

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Luxborough Parish Council held on 15 September at Luxborough Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs: D Powell, C Henson, R O'Hare, D Yiend. Clerk: Jeanna Grenville.
Four members of the public were present.

Public Question Time: Questions and comments were invited with respect to agenda item 7.1 0 (minute 21/35a) West Slowley emergency services' mast which confirmed that: ownership of the land had been transferred to EE Ltd by way of a renewable lease; it is a 4G mast, 5G is not currently envisaged and would require a further Planning application; the mast is 9.97m high; radiation will travel no further than 25m; there; there will be 35m² of hardstanding around the mast for vehicle parking/turning and a 1.2m high stock-proof barrier; traffic is unlikely to be significant once installation is complete, possibly 4 times per year.

21/30 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:40.

21/31 Apologies for absence. Apologies were recorded from: Cllr Sparling who was on holiday; Cllrs Duke, Tombleson and Pugsley (SW &T) for personal reasons; Cllr Nicholson (County) due to a clashing meeting.

21/32 Declarations of interest – no interests were declared.

21/33 Minutes of the meeting of 21 July 2021. The minutes were resolved as a true and accurate record.

21/34 Chairman's Report. The Chairman noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Sheldon, had recently visited the area, with further attendance planned at the Exmoor Panel. He had noted that CID is only staffed to 41% of complement meaning that some new recruits are going into CID. He noted that drug misuse fuels a considerable amount of crime, including in rural areas. Avon and Somerset Constabulary will be getting over 400 new recruits who will require training. [One member of the public left the meeting.] The next Exmoor Panel meeting has been deferred due to staff shortages. Progress on the current affordable housing initiative is progressing slowly for economic reasons. The West Somerset Flood Group's AGM would take place next week. It was noted that the gullies in the village have recently been cleared.

21/35 Planning. a) 6/20/202/102 West Slowley Farm erection of emergency mast. Cllrs noted that the radiation report had not been received. Cllrs have recognised that this has been a controversial proposal, nevertheless the provision of an emergency signal outweighs the concerns raised. There is also the prospect of a commercial mobile network being available. Cllrs were disappointed that no radiation compliance report had been received. Cllrs resolved to support the application. **b) 6/20/21/103 Chargot Grain Store.** Cllrs noted the sensible positioning proposed for the store which would be well-screened and constructed of standard materials. Cllrs resolved to support the application. **c) Other planning matters.** The Clerk reported

that she had raised concerns with Planning over potential unauthorised development at Higher Ponds and the pottery and had been advised that the properties would be inspected.

21/36 Finance. a) Banking Issues. The Clerk noted continuing problems with the bank regarding the mandate and change of official address. The Clerk was now on the mandate, however the bank has lost the change of address form meaning that the only statement received this year has been for July. This continues to limit transparency and control of the PC's finances. The bank had also paid a second standing order of £300 to the previous Clerk despite assurances that the standing order had been cancelled. The Clerk was challenging the bank's position that the Council would need to recoup the payment they had made in error. Cllrs would consider actions further once a progress report has been received at the next meeting. The Clerk noted that several councils are moving to online banking with Unity. **b) Financial Regulations** – Cllrs resolved to adopt the updated Financial regulations based on the model policy for the National Association of Local Councils. **c) Schedule of Payments** – Cllrs resolved to agree the Schedule of Payments appended to the minutes. It was noted that the Clerk's salary had been paid gross as it was not possible to calculate the tax using the HMRC Basic PAYE tool. Clerk to report back to the Council on pertinent tax issues.

21/37 Complaints Procedure for Luxborough Parish Council. It was resolved to adopt the updated complaints procedure, based on the model policy for the National Association of Local Councils.

21/38 Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next agenda enabling Cllr Duke to contribute to the discussion.

21/39 Correspondence and Meetings. The Clerk reported attending VAT training.

21/40 Next Parish Council Meeting – confirmed for 17 November. Agenda items to include initial draft of budget and precept, Q2 financial statements, salary budget and footpaths.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:30

Signed

Dated

Appendix to Minutes - Schedule of Payments

Function 28 - Web supply July 2021	£12.00
Function 28 - Web supply August 2021	£12.00
Function 28 - Web supply September 2021	£12.00
Function 28 – Web supply October 2021	£12.00
SALC Code of Conduct Training	£30.00
Clerk Salary Q2	£473.10
Clerk reasonable expenses	£6.00
Total	£557.10