



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025, at 7pm at Axmouth Village Hall.**

**Those present:**

Cllr Daniel, Cllr Condrón, Cllr Zisman, Cllr McBride.

**In attendance:**

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Cllr Westerman (EDDC)

- 1. To receive and acknowledge apologies.** Cllr Garrett (Unwell), Cllr Hall (DCC) (Work Commitments) and Cllr Drown (Vacation). Cllr Staff (no apology received).

The Clerk declared the meeting to be quorate.

- 2 Declaration of Interests:** None declared.
- 3 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to be approved.** (circulated).  
Approved and signed by Cllr Daniel.

- 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) Grit bin:

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with Highways about a new grit bin at the top of Stepps Lane. Highways can supply a new grit bin and maintain it for a one-off cost of £370. Highways did request that the Council considered moving the bin from the bottom of Stepps Lane to the top as bins were not easy to get hold of. It was generally agreed that this could not be done as the lower bin was also used for sandbag storage for flooding. It was agreed that a new bin would be ordered from Highways. Cllr Condrón would supply a grid reference to the Clerk for siting. **Action: Clerk to place order with Highways.**



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## 7. Financial Matters:

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end December 2024.  
Cllr Condron pointed out that the last 5 payments made were dated 2025. It was agreed that the Clerk would adjust the accounts to reflect the correct date. The accounts were approved with this amendment noted.
- b) To discuss and approve the budget to end December 24. (circulated). There was discussion over the budget for Axmouth Brook £420. It was agreed that this could be removed from budgets for the time being. It was agreed that the Verges/Vegetation line be changed to Verges, Vegetation and Brook and the budget would be increased from £800 to £1000 reducing the combined budget by £200. It was also noted that the current budget contained £500 for the Village Hall and the Village Hall Committee should submit a grant request before the end of the financial year. It was also agreed to reduce the Playground Grant from £500 to £100 for the 25/26 Precept.
- c) To discuss and agree the precept for 2025/2026.  
After some discussion a precept request for 25/26 of £12909.13 was proposed by the Clerk, seconded by Cllr Daniel. All in agreement. Cllr Condron was concerned over the balance of the "earmarked " account. It was generally considered that, whilst all the earmarked sums existed for projects under consideration, the fund was justified. If any of the projects became unnecessary the fund and its bearing on future precepts should be taken into consideration.
- d) To review fixed asset maintenance.  
The clerk was requested to re-issue to all Councillors.
- e) Approve the following payments:

1)	Village Hall rental to end 2024	£ 40.50	Approved
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## 8 Planning.

- a) 24/2606/LBC. Axe Farm. Circulated. There was discussion over the history of the building and some of the traditional building methods used in its construction. There was also some discussion over a complaint already registered over the invasion of privacy of Axe farm from the Velux windows. Given that the windows followed the pitch line of the roof and they were positioned over an area beyond the extent of the mezzanine floor, this didn't pose an issue. Cllr Daniel reported that a member of the Parish had said that bats were roosting in the building and Swifts, which were also known to nest in the area, should also be considered. It was agreed that the Parish Council was in support of this application with consideration to the retaining of historic features and consideration given to bats and nesting swifts.

## 9. Playground:

No report. Next committee meeting Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 25, 7pm at Village Hall.



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## **10. Graveyard.**

Cllr Daniel and Cllr Drown met with the landowner earlier in the week and walked the proposed field. The situation remains the same, if the Council can present a plan he will be happy to consider it. Access remains unresolved. There is a possibility that there is boundary bank that could be removed to give access. Cllr Zisman asked if the bank was an ancient hedge. This could not be confirmed. Cllr Daniel suggested that we now need to know what the Church would consider as the options and a meeting should be arranged with the PCC to discuss. The Clerk will contact the PCC to arrange a meeting.

## **11. Recording Births in the village.**

The Playground Committee are to consider if anything can be done in the playground at the next meeting.

## **12. Village Hall.**

The Clerk reported that enquiry for the copy of the Village Hall lease had not been successful. The Land Registry Office suggested to try to search again but alter the details given and to check if it can be found using the address of the incumbent Parish Clerk at the time the revised lease was submitted to Land Registry. It was agreed that a further search be submitted.

## **13. Broadband rollout.**

Cllr Zisman asked Cllr Westerman if she had spoken with MP R. Foorde about the broadband roll out. Cllr Westerman responded that she had spoken to him, there was nothing positive to report. There were some funding and use of funding issues but at the moment the new contractors were assessing the situation before putting a plan or timeline forward. Cllr Westerman added that our MP had said he would remain on the case. Cllr Zisman thanked Cllr Westerman for contacting Mr Foorde on the Parish Councils behalf. Cllrs Zisman and McBride suggested that some preparatory work had been carried out at Stedcombe and this looked positive but had been carried out some time ago. There was discussion about Airband and their plans and failure to complete the contact to date. It was agreed to keep monitoring the situation. It was agreed to keep The Broadband Rollout on the agenda.

## **14. Dog Bin.**

The clerk reported that a new Dog bin and fixing post could be purchase around £180 which included a fixing post. It would cost in the region of £4 per empty. The PC would have to decide how often they wanted it to be emptied. It was decided that the Council would replace the existing bin by the bus stop which is already emptied and no additional emptying charges would be incurred.



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## 15. Emergency Plan.

Cllr Dniel had circulated the revised plan and spoken with Dave Wheelen (Emergency Planning Officer). He had been very helpful and suggested some modifications. A concern was the inclusion of all the contact details which should be available to Devon Together in case of an emergency but only 1 contact number be shown as the Parish Council contact. The contact number for the Parish Clerk would be the published number. It had also been suggested that the Village Hall would become an emergency reception centre. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall Committee to confirm this.

## 16. Reports.

- a) County Councillor report: Circulated.
- b) District Councillor Report: Cllr Westerman reported that one of the main topics at the moment was devolution. The District and County Councils were in disagreement over when the next local elections would go ahead. The County want to delay the May elections and District want to go ahead with them. The District Council believes that there should be 2 unitary authorities in Devon as the County is too big for a single authority. Each authority would cover 500,000 people. The County would be split into East and West authorities centered at Exeter and Plymouth. There would likely be one Mayor to cover the South West including Cornwall. Devon County Council want to remain as a singular unitary authority. Cllr Westerman also reported that the Police had said they would be happy to attend Council meetings if there was something specific to address. They would also be happy to have a presence at local events if they were invited.
- c) Parish Councillor reports: Cllr Condrón raised the issue of the Bus Stop that had not progressed. It was agreed that quotations should be sought and considered. To be included on the next agenda.  
Cllr McBride said he had been approached by a resident concerning parking at the Junction of Chapel Street and Church Street. By chance he had spoken to the person who was parking there. They did not realise there was restricted parking and were apologetic and haven't parked there since.
- d) Clerks report: None given.

## 17. To accept any relevant correspondence. None received

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 19.02. 2025

Signed                     *Nigel Daniel*                     Date           19<sup>th</sup> February 2025          

Meeting closed 8.20pm.