



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 21st February 2024, at 7pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

Those present:

Cllr Nigel Daniel (Vice -chair), Cllr Jane Drown, Cllr James Condron.

In attendance:

Andy Comerford (Clerk)

1. To receive and acknowledge apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr Paul Zisman (prior commitment), Cllr Ella Staff (Family matter), Cllr Chris McBride (Flooding), County Cllr Ian Hall (Work commitment) and District Cllr Susan Westerman (Council Meeting).

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

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

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.

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

Approved and signed by Cllr Daniel.

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

None present.

6. Highway Matters:

- a) Chapel Street Parking: The Clerk reported that he had had notification from Highways that the parking issue had been recorded and that they would visit the site and estimated reporting back by 12th March 2024.

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



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- b) The Clerk reported that Cllr McBride had been notified that the VAS camera was available and he was arranging its collection. Cllr Condrón asked what was the purpose of all the data correlation from the VAS. Cllr Daniel confirmed it was to support Axmouth's request for 20mph zoning.
- c) Lorry re-routing. Cllr Hall had approached Highways concerning the possibility of routing HGV traffic away from Axmouth. He received the following response:
"this request has been discussed and has been rejected, as all it will do is dis-place vehicle on to an already busy road.
Harepath Road is also a Category 7 whereas the road through Axmouth (B road) is a Category 5. It should also be noted that the number of frontages on Harepath Road (highly populated), is considerably more than those going through Axmouth"
It was felt that we Council should continue to pursue the matter and consider a more evidential approach by photographing HGV vehicles trying to pass through the narrow road and navigating Coronation corner. Cllr Drown suggested approaching Conservation and also that the properties on Harepath Road were mainly set back from the road whilst the Axmouth properties were adjacent to it.

7. Financial Matters:

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

Cllr Condrón raised some questions concerning the understanding of the financial reports. There was some discussion of items in the Earmarked account particularly the Footpath balances. Cllr Daniels explained what this was for and went through some of the small expenses paid. The Clerk explained that when paying for work done the current account had been able to make the payment without transfer funds from the earmarked account. Cllr Condrón added that his concern was that, if questioned by Auditors, it would be difficult to identify items on the earmarked account and where funds had been accrued or spent. There was some discussion of the Graveyard allowance in the earmarked account of £7000 and why it had not been spent despite years of accrual. **Action: It was decided that the Clerk would write to the PCC to ascertain their position on the future of the graveyard as it became close to full.**

Cllr Condrón commented on the lack of date information on the payments list. The Clerk explained that it was due to the amount of data to display and to fit to a one page printing set up the date column wasn't shown. It was agreed that The Clerk would issue a copy of the accounts file for future meetings.

- b) **To approve the following payments:**

Mr J Booth. Inv 84, £175.00. Approved.



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Cllr Daniel explained to Cllr Condrón where Mr Booth had carried out the work. There was some discussion concerning flooding in Chapel Street adjacent to Southcombe Terrace. It was concluded that this had been cleared.

There was discussion on the responsibility for the ditch in Higher Lane. It was felt that this was not clear and efforts would be made to clarify this but the Parish Council had acted quickly to prevent any flood damage and it was prudent to get the work done quickly.

8. Planning applications: None received.

9. Footpath Update: Cllr Daniel reported that there had been no further progress. There was discussion around how to make progress with this project. It was felt that conversations with Cllr Zisman should sort to clarify the current approach, consider if any other courses of action could be utilized and was it time to make the approaches more formal.

10. Playground:

The Clerk reported that the first meeting of the New Playground Committee was held on Wednesday the 24th Jan in the Village Hall. The Clerk added that approved minutes of the meetings would be circulated to all Councillors in the future. Cllr Condrón added that it had been a positive meeting, Mr Hunt said he was happy to be Chair in the short term. This was unanimously agreed. Mrs P Sweetland offered to join the committee, this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Condrón said that he was writing an open letter to the community to encourage more help for the Playground Committee, including prospective Committee members. He has also spoken with the secretary for Seaton playground to get advice on how they organised the checking and monitoring of the Seaton playground. The main issue with Axmouth playground was the multi play unit needed repair as it was out of use at the moment, The next annual inspection is booked for March.

11. Gazebo:

The Clerk reported that the Gazebo was ready for collection and the Fair Committee had been informed.

12. Parking in Chapel Street. Discussed under 6. a).

13. Implementing 20mph zone. Cllr Zisman. Include on next agenda.

14. Reports:

- a) County Councillor report: (circulated)
- b) District Councillor report: No report.



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- c) Parish Council reports: Cllr Condron reported that if you searched for the PC website on a Microsoft search engine nothing came up. Also the minutes and agendas were not available up until 2 days ago. The Clerk reported that he had been speaking to the site administrators about the lack of minutes and agendas and had been told that this had just been corrected, He will speak with them concerning the search facility.
- Cllr Daniel suggested that the PC should write to Western Power. The village has recently suffered from 2 power cuts of 8 hours or more. Apart from the hardship this caused the residents both Public Houses had been forced to close on a Saturday with substantial loss of business. Western Power should be asked what action they are taking to effect repairs and maintain a sustainable supply to the village in the future.
- Cllr Daniel raised the issue of street lighting with the possibility of reducing the usage. At one point the village had been expecting low level lighting but this had not happened. It was agreed that the PC should look at this in the near future.
- Cllr Drown informed the PC that Chris Garrett had expressed a wish to rejoin the council. It was agreed that she was to be invited to the March meeting with her co-option included in the agenda.
- d) Clerk's report. No report.

15. To accept any relevant correspondence: None received.

16. Public Forum. No members of the public in attendance.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 20.03.2024

Signed Nigel Daniel Date 20/3/2024

Meeting closed 8.03pm.