

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Luxborough Parish Council held on 27 April 2022 at Luxborough Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs: D Powell (*Chair*), J Duke, C Henson, R O'Hare, A. Sparling, F Nicholson (County), S Pugsley (District). **Clerk:** Jeanna Grenville. Two members of the public were present.

Public Question Time: No matters were raised.

22/01 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed the two members of the public who were to become Cllrs on 9 May 2022, all Luxborough nominees having been elected unopposed. Cllr Duke was also congratulated on her appointment as Somerset High Sheriff.

22/02 Apologies for absence. Apologies and reasons were accepted from Cllr Tombleson.

22/03 Declarations of interest. Cllr Powell for agenda item 9.5 Schedule of Payments

22/04 Minutes of the meetings of 16 and 30 March and report on actions. The minutes were resolved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Duke updated the Parish Council (PC) on the plans underway to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Luxborough, including a church service, beacon and fireworks. Events will be publicised in the parish magazine and village email.

22/05 Chairman's Report. Cllr Powell and O'Hare had attended a meeting with the Forestry Commission regarding the raves, with the Police also in attendance. A new lock has been fitted to the barrier, however there were doubts that this would withstand vandalism and the Cllrs felt there was unwarranted confidence on Forestry's part that the matter had been resolved. All villagers will be urged to continue reporting raves to Forestry and the Police. Cllr Powell had replaced the pads on the defibrillator to ensure they were in date and effective. A plaque for the Jubilee Tree on the village green had been purchased to be mounted by a local contractor. Fifty- Eight Jubilee mugs had been purchased with Luxborough PC on the design. [Cllr Pugsley joined the meeting.] The emergency services' mast continues to be inoperable, and Cllr Pugsley will be discussing this with Exmoor National Park Planning Committee. Cllrs Pugsley and Nicholson had joined Cllr Powell for a walk around the parish. Cllr Nicholson has reported a blocked drain with grit and subsidence at the road at Stout's Way.

22/06 Update from District and County Councillors. Cllr Pugsley informed the meeting that the planning appeal to the Secretary of State for the Hazery had been rejected. A key factor in the decision was the stark and detrimental impact a substantial man-made structure would have on the appearance and character of the National Park. The appointment of the Parish Steward under the Local Community Network Highways' Pilot was imminent and Cllr Nicholson noted that the County Council had asked for suggestions about priorities. It was noted that the Local Plan is next due for formal review in 2030, however some of the principles underpinning it could usefully be updated.

22/07 Planning. 1) Application 6/2022/104 Higher Ponds. This was a retrospective application required as the previous owners had not sought permission for an extension to the outbuilding. Cllrs resolved to support the application. 2) Other Planning Matters. It was noted that there is a separate Enforcement Case relating to Higher Ponds still under consideration by ENPA Planning. Enforcement were also looking into the agricultural building on the Hall Farm site.

22/08 Finance 1) 2021/22 Q4 and Year End Financial Statements. Cllrs resolved to adopt the statements, noting receipts of £3,534, payments of £2,994 with a surplus of £550 for the full year. The bank balance stood at £2,657.97 at 31 March 2022. The Clerk had advised SALC that one cheque paid to them for £30 in respect of training had not been cashed. A small sum of VAT will shortly be reclaimed by the Clerk for 2020/21 and 2021/22; claims must be made within three years. 2) Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR) Certificate of Exemption. Cllrs resolved that Luxborough PC was exempt from the limited assurance review on the basis that neither income nor expenditure exceeded the £25,000 threshold. 3) DRAFT AGAR sections 1 and 2. In advance of the 2021/22 internal audit report, Cllrs confirmed their opinion would be able to answer all of the assertions in section 1 in the affirmative. Cllrs resolved to approve the figures entered into section 2 as an accurate representation of the financial statements. 4) Insurance Renewal. Of the two options offered by Zurich, Cllrs preferred to continue with the existing policy which provided adequate cover and it was resolved to renew the policy. Cllrs confirmed that the nature of the PC's operations did not require a safeguarding policy. 5) Schedule of Payments – Cllrs resolve to approve the Schedule.

22/09 Annual Meeting of Electors 18 May. This was confirmed for 7.30 pm on 18 May, directly before the Annual Parish Council meeting. The Community Policing team would be invited to attend.

22/10 Correspondence and Meetings. A parishioner had proposed a combined litter pick with Roadwater village. As a litter pick had already been planned around the Parish, the Clerk was asked to contact the parishioner to request that he covered an area within Luxborough. Correspondence had been received from a journalist with some misinformation regarding the campaign to install broadband in the village a few years ago. Cllr Duke was willing to respond on this. The Clerk noted she had attended year end training for HMRC with all necessary tasks in hand. With the road up to B3224 due to be closed early in May, the Clerk noted that she had contacted Highways to request that she receives notification of planned closures so that they can be circulated to Cllrs. It was observed that information regarding closures needs to be improved in local villages with signs that are often misleading or incorrect causing chaos on the roads and frustration.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed

Dated

Appendix to Minutes - Schedule of Payments

Payments	
Function 28	£12.00
Cllr Powell - Jubilee Mugs	£243.60
Cllr Powell - Defibrillator pads	£47.94
Cllr Powell – Commemorative Plaque Jubilee Tree	£65.30
Zurich Insurance	£198.35
Total	£567.19

