

Minutes of the Ordinary Cutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at the Moorland Hall

Present: Councillors Jon Levenson (Chair), Eric Norman (Vice Chair), Roger Foxwell, Sarah Cook, Claire Rooke

In attendance: Liz Stitt – Clerk, Cllr Nicholson

Also Present: Three members of the public

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p>Public Question Time Jill Thompson gave the following update on the Moorland Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) They have been looking at different options and ideas for the new pavilion and getting ready for the full public survey, the timeframe of this is looking like around November. [a member of the public joined the meeting] Cllr Norman asked for the council to see a full business plan for these options, Jill confirmed that each option put forward would have its own business plan. ii) Moorland Hall want to plant an oak tree to mark the Coronation and is hoping that someone can donate this. iii) Bookings are increasing slightly. iv) They had to call the police as a car was parked in the car park for over a week so notices will go up in the car park asking people not to park there unless they are using the Hall. The staff from the Rest and Be Thankful can still park there when needed. v) Cllr Foxwell asked if they had managed to get the quotes for the decorating that needs doing to the hall. Jill said they have got quotes but they are all for different things and so come to all different amounts. The council asked for the Moorland Hall to put forward three like-for-like quotes for work that urgently needs doing to the Clerk two weeks before the next Parish Council meeting which is on the 19th of September so they can be circulated for the councils consideration to see whether they can put any money towards it. <p>A member of public gave concerns regarding the up coming election and the fact that it has not been publicised very well. Cllr Nicholson said the running of the election is the responsibility of Somerset Council and it is up to any of the candidates to go around if they want to, this is not the parish councils job it is up to the candidates. Cllr Foxwell asked Cllr Nicholson if she could pass on our concerns with regards to the costs of the elections and the extra cost of the polling cards which the council did not go ahead with as it would have been £1,500 per election on top of the cost of the elections. The Clerk will forward the emails to Cllr Nicholson regarding the costs which she will look into as she doesn't think that is reasonable. Cllr Norman said a lot of parishioners have asked him why there are two elections which he explained it is out of the council's hands, it was up to the parishioners which is now double cost due to the two elections and it has left a sour taste and some of the parishioners have lost faith in the councillors to save money and do things sensibly. Cllr Levenson said the election times had been set for the first election before Cllr Davis resigned which is why it couldn't be done under one election. The Good Councillors Guide recommends that if more than two people want to stand as councillors it is recommended to have an election as it clearly demonstrates openness and fairness.</p>	Clerk/Cllr Nicholson
23/70	To receive Apologies for Absence Apologies were given to Cllr Levenson from Cllr Pugsley.	
23/71	To receive declarations of Interest Cllr Norman item 12 ii)	
23/72	To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of the 16th of May 2023 It was resolved to approve the minutes of the 16 th of May 2023	
23/73	To receive and discuss the clerks report This was received and noted. An update was given on the bus shelter which is now complete except for the new clock. Cllr Levenson spoke to Helen Davies who has very kindly taken on the liaison of putting items in the Across Exmoor magazine.	
23/74	To receive the Chairs Report The chair reported the following:	

	<p>i) Dean Kinsella who is head of planning for Exmoor National Park forwarded a reply regarding the transformer issue which acknowledged that the work should have been done but then goes on to say that as there were no time limits there isn't an enforcement issue. Cllr Pugsley has been fantastic and set up a meeting with Mr Kinsella, Cllr Levenson and Mr Wood, unfortunately Cllr Pugsley could not make the meeting, the meeting was really useful and Dean has agreed to take it up and is going to write to Western Power Distribution and the developers, Somerfield Homes, and ask when the work is going to be done but they are not in the position at the moment to use enforcement.</p>	
23/75	<p>To receive reports from Somerset Councillors</p> <p>i) The Highways Pilot continues, there are good bits and there are not so good bits, but it is better than not having it. [a member of the public left the meeting]</p> <p>ii) We have been in discussion with OpenReach with regards to overnight road closures, which is better than them being closed during the day.</p> <p>iii) The locally commissioned jetting is nearly there and is being looked into.</p> <p>iv) The bin strike is off.</p> <p>v) The Partnership Plan, which is the business plan for Exmoor National Park, has to be updated and there is an online survey which can be filled in individually or as the whole Parish Council. Cllr Levenson and the Clerk will get the Councillors' views on this and put together a reply from the Parish Council.</p> <p>vi) As part of the ENPA to save money it was proposed by core members that the planning committee should meet every two months rather than every month. Which will also make it harder to meet planning response deadlines. It was also proposed to reduce the size of the planning committee. There is an online consultation, Cllr Levenson got the thoughts from Councillors on this and will send a letter with the council's views which is to keep things the same.</p>	<p>Cllr Levenson</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Levenson</p>
23/76	<p>To consider Highways and Transport Matters</p> <p>i) Cllr Norman has been round to look at the drains that need jetting which we will apply to be done.</p> <p>ii) A hedge trimmer was arranged to cut some dangerous areas that were overgrown which was done with the chair's approval.</p> <p>iii) Cllr Rooke said the road down where she lives is getting narrower and narrower due to the hedges and asked if we could cut the hedges back as you wouldn't be able to see the people coming out of the driveways. Cllr Nicholson said it is the property owner's responsibility. Cllr Norman and Cllr Rooke will ask the households involved if they could have permission to cut the hedges. Cllr Levenson said it can't wait till the next meeting so can we agree now to spend the money to have this work done as it won't cost too much. The Clerk said any spending to be agreed has to be on the agenda and therefore should not be done till the next meeting. The council noted this point but agreed for it to go ahead anyway.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Foxwell reported there is still no date set for the work on the landslide even though they said it was going to be done in the autumn.</p> <p>v) Things are still ongoing with the blocked drains up by Shearwell which has been ongoing for two years now which is frustrating that it doesn't get done.</p> <p>vi) The 20mph speed limit is held up currently due to one objection which the traffic management team have to deal with. Cllr Norman is going to give Kate Brown a call to see if things can go faster. [Cllr Cook left the meeting]</p> <p>vii) The ongoing drainage problems at Luckwell Bridge is going to be funded with next years highways budget and they are also going to resurface the area by the market with next year's budget.</p> <p>viii) There is going to be a five day road closure to sort the drainage out at Dunkery information on this will be circulated nearer the time.</p>	<p>Cllr Norman</p>
23/77	<p>Update on Moorland Hall & Recreation Ground Jill Thompson gave an update on this during public question time.</p>	
23/78	<p>Resolve to select a PC representative for the Affordable Housing Group It was resolved for Cllr Levenson to do this temporarily until there is a full council when it will be voted on again.</p>	
23/79	<p>Resolve to select who to go with for the Clerks job re-evaluation It was resolved to go with the free one from SALC first and if the outcome is not detailed enough then to go ahead with the £200 option which gives a full report.</p>	

23/80	To consider any planning matters There were no planning matters	
23/81	Finance i) Review the Financial Risk Assessment and resolve whether to adopt it. This was circulated to Councillors before the meeting to review, it was resolved to adopt the financial risk assessment. ii) To approve the schedule of payments and note receipts It was proposed and agreed to pay this. iii) To approve the salary payment for the Clerk to be paid in August and reported at the next meeting in September This was approved.	
23/82	To note the correspondence which Councillors have received in the correspondence report. The report was received and noted by the council. Cllr Norman reported there has been three incidents at the Public Toilets where people have ripped off the handles and put them in the toilets. A soap dispenser has also been broken. Cllr Norman arranged for it all to be repaired but it is very frustrating that these things happen. Cllr Levenson gave thanks to Cllr Norman and his team for sorting it all out.	
23/83	Items for the next Agenda. i) Moorland Hall urgent work quotes to be considered	

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix

- i) Clerks Report**
- ii) Schedule of Payments**
- iii) Correspondence Report**