



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 18th September 2024, at 7pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

Those present:

Cllr Condrón, Cllr Drown, Cllr Staff, Cllr McBride and Cllr Garrett.

In attendance:

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Mr Loveridge and Cllr Westerman (arrived 7.25pm).

1. To receive and acknowledge apologies. None received.

The Clerk declared the meeting to be quorate.

2. Declaration of Interests: None declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th July 2024 to be approved. (circulated).

Approved and signed by Cllr Condrón.

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

None.

5. Public Forum. Nothing reported.

6. Highway Matters:

- a) Brook issues. Cllr Daniel circulated a report on various issues concerning the brook and Highways response to them. No action to be taken.
- b) Hedge cutting. Cllr Garrett reported that she thought some cutting had been done but not all that was needed. Cllr Condrón agreed to let the clerk have a contact name at Bindon Estate to send request to cut the hedges to.
- c) The Clerk reported that he had written to Mrs Talbot on the 20th Sept to request that attention be paid to the hedging growing over the phone box. After having a look at the site last weekend the clerk noticed no work had been carried out so wrote to her again and hand delivered the letter.



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Mr Loveridge reported that the hedging in the Pound Hill area was overgrown and needed attention. There was some discussion over property ownership and who best to contact. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Highways and ask them to cut the hedge.

7. Financial Matters:

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end August 2024. All approved
- b) To approve the following payments:

- 1) Trevett. Playground Grass cutting. £60.50 Approved
- 2) DALC membership fees. £204.86 Approved.
- 3) Gallacher Insurance. £831.86 Approved

Cllr Garrett said that the Village Hall were finding it hard to fund the necessary repairs and wondered if the Parish Council could contribute to the expenses. It was agreed that the Parish Council appeared to have more than adequate reserves. The Clerk stated that most of the funds were “earmarked” and could only be used for projects they were designated to. The Clerk also wanted confirmation that the Parish Council could invest in the Village Hall under the terms of the lease. It was agreed that this would be included in the next meeting agenda. Cllr Drown commented that we also need to keep in mind that the Council is trying to resolve the issues around the Churchyard and costs for this could be substantial.

8. Planning>

- a) 24/1539/LBC- Village Hall. It had been agreed at the last meeting that the Council would support this application.
- b) 24/1469/VAR- Tesco’s deliveries. Cllr Westerman said she had been supporting the council in its objections to this application but no decision had been made yet and she was not aware as to when it was due for consideration. The Council will continue to monitor this application.

9. Playground..

Cllr Condron reported that the remedial work on the Playpark was 90% completed. He, Mr Hunt and Cllr Drown had inspected the work that had been completed and were very happy with the standard of the repairs. Mr Bond had identified some problems not included in the initial report. It was agreed that Mr Bond should repair the additional items which he agreed to do for £150 to cover materials and costs. As the Playpark committee were very keen to retain Mr Bond to carry out any repairs in the future Cllr Condron asked for the Councils agreement to accept the additional cost over the agreed quotation. This was agreed by the Parish Council.



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Cllr Drown reported that there were already other tasks being identified that would improve the facility and these can be investigated and agreed over the next few meetings. Cllr Condrón raised the issue of grass cuttings and clippings left in the park. It was agreed that Bindon Estates would be contacted for disposal as they were from their land.

10. Ownership of Estuary bank.

The reply from The Land Registry Office was circulated by the Clerk and would seem to indicate that the majority was owned by Binden Estates. There was some discussion as to the boundary line. It was suggested that Binden Estates were responsible for the bank to the water edge but the area between the edge of the bank and the road was not their responsibility. This could not be easily clarified on the marked maps supplied. Cllr Drown said she believed there was a growing safety issue along the bank with the number of vehicles parking on the estuary bank and impinging on the road. Cllr Condrón suggested that the Council should seek to confirm ownership before approaching Binden Estates. Copies of the Land Registry reply will be sent to Mr Loveridge and Cllr Daniel to seek their view of the documents.

11. Graveyard.

Cllr Drown reported that discussions had gone as far as they could at the moment. Enquiries could be continued in terms of a valuation for the proposed site but the next step sit with the Parochial Church Council to give guidance on what they would seek to achieve and if they were prepared to invest in the project as well. There were still some basic issues to resolve being access and area required but initial conversation had been positive. Cllr's Daniel and Frown would meet the Landowner to ascertain how much land could be available.

12. Fibre optic poles.

Cllr Hill had asked for additional information on the location of the poles. Cllr McBride had responded and his report would be sent to Cllr Hill. Cllr McBride further reported that the BT poles in Musbury were so full nothing more could be added. These poles could not be taken down as they were in use so new poles had to be put up. From Stedcombe Vale to Boshill Cross so new poles had to be installed. Mr Loveridge asked where the original BT cable went and couldn't new cables use the same route. Cllr McBride didn't know the route used by BT. The issue was that poles were being erected without agreement of local communities. Annoyance had been expressed that since the poles had been put up nothing had been done to them.



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13. Celebration tree planting.

It was agreed that it was a good idea to start a tradition of planting a new tree to celebrate the births in the village. The biggest drawback is the lack of land owned by the Parish Council to plant trees on. The number of births is not likely to be large, at most 1 or 2 a year.

Cllr Staffs suggested that the playground could be considered but unfortunately this land was leased and the Parish Council would have to seek agreement to plant trees. Cllr Staffs suggested that smaller tree varieties could be used. Coronation Corner was discussed and Cllr Staffs offered to seek advice on the best type of trees for the different locations that may be available. Cllr Condron said that he felt the council needed to consider 10 and 20 years ahead and consider the legacy that would be established.

14. Reports

a) County Councillor Report: (Circulated).

b) District Councillor Report:

Cllr Westerman was happy to report that the Police were now out of special measures and 99% of emergency calls were responded to within the specified time limits and 101 call responses were also above the specified limits. The Police wanted to change the perception that calls were not responded to as this was not now the case. Cllr Westerman also stated that she was keen to see the Police getting out to schools and clubs and encouraging local involvement. Cllr Garrett commented that the Police used to visit the Parish Council meeting to report on crime in the area and how this would be good to see again. Cllr Westerman also reported that she was now the Council's mental health champion and is going to progress that.

c) Parish Councillor Reports:

Cllr McBride reported on the latest set of data from the VAS camera. He reported that for the last period he had set the camera for 20mph. The majority of the vehicles were between 20 and 24 mph. There were a couple of cars recorded at 37mph, a couple at 27mph. 38% of vehicles were recorded at greater than 20mph. Over 300 cars per day (travelling one way only) at greater than 20mph. 135 vehicles over the period were travelling between 30 and 33 mph and one vehicle was recorded at midnight going at 75mph (unfortunately number plates aren't recorded). The average speed over the 6 weeks was 17mph. The total vehicle count for the period was 7,500. Cllr McBride also reported that during the period somebody had tried to steal the unit but couldn't break the padlocks. It was discussed, and generally agreed, that this data would not support any change in the traffic controls through the village. Cllr Westerman reported that it may be possible to get a permanent camera in place that gave a slow down or smiley face indication according to the speed of the vehicle. It was generally agreed that the parked cars through the village acted as an efficient speed calmer.

d) Clerks report; Nothing reported.



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15. To accept any relevant correspondence. None received.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 16.10.2024

Signed _____ Date _____

Meeting closed 8.40pm.