequently designated a different criteria (marine conservation zone) - what happens. Cllr Thomas explained that the permission has been granted and cannot be withdrawn as long as the developer abides by any conditions and criteria given by the permission awarded.
- 8) **Review Action Plans:** Councillors reviewed the action plan and were happy with the progress on all actions.
- 9) **Footpath Project:** Cllr Daniel explained that the footpath under consideration is the proposal for linking the village centre with FP18 leading to Axe Bridge, this also allows footpath access for residents of Stedcombe Vale. Cllrs Daniel and Zisman will arrange to meet with the respective landowners soon.
- 10) **To accept reports and agree actions from the following:**
- County Councillor:** Cllr Hall was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report prior to the meeting. See [Agendas, Minutes & Reports - Axmouth Parish Council](#) for a copy of his report.
  - District Councillor:** Cllr Thomas attended the meeting. His report was discussed during item 7. See [Agendas, Minutes & Reports - Axmouth Parish Council](#) for a copy of his report.
  - Parish Councillors:** **Cllr Mather** offered the Council a fuchsia bush which he is disposing of. Councillors accepted his offer and agreed that it could replace the brambles and rose which need cutting back on Coronation Corner. **Cllr Britton:** The PCC have discussed the cost of producing the magazine and ask that the grant received from the Council be increased. The clerk reminded Councillors that it is a grant that they award which must be applied for by the PCC. It is not a donation. **ACTION: CLERK** to add to the next agenda when discussing the finances and the budget/precept. Paperwork for playground. **Cllr Zisman** wondered if it was possible to get the results of planning applications. **ACTION: CLERK** to find out. **Cllr Daniel**

mentioned that the bus service is practically non-existent towards both Lyme Regis and Exeter, and wondered if it would be possible to extend the Seaton Town service to include Axmouth. **ACTION: CLERK** to investigate further. **Cllr Daniel** also asked Councillors to consider employing someone to clear the brook annually. **ACTION: CLERK** to speak with John Widger. **Cllr Daniel** advised Councillors that the consultation for the PSPO closes soon. The clerk confirmed EDDC had been contacted about extending the 'dogs on lead' section to the other side of the yacht club.

d. **Clerk's report:** No report.

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

12) Public Forum: No questions were raised.

**Parish Council Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:00pm**

Date: .....

Chairperson: .....

Meeting ends 8:40pm