

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2019 in Luxborough village hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Chairman, D. Powell, Vice Chairman, A. Sparling, Cllr O'Hare, Cllr Henson, Cllr Tombleson, S. Pugsley, M. Dewdney, Clerk, D. Wass.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Duke due to a prior personal engagement, F. Nicholson as attending another meeting and PCSO S. Thompson due to work shift. The reasons given were approved.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2019.** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Exmoor Panel Meeting Report.**

S. Pugsley addressed the meeting.

- Highways winter maintenance, with regard to the revised precautionary salting routes, he is fairly confident that those that had been excluded this winter will be reinstated which will include Luxborough. A review will take place on whether salt bags and bins will be provided. Bins are preferable to bags as there is less wastage and bags have to be removed at the end of winter whereas bins and their contents are left in situ. Withypool PC have investigated the price of bins and could advise us of their findings.
- With regard to local elections and election of parish representatives onto the National Park, these will have to be replaced and around 15th April SALC will send out nomination papers to the clerks for five parish representatives onto ENP and parish councillors are the electorate. Nominations close on 28th May so parish councils need to have meetings between 2nd May and 28th May in order to get nominations in. ENP will write to parishes to see who would hold hustings. If there are hustings these will be around 29th/30th May. Then between 30th May and 17th June to decide and the ballot will take place on 18th June so pc meetings will have to take place to coincide with these dates.

5. **Flood Meeting Report.**

The Chairman attend on 22nd January. Theresa was ill and could not attend so the meeting was short. Maintenance problems and riparian responsibilities were discussed. The river that runs next to the village field belongs half to the village and half to the landowner on the other side. Interestingly Highways do not normally own the ground that roads are on as it belongs to the landowners on either side. A website. Ongoing cost will be around £50 a year and parish councils will be asked to contribute around £5 to £10 each per year each. All agreed this was worthwhile. Somerset Rivers Authority have been monitoring river levels with an electronic sensor in the river at Roadwater. The river level in Luxborough is currently monitored manually by Doug Yiend.

6. **Affordable Housing Group.**

The Chairman has attended two meetings. An affordable housing group is being set up with one member elected from each parish. (Cutcombe, Timberscombe, Exford, Exton, Winsford, Wootton Courtenay, Luxborough). This is a working group making recommendations to pcs on all relevant matters and decisions only on matters specific to the delegated authority. The purpose is for the development of affordable housing for local needs and to ensure that all housing proposed meets the needs of local communities. To identify a range of sites and negotiate with ENP and WSC. Full terms of reference can be obtained from the Clerk or Chairman on request.

A request for landowners to express interest in supplying land for affordable housing did not result in any response from Luxborough except for the owner of the land above Tarr Water Cottages who in the past has been willing to participate. There is not an affordable rental need in Luxborough mainly due to lack of public transport. Land for self build is another option to explore for affordable local needs housing. One site in Cutcombe and one in Timberscome were put forward as the most likely sites.

D,. Powell to continue as Luxborough representative, proposed by Cllr O'Hare and seconded by Cllr Henson.

7. **Chairmans Announcements**

It is good to see the bridge has been repaired.

The Chairman asked if everyone were prepared to stand for another term and the forms were completed and handed to the Clerk to take to Williton.

8. Financial Matters.

The bank balance as at 28th February was £2,753.19 and since that date £300 for Clerk's wages, £12 for the website and £10.50 for a dog fouling sign had been withdrawn.

9. Items of Interest.

- Beech Tree replanting. The Clerk had contacted Robin Offer from ENP who has received no response from Karin Harwood, the Clerk had also emailed Karin but received no response. M. Dewdney suggested that she may still be on maternity leave and to try contacting David Peake. The Clerk to contact D. Peake.
- A police report was read out that had been sent in by PCSO S. Thompson and is available on the parish website.
- Bridge repairs. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the engineers regarding the portion of the bridge that was damaged on the Kingsbridge end and was informed that this would not be repaired at the same time as the damage caused by the lorry as this was a separate work but that it would be repaired at a future date.
- Planning update. The three planning applications previously discussed at Old Stowey, Allercott and Pool House had not yet been decided.

10. Items for the Next Meeting.

A working party for litter picking was discussed and it was decided that there is not a suitable Saturday in the near future due to Easter and the car rally and as this really needs to be carried out before the vegetation gets too high it would be better to get volunteers to carry out litter picking on an individual basis as and when suitable to them. Bags of litter could then be left next to the village hall to be collected. An email will be sent to the whole village requested volunteers.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking M. Dewdney for all his time in attending our meetings and advising us when necessary as this will be his last meeting due to the district council boundary changes.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed

Date

