

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Luxborough Parish Council held on 12 October 2022 at Luxborough Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs: D Powell (*Chair*), M Bolland, C Henson, J Waller, A Sparling, F Nicholson (County). **Clerk:** Jeanna Grenville.

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

22/46 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.35 pm

22/47 Apologies for absence. Cllr Duke, Cllr Pugsley (District/County)

22/48 Declarations of interest. No interests were declared.

22/49 Minutes of the meetings of 10 August 2022. The minutes were resolved as a true and accurate record.

22/50 Chairman's Report. The Chairman reported that the salt bins/bags had been topped up today. It was noted that the Local Community Network (LCN) pilot was considering replacing bags with bins if feasible. [Cllr Nicholson joined the meeting.] Cllr Powell had been advised that Luxborough would not qualify for the free AirBand scheme for village halls. Cllr Nicholson agreed to look into this along with Cllr Pugsley. Concern was raised about the significant delays causing misery to road users travelling on the Minehead road due to ongoing works widening the adjacent pathway. Cllr Nicholson noted these concerns were widely held and are being tackled with the County Cllr representing Minehead, Cllr Mandy Chilcott, leading on this.

22/51 Update from County Councillor. Cllr Nicholson reminded Cllrs of the special meeting of the Exmoor Area Panel taking place on 13 October at Wheddon Cross, noting how important it is that feedback is provided about positive outcomes from the LCNs and how they should operate in the future e.g. shape, size and representation. Cllr Sparling will attend this meeting. A separate steering group meeting to review the Parish Steward scheme will take place on 14 October.

22/52 Planning. 1) Application 6/3/22/107 Lower Goosemoor - two storey extension. The PC had been consulted as the property is outside of, but close to, the parish boundary. Cllrs did not foresee any issues with the proposal but did not wish to comment formally. 2) Other Planning matters. Three Planning Enforcement cases are investigation: Hall Farm, Newcombe Farm and The Old Pottery. No updates were available via ENPA.

22/53 Highways. 1 Highways Wardens' Meeting. Cllr Powell attended and advised on the various road markings for markings for highway repairs – white if reported to Highways and inspected and orange if Highways have identified the damage. Flooding on the Cutcombe – Exford Rd has been reported with subsidence caused largely by blocked drains. Two new snow blowers have been procured for the County. 2. Capital Funding Bid. Cllrs resolved that Cllr Bolland will bid for Highways LCN funds to resolve the regular flooding on the roadway near to Hill Cottage. A further bid will be made to replace worn road markings at Heath Poult Cross which make it difficult to see the 'Stop' lines resulting in recent near-miss accidents. The advanced warning signs are obscured by overgrowing hedgerows. (P:Cllr Powell, S:Cllr Bolland)¹. Cllr Sparling encouraged Cllrs to promote the LCN pilot to contacts in smaller councils who may not have the same level of awareness about it so that they can engage with

¹ P – Proposed. S - Seconded

the initiative and help to ensure its success and continuing funding. 3 LCN Meeting on 13/10/2022.

Cllrs noted overgrowing foliage on the road to Roadwater which was creating potential hazards and likely to exceed legal limits. The Clerk will write to Forestry and Lady Gass's agent to request that they inspect and remedy overgrowth on their respective land. Cllr Powell will also approach a local resident who leases land adjacent to the road.

22/54 Report from the SWT Exmoor Area Panel Meeting. Cllrs Sparling and Bolland gave feedback from recent meetings. The Highways' Safety Officer from Avon and Somerset Police, Dan Fox, had given an insightful presentation on particular hazards on Exmoor, with drink/drug driving contributing to 30% of fatalities. The police are deploying a number of new technologies to tackle the issue. Policy Community Trust can assist with electronic speeding signage. Cllrs commended the new roadside signs at Tarr Water, warning of children and pets.

22/55 Report from SW Flood Group 5 October 2022. Cllr Bolland reported back from the meeting. Key issues were the ineffectuality of gel sandbags and the ongoing problem of detritus cleared from drains left on the roadside where it subsequently washes back into the drains.

22/56 Finance 1) Quarter 2 Financial Statement. The Clerk reported being unable to prepare the statement because the PC's laptop had failed. It would be circulated when ready. The balance at the bank at 30 September was £4,397.12. 2) Schedule of Payments. Cllrs resolved to Schedule, including the Clerk's salary and reasonable expenses for Q2. (P:Cllr Powell, S:Cllr Henson). 3) Banking mandate amendment Cllrs resolved that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the Luxborough Parish Council, be changed in accordance with the section 'Authorised Signatories', and the current mandate will continue as amended. Cllrs Bolland, Duke, Powell and Waller will be added to the mandate. (P: Cllr Powell, S:Cllr Sparling).

22/57 Laptop. Cllrs discussed the need to replace the laptop which had failed and could not be repaired. An initial verbal quotation of £624 had been received and the Clerk would obtain further quotes in accordance with the Financial Regulations. As the Clerk had recently set up cloud-based storage, all of the Council's documents should be intact. However, the HMRC electronic records have been discovered to be laptop, rather than cloud, based, and may prove irrecoverable. Paper records exist for some entries made by the current Clerk. Cllrs agreed that a decision on which quote to accept could be made between the Chairman and Clerk and reported back to the next meeting.

22/58 Correspondence and Meetings. It was noted that the bridleway at Westcott Farm remained temporarily closed. The Clerk noted with regret that she was tendering three months' notice with effect from today as changes to her commitments meant she would no longer have sufficient time to commit to PC activities. Councillors echoed the Chairman's thanks for the Clerk's work bringing the PC up to date with legislation and regulations.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:45 pm

Signed

Dated

Appendix to Minutes - Schedule of Payments

Payments: Function 28 website hosting; £36.00; SALC £55.28, Cllr Powell £2.34; SALC £100; Clerk £408.70, HMRC £54.60. Receipts: None.
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