



AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:
ANDY COMERFORD
EYRE COURT HOTEL
2 QUEENS STREET
EX12 2NY
Tel no: 07895 910543

23rd June 2023

A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

Those present:

Cllr Nigel Daniel (Vice -chair), Cllr Jonathan Wiseman, Cllr Jane Drown, Cllr Paul Zisman, Cllr Ron Badger, Cllr Ella Staff and Cllr James Condron.

In attendance:

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Cllr Ian Hall (DCC) and Cllr Susan Westerman (EDDC).

1. Election of Chairman

- a) Cllr Badger was nominated by Cllr Daniel, seconded by Cllr Wiseman and unanimously agreed.
- b) To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Chairman. To be completed at next meeting.

Cllr Badger chaired the meeting.

2. To receive and acknowledge apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr Paul Zisman (prior appointment). Approved.

- 3. Declaration of Interests:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at East Devon District Council within 28 days of the change.

Cllr's Badger and Mather declared interest in matters relating to the Village Hall.

4. CO-Option to Axmouth Parish Council.

- a) Ella Staff. Unanimously agreed.
- b) James Condron. Unanimously agreed.

- 5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th May 2023 to be approved. (circulated).**

Approved and signed by Cllr Daniel as acting Chair of that meeting.

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6. To agree any items to be discussed after the public, including the press have been excluded:

None present.

7. Public Forum:

None present.

8. Highway Matters:

Cllr Mather reported that he had ordered 10 "20 is plenty" stickers but they have not been received yet. Cllr Mather is looking for volunteers to put them up around the village and explained they had to go on private property. Cllr Hall requested the cost and contact details be forwarded to him which Cllr Mather agreed to do. Cllr Daniel mentioned the e-mail from Totnes that had been circulated concerning "20 is Plenty". Cllr Mather reported that Chris Garrett was remaining involved with the scheme. Cllr Drown requested a brief update on the scheme for the benefit of Cllr's Staff and Condron. Cllr Hall commented of the scheme generally across Devon and said he would continue to forward the cause and the petition would help in this. Cllr Drown said the Council would help with whatever we could to push the cause forward.

Cllr Hall reported that he had looked at the parking issues on the Chapel Street junction and said that if the Parish Council would e-mail him about the problem he would press for a resolution with Highways. There was then a general discussion of the issue. Cllr Daniel also raised the issue of parking on double yellow lines and dangerous parking particularly along the Estuary at the Golf Club entrance and Coronation Corner. The availability of a Parking Warden was also discussed.

Cllr Daniel raised the issue of the kerb stones being knocked into the brook by The Forge. This had been reported on line and a letter of response had been received but no work undertaken. Cllr Hall asked how long it had been since the report. It being over 6 weeks he said that he would take it up with Highways. **Action:** Cllr Daniel agreed to pass on the report details to Cllr Hall.

9. Review Fixed Assets: (circulated)

After a short discussion it was agreed that there were no changes to the Asset Register. Cllr Daniel reminded the Clerk that the list of responsibilities for the Assets needed to be circulated to Cllr's. **Action:** Clerk to circulate list.



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10. Financial Matters:

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end May 2023. (circulated)

Approved and signed by Chair.

- b) To approve the following payments

- i. Blue Chip Accounts £153.00 Audit fee. Approved
- ii. Andrew Morgan £1340.00 repairs to Viewing Platform.
Cllr Daniel explained that the quote had been for £1003 but on lifting the boarding it was discovered that some additional timbers needed replacing. Approved.
- iii. Cllr Mather £76.38 for "20 is Plenty" signs and materials to repair Village Hall.
Approved.

11. Planning Applications:

- a) New applications for consideration: None

12. VAS Update:

Cllr Mather reported that, after communications with Highways it would not be possible to relocate the post. The unit has been collected and fitted and will be in place for the next 6 weeks.

13. Footpath Update:

Cllr Daniel reported that he had a positive response from Sue Adams but, as yet, still waiting for other responses. Cllr Daniel had received an offer to help with styles and gates from Sean Bond. Cllr Badger gave a quick recap on the project for Cllr's Staff and Condron.

14. Playground:

- a) Formally adopt Playground.

After a broad discussion concerning restrictions on the playground, assets, future plans for the area and the amenities available for the children in the village and the support that may be available from County it was unanimously agreed to adopt the playground.

- b) Confirm Playground Committee Terms of Reference. (circulated).
- c) Appoint 3 Councillors to Playground Committee.

Items b and c were deferred to the next meeting.



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15. Reports:

a) County Councillor report: (circulated)

Cllr Hall discussed the next round of funding, working with Cllr Westerman to spread the load and feeding information through to the Clerk. Cllr Hall reported on the success of the re-cycling of bicycles for re-distribution to the public. Cllr Hall expressed his support on helping with approaching landowners on the Ash die back problem. The Clerk confirmed that The Tree Warden was attending the next meeting. Cllr Hall reported on his portfolio of interests since the election and was particularly keen to develop Lungs as a multi partnership approach to reduce smoking. He further reported on the pot hole repair across the county stating that 26500 had been reported since January with 800 remaining un repaired. Cllr Hall expressed his concern for the state of the roads across this area saying he believed them to be the worst he had ever seen and would continue to work hard on an improvement. There was a general discussion on mental health, the effect detrimental effect of the pandemic and Cllr Hall determination to ensure all agencies worked together on its improvement.

b) District Councillor report:

Cllr Westerman was welcomed by Cllr Badger. Cllr Westerman looked forward to supporting the Parish Council and said she could be contacted at any time if her support was needed. Cllr Westerman confirmed she was going to try to keep the Trinity News going.

c) Parish Councillor reports:

Cllr Mather explained that the Village Hall had received a regular booking for the hall between 4pm and 7pm on Wednesdays. This would clash with Parish Council meetings and asked if Council meetings could start at 7.15pm in the future. This was agreed by the Council. Cllr Mather asked if The Parish Account at Bradfords could be used to purchase materials for repairs to the Village Hall allowing for The VAT to be reclaimed. It was agreed that it could be used assuming it was legal to do. **Action:** Clerk to investigate. Include on next agenda to discuss and agree any parameters to its use.

Cllr Daniel reported that the bench on the viewing platform had been removed during its refurbishment but Gus Loveridge had offered a new bench which he was happy to prepare and paint. It was agreed to accept his generous offer. Cllr Daniel also reported that he had been asked if holiday cottages should use the Council waste services and asked Cllr Westerman if she could clarify this on behalf of EDDC.

d) Clerk's report: No report.



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16. To accept any relevant correspondence

- a) E-mail from Chris Garrett. (circulated).

Chris had suggested the purchase of a Gazebo for the Council from the balance of the Jubilee fund. There was a general discussion and it was decided that Cllr Daniel would talk with Chris and a report back at the next meeting.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 19.07.2023

Signed _____ Date _____

Meeting closed 8.14pm.