

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Luxborough Parish Council held on 8 January 2022 at Luxborough Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

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

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

21/52 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30.

21/53 Apologies for absence. Cllr Nicholson

21/54 Declarations of interest. None.

21/55 Minutes of the meeting of 17 November 2021. The minutes were resolved as a true and accurate record.

21/56 Chairman's Report. The Chairman reported that the work erecting the emergency services' mast is complete with all necessary installations in place. It is not known whether the mast is yet operational. The Village Hall is to receive £250 for damage the contractors caused to the fence. Regarding The Hazery, Cllr Pugsley has no response from the Planning team regarding how land ownership at the site might impact the appeal to the Secretary of State. No further correspondence has been received on this matter. It is not known who owns the bridge.

21/57 Report from District Councillor. Cllr Pugsley advised that the elections for the shadow unitary council and Parish Council (PC) are planned for 5 May 2022, being brought forward from 2023. The unitary council will gradually absorb all of the roles performed by district councils. Terms for those elected will be for five years, until 2027. Uncertainty about the future of the Exmoor National Park Authority, and how representatives are to be elected, remains. Cllr Pugsley noted that Somerset West and Taunton has made funding available for business owners affected by Omicron. He was not certain if pubs would be in scope - the council will be writing to eligible businesses. The Exmoor Panel is to take place tomorrow evening at the Moorland Hall Cutcombe when Mark Shelford, the Police and Crime Commissioner, will be in attendance. Alyn Jones, director of the Somerset Local Government Reorganisation programme will also attend with a discussion on the pilot Highways Local Community Network on the agenda. Cllrs were reminded of forthcoming planning training when the Exmoor national Park plan, currently under review in consultation with stakeholders, would be on the agenda.

21/58 Parish Councillor Vacancy. Having spoken with Electoral Services, the Clerk advised that Cllr Yiend was, contrary to her previous advice, still eligible to remain a Cllr as the eligibility criteria are tied to the election process. Nevertheless, his formal resignation had been received on 23 December. A notice advertising the vacancy will be placed on the village board and in the Across Exmoor flier, with an email sent via the village email network. If ten parishioners request an election from Electoral Services by the deadline of 1 February the PC is obliged to hold one. Otherwise, co-option can be considered, although Cllrs noted that any co-optees would be obliged to stand down for the May elections.

21/59 Planning. Planning Enforcement had opened two cases investigating Higher Ponds cottage and the Logstack at Lyndale. The latter had been closed on the basis that the premise would revert to domestic use only.

21/60 Finance. a) Clerk's hours. Cllrs resolved that the Clerk's hours should be increased to three per week from 4 April 2022 in accordance with the national recommendation for minimum hours. b) 2022-23 Budget and Precept. The Clerk reported that no representations had been made from parishioners. Noting that the election costs previously forecasted for 2023 should be brought forward to 2022 - which will require a drawdown of £1,846 from reserves in the case of a contested election - Cllrs resolved to approve the 2022-23 budget and the precept of £2,875. The projected balance at the bank at the year end was £2,800. It was confirmed that the former Clerk had repaid the £300 she received in error from the bank (who had also refunded the PC £300 as a result of their mistake). The account's balance at 31 December stood at £3,641.95. Quarter three accounts would be brought to the next meeting. c) Schedule of Payments – Cllrs resolved to approve the Schedule.

21/61 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022. Cllr Duke has been exploring options, which might include commemorative mugs, planting an oak tree on the green, an outdoor picnic, fireworks and, more widely, an event at the church. An additional bank holiday has been created on 3 June in conjunction with the deferred May bank holiday on 2 June, when the Trooping of the Colour will take place along with the national lighting of beacons. Cllr Powell noted that a six-seven foot oak can be obtained for under £50. The tree could be planted around the Queen's accession day on 6 February with a commemorative plaque ceremony in June.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 16 March 2022, 7.30 pm Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed

Dated

Appendix to Minutes - Schedule of Payments / Receipts

Payments	
Function 28	£42
Clerk	£503.53
HMRC	£45.60
Total	£591.13
Receipts	
Former Clerk	£300
Total	£300