

Minutes of the Cutcombe Parish Council Annual Meeting of Electors 7.00pm on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at the Moorland Hall

Present:

No of parish public attendees: 21 (J. Hewitt, A. Levenson, E.Cressy, J.Anson, S.Burns, W.Schofield, B.Stevens, R.Arch, D.Yiend, R.Morton, A.Blackmore, N.Philp, F.Nicholson, B. Wigley, I.Wigley, S.Parish, J.Coppin, R.Webber, J.Thompson, S.Pugsley)

Members of Parish council committee: Eric Norman, Claire Rooke, Roger Foxwell, Jon Levenson - Chair, Vivian White – Vice Chair.

Apologies for Absence: Sarah Cook, John Davies, (Stephen Pugsley – may be late)

- 1. Parish Council Chairman's Welcome.** JL welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the new electees for the Parish Council and asked for any apologies. JL also asked for names to be given when a member of public addressed the meeting. JL thanked Annette Berry – Moorland Hall Secretary for stepping into take minutes of meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held on 25 May 2021** – all no objections. All agreed.
- 3. Chairman's report on the work of the Parish Council during the past year - JL** thanked previous councilors, and thanked Jeana Grenville for her work as Parish Clerk, a new clerk has been appointed following her resignation, however we are awaiting references etc. Thanked VW and RW for their work and support. Planning requests have been noted within minutes of other meeting. The bench at the war memorial has been repaired, the Parish Council donated £1500 for outdoor play equipment at Cutcombe School and donated to the Church for burial ground maintenance. The Parish Council have also taken a 16% reduction in precept. The toilet donations and rent of room next to toilets will help to compensate for this loss. There will be a continuation of contribution payments for the upkeep and mowing of recreation ground. The village fete is to be held there this year following the loss of this during Covid restrictions. Sports teams are currently playing elsewhere this is due to the lack of changing facilities on the field. JL wished the Moorland Hall well in getting the building rebuilt and to get the sports club and teams going again. Snowdrop Valley is a wonderful and profitable organization. EN presented information regarding this: We are fortunate to have this jewel in our Parish, I give thanks to the volunteers for their hard work, we were closed for 3 days due to storms and the residual clearing of trees etc. following this, I thank the school volunteers for running the café, this was appreciated by the volunteers and visitors alike, we raised £3,351.50 plus £1,200 raised by the Café. I would like to Francis Nicolson from

County Hall, for her help. Also, thanks to Exmoor Farmers Market for the use of the carpark and Badgworthy for use of the land, thank you to those who helped to clear the ground in the valley itself and a final thank you to Exmoor National Park who helped with advertising.

4. **Financial Report for 2021/22 – JL:** In the absence of our Clerk: All statements etc. are on noticeboards and website. In summary, financially we are in good shape, we have £40,000 in the reserve account, £2,000 in the current account, £10,000 in the Snowdrop Valley Account, **£153,000 asset register**. The finance subcommittee do well to keep everything in order. We have put aside £5,000, for the 20 mile an hour zone.
5. **Update on Cutcombe First School – Naomi Philp exec head teacher and Alison Blackmore Head teacher (Moorland Federation and Cutcombe First School)** - Moorland Federation newsletter was shared between the public, Naomi presented initially: We have been a federation since 2017, this includes the 5 local most rural schools. This structure allows us to be better off financially. We do not want it to become one united school, but to keep individuality in each school. We have key personnel; Rosy Arch is a Central Administrator; Francis Nicolson is Co-Chair of Governors. We were able to develop a Moorland Federation Team for gymnastics, this enabled us to more effectively compete. Alison Blackmore presented: The village is central to the school, we have 29 young people on roll, we include children from Exton, Luxborough, and Brompton Regis, our preschool is on school site although runs separately from the school. All staff go above and beyond at the heart of all we do is our Christian values, the Clergy regularly support us with service, including Easter, and we held our own Communion event and children have rung the bells in the church. We would like to pay thanks to MK autos who looks after our minibus, Eric Norman who has donated the pub as an Emergency Evacuation site, Exmoor Farmers who hosted our nativity, Central Stores who provided vouchers during lock down at the shop, Shearwell Data also help. We have planned a School trip to Pinkery, a Jubilee event where we will be joining the celebrations, a sports day and a summer trip to Wimbleball. We have new markings on the playground, we will soon have a new play equipment, we are lucky to have a swimming pool on site and forest school area. We have a Gardening Club run by Rosy Arch where the children plant vegetables, care for them and then and cook them in lessons. We are very excited to say that another 9 children will be joining us in September, but we are losing 7 as they depart us to attend Middle School this means we currently have 37 on roll in total. We take as many lessons outdoors as we can. We want our children to stay in the national park and become our citizens of the future.
6. **Update on 20 mile per hour request at Wheddon Cross** - RF: We have committed £5,000 of estimated costs for this to go ahead, it is all currently going through council administration. As an observation, we have noted site lines through the village are obstructed by protruding hedges, the

council may employ a tractor and hedge cutter to take back some of the hedges. We are unique in Somerset where we are proposing to appoint a Highways Steward, they will be the first port of call between the Parishes of Exmoor, they will respond to concerns about drains, signage and potholes. RW – we have been invited to join a small group, a pilot scheme; LCN - Local Community Network. Notes will be taken to panel meetings, RW asked the Parish Council for a small amount of money to be ringfenced to go towards a program of things to be considered in the next year. A person has been appointed for the Stewards role who will be starting before the end of May (the panel meeting is where all representatives from different Exmoor Parishes meet)

Councilor Nicolson: This is a pilot to find ways to working with communities, what works here will be spread around the whole of Somerset, the new Unitary Authority need to be made aware of what traffic issues we face in these rural areas. Respecting local knowledge, the Highway Steward, is a local person, he will have a program of works but must also be prepared to take up immediate work, a broker who will liaise with main highways staff. RW – at these smaller meetings, you can speak frankly and challenge, ‘milestone’ work with top staff in highways; the plethora of signs we have for diversion redirection, RF –I would like to propose to take our new Highways Steward around and show him the issues in this Parish. I suggested that he should have a dashcam, he can then use this evidence to help to support actions.

7. Policing Report – Michelle Haines and Bryan Stevens (Community Policing Team) - Brian Stevens –We have had a few incidents, thefts in the village, we have identification of vehicles, thanks to the Rest and Be Thankful for CCTV footage, investigations are ongoing. Out towards Lanacre Bridge, we have had vehicles broken into, 3 vehicles have been affected thus far, 2 have not reported. This may be an ongoing risk, Brian gave a reminder not to leave valuables in a car or at least secure them away. Brian very strongly promoted Farm Watch, this scheme reports, as quick as possible, crime issues back to all members of the scheme. Anyone who wishes to join the scheme is able to. Contact Brian. This will be my last meeting and visit to the Parish Council, after 19 years I am retiring in 2 months’ time. RF – requested some policing support for speed checks in the village, Brian said he put a request in for this to occur between the pub and the market. JL – thanked Brian and wished him a long and happy retirement.
8. Electors’ Items – Sally Parish: I would like to thank you for putting the 20MPH zone in place, will it go right the way around loop? VW – yes, it will cover the whole loop of the area the go ahead will be given to Highways at the next Parish meeting, it will be up to them and the contractors, they are aware we want it done quickly, Sally Parish – Could we initiate better Transport Liaison? Having dates and times of closures, would make such a difference. Jill Thompson – where the school is, we need a ‘Residents Only - No Through Road’ sign. VW –Normans Cottages, already has a No Through Road sign. Barbara Wigley - Luckwell Bridge: the speed limit is 60MPH, there

are 2 blind bends. JL – In reducing speed limits in a derestricted zone normally involves installing street lighting. Wendy Schofield – I would like to express a vote of special thanks to Roger Webber for over 40 years on the committee. David Yiend – We were recently approached for donations from Cricket Club, yet there are still no sports continuing on the field. RF – update on Moorland Sports Pavilion –the pavilion has come to the end of life and the building is now condemned, the Sports Club had planning permission, these plans are for some 8m larger than the existing building, we are concerned about the costs in order to build to this size. Other issue facing the Moorland Hall: CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) – this will shift the liability from the trustees to the Hall itself, Health and Safety reports for the play equipment has had same issued for some 8 years, we have instructed Wicksteed. We have lost a lot business due to Covid, we have lost a lot of income. The field is not registered with land registry. We have some big decisions to be made, we will be approaching the Parish Council for some financial support. JL – In any appropriate way, we will support the Moorland Hall.

9. Report from the Joyce Charity – Roger Webber (Trustee) – The charity was set up as a result of a farm ‘East Neville’ (Winsford) being left to the poor of Cutcombe, Winsford and Wooton Courteney some 360 yrs ago. This year Cutcombe received £1,650. £1,440 has been distributed to 13 recipients. A reserve has been held over to use if needed later in the year. The trustees are: Angela Edwards, Andrew Schofield and myself.
10. Report from the West Charity – Roger Webber (Trustee) – Has distributed £600 to 5 recipients the year, 2022. The trustees are: Rev David Weir, Shirley Parfitt and Angela Edwards.
Both charities continue to distribute the funds in line with the Donors wishes, all are approachable in confidence.

Councilor Pugsley – We are now entering into the change over into the Unitary Authority, this evening was the last meeting for Taunton and West Somerset. If anyone has any issues, I will make sure any queries are heard by the right people. Exmoor’s end needs to be kept up.

EN – John Anson, has been a great supporter of Parish, the diligence during their period.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm, thanking the Parishioners for attending and expressing their points of view.