



AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20th March 2024, at 7pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

Those present:

Cllr Nigel Daniel (Vice -chair), Cllr P Zisman, Cllr Jane Drown, Cllr James Condron, Cllr Ella Staff

In attendance:

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Chris Garrett, Ann Harding and Paul Britton. Cllr Westerman.

1. To receive and acknowledge apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr Chris McBride (vacation) Cllr Ian Hall (moving).

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

2. Election Of Chair. No Nominations, Vice Chair Cllr Daniel chaired the meeting.

3. Co-option of Mrs C Garrett.

Cllr Daniel proposed that Mrs Garrett be co-opted on the Council. Seconded by Cllr Drown. Agreed unanimously.

4. 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 Garrett, Item 15, being a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st February to be approved. (circulated).

Approved and signed by Cllr Daniel.

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

None present.



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At the request of the Chair Item **15. Village Hall**, was bought forward.

a) Ownership of the Village Hall.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council are named as the Custodian Trustees for the Hall. A Committee of Management were registered as the Charities Managing Trustees to manage the Hall. The Clerk said that he had no record of the constitution for the Committee of Management, only snippets. Mrs Harding confirmed that she had a hard copy of the original constitution. This stated that the committee should be made up of representatives of village organisations. Many were no longer in existence but the recently formed committee included The Village Show, Save Food Hub, The Church, Friends of the Church, The Parish Council and residents of the village. Mrs Harding confirmed that they complied with Charity conditions with 2 Charity Trustees, Mr Mather and Mr Badger. Mr Mather was to be removed and a new Trustee named.

b) Mrs Harding said she would get a copy of the Village Hall constitution to the Clerk. Cllr Daniel thought this would clarify who was responsible for repairs and Hall maintenance.

Mrs Harding said that the Committee was not aware of the budget allocation for hall repairs. The Clerk confirmed that this had been arranged with Mr Mather. Cllr Daniel asked if the funds were needed now. Mrs Harding replied that there were some urgent repairs that needed to be completed. Cllr Daniel said that as the amount had already been agreed by the Council there was no reason for it not to be forthcoming. There was some discussion about timings for the payment and how the figure had been calculated. It was confirmed that Mr Mather had calculated the cost of some urgent repairs but the Council had no breakdown information. Mr Britton elaborated on the areas that the new Committee had agreed needed attention urgently. Mr Britton gave the Clerk an itemised list of the work and associated costs. It was agreed that the funds would be transferred before the end of March.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would receive minutes from Committee meetings. The Clerk will arrange a Management Committee page on the Council website and minutes and notices could be published there.

Cllr Drown asked what liability the Council had as a Custodian Trustee. The Clerk thought that there was no liability on the Council and their role was to make sure the Committee of Management was correctly operating. Responsibility for repairs sat with the Committee of Management. The Clerk also confirmed that if the Village Hall could no longer continue it wouldn't become an asset that could be capitalised.

Confirmation of what happens if this became the case should be in the Lease or Constitution a full copy of which was not in the Council's possession.

Mrs Harding and Mr Britton left the meeting at 7.45pm.



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Cllr Garrett confirmed that she was happy to represent the Parish Council on the Committee of Management.

7. Highway Matters:

- a) Chapel Street Parking: The Clerk reported that he had received a response from Highways which said :

Unfortunately, there is nothing Devon County Council (DCC) can do in relation to this issue. It's not a location where we would consider Double Yellow Lines as this would only push vehicles, currently being parked there, on to other locations which could essentially cause problems elsewhere.

The other thing to consider, is that whilst vehicles are being parked there, this acts as a natural traffic calming measure, and preventing it could end up with speeding becoming a problem.

If the resident knows whos vehicles they are, they could perhaps consider having a conversation with the owners as it is most likely that it is residents themselves who are parking there.

Cllr Daniel suggested that the Council speak with Cllr Hall at the next meeting to seek his advice.

8. Financial Matters:

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end January 2024. (circulated)
Approved and signed by Chair.

Cllr Condron asked if more detail could be included in future accounts making easier to cross reference payments.

- b) To consider 23/24 budgets.

It was agreed that £645.00 (Playground Maintenance) and £250 (Election) should be transferred to the Earmarked account.

- c) To approve the following payments: None presented.

- d) To Confirm the Auditor for 2023/2024.

The Clerk proposed internal auditor for 2023/24 be Trudi Jenkins at a cost of £153.00. This was approved.



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9. Planning applications: None received.

10. Footpath Update: No update.

11. Playground:

Cllr Condon gave a brief update. Confirming that Mr Hunt and Mr Britton were acquiring quotations for necessary remedial work. Cllr Condon had been in contact with Mrs Sweetland to arrange a communication to residents to attract more support for the Committee. Cllr Condon confirmed that the immediate focus of the Committee was remediation, making the playground safe and fully operational as soon as possible. Cllr Garrett suggested an additional source of funding. Cllr Condon said he would follow this up.

12. Implementing 20mph zone.

There was general discussion about the 20mph limit. Cllr Garrett had organised a local speed watch group suggested that evidence from the group and VAS data didn't suggest that there was a major speeding problem through the village and road conditions controlled the speed of the traffic. Cllr Drown thought that there was some requirement for a 20mph limit on some of the roads particularly where children were walking but the real issue was volume and size of the traffic on the main thorough fare. Cllr Drown suggested that reports from Cllr Hall suggested that Axmouth was still in the mix for zoning but this was probably financially driven and there was no certainty of success and it may be better for the Parish Council to pursue zoning some roads themselves at the Parish Councils expense. Cllr Daniel suggested that recent Government guidelines were moving away from 20mph zoning. Cllr Zisman said that, given the make up of the road, the geometry of the village with few pavements and the danger of doors opening directly onto the road, we should be looking at a broader set of issues rather than just speed control. Cllr Daniel thought that if Highways conducted a proper survey of the road it would highlight the deficiencies and action would have to be taken. It was suggested that further conversations should be had with Cllr Hall concerning a survey.

Cllr Zisman left the meeting at 8.16pm.

13. To consider annual clean ups.

It was agreed that the dates would be Saturday 11th May and Saturday 20th July.
There was much discussion about advertising the days and engaging with Axmouth residents. Cllr Staff agreed to design a poster to promote involvement. Cllr Daniel agreed to coordinate the days.



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14. To agree community groups to invite to Annual Parish Meeting.

It was agreed to contact Axmouth United Football Club, Friends of Axmouth Church, The Yacht Club, The Village Show, The Village Hall, Axmouth Youth Theatre, Axe Vale Canoe Club and The Spiral Sanctuary.

15. Village Hall. Taken forward

16. Reports:

- a) County Councillor Report. (Circulated).
- b) District Councillor.

Cllr Westerman reported that the Council had agreed the council tax reduction scheme for those on a low income. The Council, after a reassessment of work load were seeking a new Chief Executive Officer. It had been decided that empty properties would pay full Council tax this year. 2nd homes would pay a premium of 100% from next year. A report has been commissioned on the Council housing stock as there is a lack of data concerning its condition. The Council had taken a vote of no confidence in South West Water.

- c) Parish Councillors reports: Cllr Garrett asked if the Council had any protocols for the use of the Gazebo. It was agreed that the Show committee would have a meeting and put forward a proposal.
Cllr Drown suggested that the Council should make the residents aware that complaints had been made concerning the power supply. There was further discussion of the continuing problems. The Clerk reported that he had not received a response to the letter to Western Power and he would follow this up. Cllr Drown also reported that she had received complaints from a couple of residents concerning the mess left after tree cutting.
- d) The Clerk reported his concerns with the condition of the PC notice board which had deteriorated badly over the winter and need some repair work. Cllr Daniel said he would have a look at it.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 17.04.2024

Signed _____ Date _____

Meeting closed 8.45pm.