



AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

22nd September 2023

A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

Those present:

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

In attendance:

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Cllr Ian Hall (DCC) and Mr C. McBride.

1. To receive and acknowledge apologies.

Apologies received from Mr P Britton

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

2. **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 Item 7 c).

Cllr Zisman declared an interest in planning application 23 1715 FUL

3. CO-Option to Axmouth Parish Council.

- a) Mr Chris McBride. Unanimously agreed.
Mr McBride left the meeting during voting.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st June 2023 to be approved. (circulated).

Approved and signed by Cllr Badger, Chair of that meeting.

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

None present.

[Email:-clerk@axmouth.eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@axmouth.eastdevon.gov.uk)



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6. Highway Matters:

- a) It was confirmed by the Clerk that the Highway repairs to the Stepps Cross area had been completed and a new notice had been circulated for a closure to Church Street for 1st and 2nd November 23.
- b) Tesco's HGV routing. The Clerk reported he had spoken with both Planning and Planning Enforcement. Unfortunately the Enforcement Officer was on vacation and the HGV earth movement from the Tesco's site had stopped by the time he was available. Cllr Daniel reported that the consignment for Crewkerne, was only a small amount and large quantity still remained on site.
Cllr Badger reported that he had spoken to the Manager of the Tesco store concerning deliveries through Axmouth. The manager had agreed that the vehicles should not be travelling through Axmouth and since that conversation they have stopped.

7. Financial Matters:

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end August 2023. (circulated)
Approved and signed by Chair.
- b) To approve the following payments:
 - I. Gallagher. Insurance £817.78. (approved by e-mail). Approved
 - II. Axmouth Parish Hall. Hire. £112.00. Approved
 - III. Clerks Expenses. £88.55 Approved
- c) Approval for repairs to the Village Hall, £1500 inc VAT.
Cllr Mather reported that this was the material cost for repairs to the roof of the outside store which was leaking in 2 areas. Repairs to be carried out by volunteers without cost implications to the Parish Council. Unfortunately the repair could not be made until next year but the materials would need to be purchased now to hold the price. Approved.

8. Planning Applications:

- a) 23/1272/FUL - Land East Of Leggetts Lane Rousdon. The Clerk reported that he had circulated to all Councillors an e-mail from Mrs M and Mr McCarthy asking the Parish Council to consider their comments if invited to reconsider the Parish Councils response to this application. This was agreed.
- b) 23/1598/FUL - Sunny Stepps, Stepps Lane,, Axmouth Seaton. It was agreed that The Parish Council has no objections to this application.



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- c) 23/1715/FUL - Stedcombe Lodge, Axmouth, Devon, EX12 4BJ. Cllr Zisman was invited by the Chair to talk through the application. Cllr Zisman then left the meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this application. Cllr Zisman re-joined the meeting.

9. VAS Update:

The VAS report had been circulated. Cllr Mather reported that the report covered the period 19 June to 31st July 2023. The highest speed recorded was 45mph and on average 2500 vehicles per day were recorded bearing in mind this was for one direction only. A number of Councillors expressed surprise at the high number. Cllr Zisman asked if Cllr Hall thought that the reduction of speed limits to 20 mph had support across the County. There was discussion about the limit generally but Cllr Hall, although supporting the scheme himself, particularly in areas like Axmouth where special circumstances existed, generally felt support was mixed.

Cllr Drown suggested that the "20 is plenty" signs were having an effect and placing a few more would help. Cllr Mather thought that the issue with that was finding locations on private property was difficult.

10. Footpath Update:

Cllrs Daniel and Zisman reported no further progress had been made still only 1 of the 5 major land holders had agreed.

11. Playground:

- a) Update by member of Playground Assoc. Cllr Badger had invited Mr P Britton but he was unable to attend. Cllr Badger had also tried to contact Ian Hunt but without success. Cllr Hall enquired as to the availability of any 106 funding. The Clerk reported that there was none but there was a maintenance budget available and the Playground Assoc which also had funds but the Council had no record of how much the Assoc. held in account. Cllr Daniel asked if Mr Britton and Mr Hall were happy to be included in the new management committee. Cllr Badger thought that they both were. No progress had been made in approaching parents for support. Cllr Zisman asked if there was public liability insurance in place and if it was an adequate amount. The Clerk reported that the Current Insurers included £10,000.00 Public Liability. Cllr Zisman also asked if an effort had been made to contact the parents. Cllr Drown said she had not had been able to pursue this but that she thought Chris Garret may have a list of parents in the village and she would ask Chris for this.



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Cllr Zisman expressed his concern that Councillors were in a vulnerable position. There was discussion around closing the playground, whether becoming a CIO be a good way forward. Was there still a requirement for a playground in the village? Cllr Hall offered to help if needed with his experience of setting up a CIO for Axminster Skate Park. It was agreed that urgent action was required with the main stumbling block being the lack of information on the running of the Playground Assoc. Cllrs Badger, Daniel, Conron, Staff and Drown would call a meeting, inviting members of the public to attend to ascertain what support for the playground there was in the village, look for volunteers and consider the best way forward.

- b) Confirm Playground Committee Terms of Reference. (circulated). No further progress.
- c) Appoint 3 Councillors to Playground Committee. No further progress

12. Gazebo: Adjourned to following meeting.

13. Bradford Account:

The Clerk reported that he was waiting confirmation that the new signatories were in place.

14. Ash Dieback:

Cllr Staff reported that she had not been able to talk with the Tree Warden but had e-mailed him without reply as yet and that it was difficult to pursue as the Council did not own any open space or have any jurisdiction over any woodland. Cllr Staff was interested in the Playground as it may offer an opportunity for tree scaping. Cllr Mather said he was interested in the responsibility Of the Council if it becomes aware of any incidents of Ash Dieback within the Parish. Cllr Staff said she would seek clarification on this. There was general discussion that the trees seemed to be adapting and in some cases recovering from Dieback and if an Ash tree with a TPO was removed whether it had to be replaced with the same.

15. Reports:

- a) County Councillor report. Cllr Hall's report had been circulated. Cllr Hall additionally reported that RAC had been identified at Colyton Grammar. He also felt that this was just the tip of the iceberg and there were many buildings to be checked and at a time of austerity this just presented a further financial challenge. He also reported that Immunization and Safeguarding advice had been issued. With the closure of all Banks Axminster would be getting a Bank Hub based in the Lloyds Bank Building. Cllr Hall asked Councillors to look at The League of Friends for Axminster Hospitals media site. There was a full array of services available at the Hospital and community needed to be made aware of this.



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- b) District Councillor report: None submitted.
- c) Parish Councillor report: Cllr Daniel suggested that a Village clean-up day was due. It was agreed that Sat 21st Oct would be advertised as Clean-up day. He also drew attention to the roadside posts, many of which were broken or in need of repair. There was a general discussion on their effectiveness, popularity with residents and cost of replacing and maintaining. Subject to be included on the next Agenda. Cllr Daniel reported concerns over the supporting brickwork for the manhole cover outside the Harbour Inn. Cllr Hall asked for this to be reported to him by e-mail and he would pursue it with Highways. Cllr Badger reported road subsidence that looked to be becoming a serious issue. Cllr Hall said he would ask about the weight limit suitable for the road with lorries becoming heavier. Cllr Zisman added that the culvert beneath the road outside his property was also in poor condition and would collapse at some point in the not to distant future.
- d) Clerk's report: No report.

16. **To accept any relevant correspondence:** None received.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 18.10.2023

Signed _____ R Badger _____ Date _____ 18/10/2034 _____

Meeting closed 8.40pm.