

## Minutes of the Ordinary Cutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the Moorland Hall

**Present:** Councillors Jon Levenson (Chair), Eric Norman (Vice Chair), Roger Foxwell, Sarah Cook, Claire Rooke, Oliver Yiend, Andrew Forward

**In attendance:** Liz Stitt – Clerk, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Pugsley

**Also Present:** Les and Will from Exmoor Young Voices.

Item	Minutes	Action
	<b>Public Question Time</b> No items were raised.	
<b>23/84</b>	<b>To receive Apologies for Absence</b> None received	
<b>23/85</b>	<b>To receive declarations of Interest</b> Cllr Norman item 14 iii) [Cllr Pugsley joined the meeting]	
<b>23/86</b>	<b>To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2023</b> It was resolved to approve the minutes of 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	
<b>23/87</b>	<b>To note the results of by-elections held on 20<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August.</b> Congratulations were given to the new Councillors Oliver Yiend and Andrew Forward.	
<b>23/88</b>	<b>To receive and discuss the clerk's report</b> Cllr Norman gave an update on the latest Snowdrop Valley Committee Meeting, looking at January 27 <sup>th</sup> – February 25 <sup>th</sup> for the 2024 event and January 25 <sup>th</sup> – February 23 <sup>rd</sup> for the 2025 event. The Clerk to speak to Dulverton and Dunster Clerks about the road closures and possibly pulling together to save money on putting them in all together.	Clerk
<b>23/89</b>	<b>To receive the Chair's Report</b> The recent LCN meeting was well attended. Cllr Norman volunteered to be on the sub-group of the affordable housing group, Cllr Foxwell was voted back onto the highways sub-group and Cllr Levenson volunteered onto the economic regeneration sub-group. There is a consultation period on additional flexibilities to support housing delivery, the agricultural sector, business, high streets, and open prisons; and a call for evidence on nature-based solutions, farm efficiency projects and diversification which anybody can comment on which closes on the 25 <sup>th</sup> of September.	
<b>23/90</b>	<p><b>To receive reports from Somerset Councillors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) It was important that we push for road works to be set up with traffic lights for use out of hours as it is much less of a hindrance for road users and there was a good example this week where it has helped where Highways were appointed elsewhere due to the recent flooding, but the road was still able to be used due to the temporary traffic lights.</li> <li>ii) It is looking likely for work to be started on the Roundwaters Retaining Wall Scheme (B3224 landslip) at the beginning of January, once the full timescales are known there will be a full public meeting to ask questions on it. A point was raised about some of the work being done with floodlights overnight to try and halve the time it would take to complete but this may not be possible due to safety. Cllr Nicholson asked for the names and addresses of landowners on the proposed diversion route to be given to highways so they can contact them regarding keeping hedges and overhanging trees trimmed on the roadside in preparation. The Clerk will contact the neighbouring parishes regarding this and will forward the details onto Highways.</li> <li>iii) Salt bags and bins are being assessed; parishes will be contacted to find out where they need to go.</li> </ul>	Clerk

23/91	<p><b>To consider any Planning matters.</b></p> <p>i) <b>Dunkery View Farm Rural Housing Delivery Project: Stakeholder and Public Consultation</b> Will and Les, Representatives from Exmoor Young Voices, came and gave their views on the proposed development which the council will take with them to the stakeholder meeting. The key things are that young people must be made a priority for housing on Exmoor otherwise there won't be any young people left on Exmoor. Two other key things to remember are affordability and suitability. Cllr Foxwell asked for a call to be made for more sites on Exmoor to the Park Authority and for parishes to go out and look for sites within their parish. Cllr Pugsley said this has happened through the SHLAA report which shows which sites could be available in which villages. [Les and Will left the meeting]</p>	
23/92	<p><b>To consider Highways and Transport Matters</b></p> <p>i) Most of the drains have worked perfectly through the torrential rain.</p> <p>ii) Cllr Rooke and Cllr Norman have talked to most of the neighbours at Higher Park and Lower Park. The hedge trimmer is hopefully coming out Friday morning to trim the hedges to make it safer for road users. The cost for this will be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>iii) Highways confirmed it was an error that it was marked for a roundel to be put down outside one of the houses, but this has since been rectified.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Foxwell will get some information on Friday with regards to how far along a highway a road sign should be visible. [Cllr Pugsley and Cllr Nicholson left the meeting]</p>	
23/93	<p><b>Update on Moorland Hall &amp; Recreation Ground</b> There was no update on this due to the summer break.</p>	
23/94	<p><b>To review and adopt the Grants policy</b> After review and a slight change of wording to say that each case will be reviewed on its own merits, it was unanimously approved to adopt this policy.</p>	
23/95	<p><b>To review and adopt the Website policy</b> This was reviewed and unanimously approved to adopt.</p>	
23/96	<p><b>To select parish council representatives for the following</b></p> <p>i) <b>Moorland Hall Committee</b> – Cllr Yiend.</p> <p>ii) <b>Parish Highways Warden</b> – Cllr Yiend will take up this role. The acting highways warden, Cllr Norman, will do a handover. Cllr Foxwell will put the SID up. The Clerk will get a quote for the chapter eight training for Cllr Yiend.</p> <p>iii) <b>Housing Enabling Committee</b> – Cllr Levenson</p> <p>iv) <b>Discuss whether to change any other members of committees now there is full council</b> – It was resolved to keep the committee members as they are which is:</p> <p><b>Snowdrop Valley Committee</b> – Cllr Norman (Chair), Cllr Levenson, Cllr Rooke  <b>Finance &amp; Risk Working Group</b> – Cllr Levenson (Chair), Cllr Norman, Cllr Cook</p>	Cllr Norman/ Cllr Foxwell/ Clerk
23/97	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>i) <b>Resolve to agree on an iPad donation for Dunkery Pre-School.</b> It was resolved to donate the full amount of £379 which includes two years warranty to come out of the S.137 section of the Snowdrop Valley budget.</p> <p>ii) <b>To receive the Q1 council accounts reports and bank reconciliation.</b> This was received by Councillors and no comments were made on them.</p> <p>iii) <b>To receive and approve the schedule of payments and note receipts.</b> It was resolved and agreed to pay this.</p>	
23/98	<p><b>To note the correspondence which Councillors have received in the correspondence report.</b> The report was received and noted by the council.</p>	

<b>23/99</b>	<b>Items for the next Agenda.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final quote for the hedge cutting.</li> <li>• De-brief of Dunkery View meeting and public meeting</li> </ul>	
<b>23/100</b>	<b>To consider passing a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting prior to consideration of item 18 on the agenda.</b> There were no members of the public in the room, so this did not need to be resolved.	
<b>23/101</b>	<b>Motion to discuss the Clerk’s job re-evaluation to decide which pay scale the Clerk should be on and the date this should be backdated to.</b> After taking into consideration recommendations from the internal auditor and the job re-evaluation from S.A.L.C. it was resolved to increase the Clerks pay scale to SCP 24 backdated to April the 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023.	

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Dated:

#### Appendix

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