

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Luxborough Parish Council held on 20 July at Luxborough Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs: D Powell (*Chair*), M Bolland, J Duke, C Henson, R O' Hare, J Waller, S Pugsley (District and County). **Clerk:** Jeanna Grenville.

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

22/26 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

22/27 Apologies for absence. Apologies and reasons were accepted from Cllrs Sparling and Nicholson.

22/28 Declarations of interest. Cllr Powell with respect to one item on Schedule of Payments – minute 22/35 (e).

22/29 Minutes of the meetings of 18 May The minutes were resolved as a true and accurate record.

22/30 Chairman's Report. Cllr Powell reported on a great return to Luxborough village fete this July which had raised £5,900; volunteers from the community had helped to make this a successful event. It was noted that, following some further work which Cllr Henson was assisting, the play equipment on the village field would shortly be usable. [Cllr Pugsley joined the meeting.]

22/31 Update from District and County Councillors. Cllr Pugsley reported that the new Parish Steward, Richard Gay, appointed under the Local Community Network (LCN) Highways pilot, had commenced employment and was already having a positive impact. The Clerk will invite him to a parish orientation with our Highways Warden, Cllr Bolland. Cllrs will forward proposals for bids for works for the Parish, over and above routine maintenance, for Cllr Bolland to submit through the scheme currently available; this could include strimming, clearing around signs, clearing ditches and detritus etc. The area adjacent to the telephone box opposite the Royal Oak was highlighted as an ongoing concern. Powers continue to migrate upwards from local Councils to the unitary authority which will be officially instituted in 2023. Cllr Fran Smith is the appointee to Exmoor National Park. It is important to work with Cllr Smith to ensure the nature of life and business on Exmoor is well understood. Some critical rural businesses are relied on for goods, services and employment such as the Business Units at Wheddon Cross. [Cllr Pugsley left the meeting.]

22/32 Planning. 1) Application 6/20/22/107 Higher Ponds – proposed conversion of barn into ancillary accommodation (part retrospective). Cllrs noted that some of the material used in construction so far were incongruous with traditional materials, including fibre tiles for the roof, metal-framed glass panels and Velux windows. Access was via a narrow track which was unsuitable for any increase in usage. Cllrs queried whether a change of use was required as the building previously served as dog kennels and the definition of 'studio' was unclear in the application. It was also noted that there had been no survey of bats or owls prior to the new roof being constructed, which might have adversely affected wildlife. Cllrs objected to the proposal as currently presented. 2) Other Planning matters. Cllrs reiterated concerns that New Mills continues to be used for residential purposes despite Planning Enforcement's previous finding that this was unlikely to be the case. Cllrs were also of the view that Newcombe farm is still being used as an office due to the volumes of traffic and queries from drivers about finding the care home office. The Clerk was asked to raise both of these items with ENPA Planning Enforcement.

22/33 Prevention of Raves Charget / Kennisham. Cllrs reported a highly productive meeting with the Police and the Forestry Commission. Prevention of these raves is now included in a formal Police action plan meaning that resources can be made available to detect and prevent raves including the potential to film evidence, establish drug and alcohol testing and confiscate equipment. The organiser of the last rave is to be issued with a formal notice to prosecute if he organises another event. Cllr Duke is collating impact statements for various sectors of the Parish to forward to the Police. Forestry are identifying more obstructive means to block entrance the site.

22/34 Report from SWT Exmoor Area Panel 9 June 2022. Cllr Bolland had attended with minutes circulated. It was noted that discussions had focused on the LCN Highways Pilot, affordable housing, crime and policing, road speeds. Cllr Duke will facilitate a talk on fraud by the Police through a forthcoming church get-together.

22/35 Finance 1a) Updated budget for 2022/23. The Cllrs resolved to accept the updated budget prepared by the Clerk as a result of the election being uncontested. A projected required of £136 from reserves was forecast to meet costs this year. b) Quarter 1 Financial Statement. Noting a balance of £4,858.52 at the bank as at 30 June 2022, Cllrs resolved to approve the financial statement. c) AGAR 2021/22. The Clerk noted that all necessary submissions were made on time and that the accounts were presented on the noticeboard and website as required during the period of public inspection. d) Function 28 Standing Order. Cllrs resolved to approve the Standing Order of £12 inclusive of VAT per month for the 2022/23 period. e) Schedule of Payments - Cllrs resolved to accept the Schedule.

22/36 Correspondence and Meetings. Cllr Powell fed back concerns from the Flood Group about how flood risks impacted on planned residential developments. Levelling up funding is being sought in Williton where 350 new homes are planned in a flood risk area. The Somerset council Flood team are significantly under-resourced at present, with only one trainee in post rather than five staff.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Date of next meeting: Currently 21 September – to be rescheduled

Signed

Dated

Appendix to Minutes - Schedule of Payments

Payments: Function 28 website hosting £24; Zurich Insurance £198.35; Cllr Powell £2.34; SALC £100; Clerk £409.26, HMRC £54.60.

Receipts: Donations £92.80.
