

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Luxborough Parish Council held on 17 November at Luxborough Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs: D Powell (*Chair*), J Duke, C Henson, J Tombleson, A Sparling, F Nicholson (County), S Pugsley (District). **Clerk:** Jeanna Grenville.

Public Question Time: No members of the public were present.

21/41 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30.

21/42 Apologies for absence. None.

21/43 Declarations of interest. None.

21/44 Minutes of the meeting of 15 September 2021. The minutes were resolved as a true and accurate record, subject to amending the name of the Somerset and Avon Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to Mark Shelford.

21/45 Chairman's Report. The Chairman had not been notified of the Exmoor Panel date on 4 November and had not attended as a result.

21/46 Report from County and District Councillors. Cllr Pugsley feedback from the Exmoor Panel (EP) which focussed on the single issue of progress towards setting up of the Local Community Network (LCN) pilot. Alyn Jones, Operations Director from Somerset County Council, was in attendance as part of his continuing mission to obtain feedback from the Exmoor parishes. Consideration is being given to establishing Parish Stewards. The next EP meeting will take place on 13/1/2022 when the evolving proposals for the LCN pilot will be discussed. The impact of the Glover report on unitary proposals remains unclear. The PCC, Mark Shelford, will also attend the next EP meeting. Cllr Nicholson reported that arrangements for the new unitary authority remain under discussion. It is not confirmed whether elections will be brought forward to 2022 or occur in 2023 according to the current schedule. The restructuring is likely to require reforms involving the Boundary Commission. Regardless of the date of the next elections, there will be cyclical elections in 2027.

21/47 Parish Councillor Vacancy. It was noted with regret that Cllr Yiend was no longer eligible to serve as a Luxborough Cllr as he now lives outside the permitted geographical area. His resignation letter to the Chair is awaited. The Clerk is in touch with Electoral Services to obtain advice on the timing of the elections which may be more efficient if coupled with elections in 2022 if held. A co-option is possible unless ten parishioners request an election.

21/48 Planning. a) Planning Appeal for The Hazery (60/20/20/101). The applicant had appealed to the Secretary of State. Cllrs noted their ongoing concerns about the scale of the planned works to the entrance and road safety. Cllr Pugsley agreed to confirm whether a landscaping report had ever been received. The Clerk will restate Cllrs concerns over this proposal for consideration with the appeal. **b) Other Planning Matters.** The Clerk was asked to query with ENPA Planning whether planning permission was required for the development / change of use for the Logstack at Lyndale, being advertised as holiday accommodation on Airbnb.

21/49 Finance. a) Update on banking issues. The Clerk reported that with further effort she had just received the outstanding statements from the bank and believed that they should now be received routinely. The financial out-turns for Q1 now required checking and may need to be restated. It appeared that the bank had itself repaid the sum of £300 it paid in error to the

former Clerk on 1 June 2021. An additional £100 has been paid in - presumably for compensation, although no information has been provided about this payment totalling £400. The former Clerk is expected to repay the £300 received in error in June. **b) Q2 Financial Statement.** Cllrs resolved to accept the statement prepared by the Clerk, noting receipts of £400 and payments of £515 in the quarter with a bank balance of £3,431.29 as at 30 September 2021. **c) 2022-23 Budget and Three-Year Forecast.** Cllrs proposed amendments to the draft budget and forecast prepared by the Clerk. Key assumptions included: an uplift of one hour per week for Clerk's hours to meet the minimum of three hours recommended nationally; inflation between 2 and 4%; election costs in 2022 or 2023 to be met through a drawdown of reserves; precept to increase by £375 to £2,875 being an increase of 15%. Cllrs resolved to accept the draft presented, the Clerk will provide for parishioner consultation and the final budget and precept will be resolved at the meeting of the PC on 12 January 2022. An extension to the deadline of 7 January 2022 has been agreed. **d) Schedule of Payments.** The Clerk reported paying a sum of £34 into the PC's account to cover the income tax of £34 recently calculated as owing by HMRC's PAYE Basic Tool, following an updated tax code from HMRC. Cllrs resolved to accept the Schedule.

21/50 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022. Cllr Duke agreed to take this forward and will report back on potential events to include parishioners. Cllrs would like to plant a commemorative oak tree.

21/51 Correspondence and Meetings. Cllr Nicholson observed that the meeting in Luxborough with Alyn Jones and other senior Highways officials had provided essential insight about the Exmoor lifestyle and economy which will help in planning for the LCN pilots. The Chair and Cllrs Duke, Henson and O'Hare had attended and the critical importance of highways and lanes in supporting local industries and tourism had been emphasized. Better communications, including with neighbouring Devon, are essential to keep businesses and residents informed and traffic flowing to sustain communities on the moor and local knowledge needs to be respected and valued.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 12 January 2022, 7.30 pm Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed

Dated

Appendix to Minutes - Schedule of Payments / Receipts

Payments	Function 28	£12.00
	Function 28	£12.00
	HMRC	£34.00
	Former Clerk	£300
	Total	£358
Receipts	Natwest	£400
	Former Clerk	£300
	Total	£700