

## Minutes of the Ordinary Cutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at the Moorland Hall

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

**In attendance:** Liz Stitt – Clerk, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Pugsley (Joined later)

**Also Present:** One member of the public

Item	Minutes	Action
	<b>Public Question Time</b> A member of the public gave a thank you letter to the Parish Council which was read out, thanking the Parish Council for cleaning the War Memorial and for doing it in time for remembrance day. Cllr Levenson also thanked Cllr Foxwell for arranging the cleaning.	
23/117	<b>To receive Apologies for Absence</b> No apologies were given.	
23/118	<b>To receive declarations of Interest</b> Cllr Norman item 23 v)	
23/119	<b>To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2023</b> It was resolved to approve the minutes of 17 <sup>th</sup> of October 2023.	
23/120	<b>To receive and discuss the clerk's report.</b> This was received and noted.	
23/121	<b>To receive the Chair's Report.</b> The main points to note were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The latest LCN meeting was very good and very well attended.</li> <li>ii) We are going to look into updating the signs in the toilets and the possibility of having a QR code for people to donate electronically.</li> <li>iii) Cllr Levenson will speak to Shearwell Data regarding the adverts in the toilets to get clarification of when these were paid for.</li> <li>iv) A suggestion for the next meeting to discuss sponsorship of our recently refurbished bus shelter.</li> <li>v) Dean Kinsella assured Cllr Levenson that he will sort out the transformer issue whilst he is still in post.</li> </ul>	Cllr Levenson
23/122	<b>To receive reports from Somerset Councillors</b> The main points to note were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Cllr Nicholson highlighted that the toilet donation slot is not currently in the best place anymore.</li> <li>ii) There is a meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November in the Moorland Hall regarding the road closure for the landslip. The maps and plans will be out from 7pm and the meeting will begin at 7.30pm. It is going to be a longer job than had hoped and will start sometime after Christmas.</li> <li>iii) The Somerset Council's financial situation is very concerning. There are two options, neither are palatable. One is that local decisions are made to make sure the budget can balance next year, the other is to throw in the towel and get run from London.</li> <li>iv) The work that has been done here with the LCN and the Highways Pilot has meant there has been a real shift in the attitude of officers which doesn't cost money and produces a benefit. If nothing else, it has been worth doing as quite a lot of officers have learnt a huge amount and have a different attitude.</li> <li>v) It may be sensible to come together in groups and the LCN grouping when considering the devolved assets and services.[Cllr Pugsley joined the meeting]</li> <li>vi) Exmoor National Park Authority is reducing the number of its meetings, the number of planning meetings has been reduced and the planning committee has been reduced to 12 members. [A member of the public left the meeting]</li> </ul>	
23/123	<b>To consider Highways and Transport Matters</b> Cllr Yiend gave the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Work has started on the 20mph scheme with road signs being painted.</li> <li>ii) A list of work that needs doing has been sent to the Highways Steward.</li> <li>iii) Looking at how to populate a mini map with what three words locations so it can be easily seen where work needs to be done and reported to help track</li> </ul>	

	<p>things.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Foxwell will forward any areas of ongoing concern to Cllr Yiend to chase up.</p>	Cllr Foxwell
23/124	<p><b>Update on Moorland Hall &amp; Recreation Ground</b> Cllr Yiend gave the following update:</p> <p>i) A new toddler swing has been installed.</p> <p>ii) The play area equipment has been tested and there are some recommended works, but nothing has to be decommissioned.</p> <p>iii) It has been agreed not to put the fencing back up as its easier for the grass cutting.</p> <p>iv) The trustees are working out whether they need to buy other equipment to cut the grass when it is longer.</p> <p>v) The Moorland Hall is all up to date with the latest fire regulations.</p>	
23/125	<p><b>To discuss a request for a local 'Kindness Rock Garden'</b>. This was deferred to the next meeting as Rachel Dight could not attend the meeting to give further information.</p>	
23/126	<p><b>To discuss the Community Review Project funded through Somerset Council</b> It was resolved for Councillors to send their views to the Clerk via email on the questionnaire, then the Clerk will collate all the answers and send in our expression of interest for the Review by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.</p>	Clerk
23/127	<p><b>To discuss the Somerset Council Asset and Service Devolution</b> Cllr Foxwell highlighted that a lot of the things listed the Parish Council already look after, for example the toilets and bus shelter. Cllr Pugsley said we are already ahead of the game in this area and advised us to get together collectively under the LCN. The Clerk will circulate the list of assets and services to Councillors via email to give their comments on what they think are important which will then be taken to the next LCN in January.</p>	Clerk
23/128	<p><b>To consider any Planning matters.</b></p> <p>i) <b>To discuss the consultation on the proposed electronic communications base station site at Exmoor Farmers Livestock Market.</b> This was circulated for the new Councillors.</p> <p>ii) <b>To discuss the formation of a planning committee/working group and appoint members.</b> A planning working group was formed with Cllr Rooke (Chair), Cllr Norman, Cllr Cook, Cllr Yiend. They will report to the full council on planning applications and their progress.[Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Pugsley left the meeting]</p>	
23/129	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>i) <b>To discuss and agree the budget and set the precept for 2024/25.</b> After discussion It was proposed, Seconded, and unanimously agreed to take the Finance and Risk Working Groups recommendations for the 2024/25 budget and keep the precept the same at £11,200. The council gave a vote of thanks and a round of applause to the Clerk for all the work done on the budget.</p> <p>ii) <b>To discuss the quotes for getting the gang mowers serviced and resolve whether to go ahead.</b> This was deferred until Cllr Norman could get a third quote.</p> <p>iii) <b>To resolve to pay for merchandise and banners for the Snowdrop Valley event.</b> It was resolved to pay for the badges and walking sticks. Cllr Norman will bring quotes for the banners to the next meeting.</p> <p>iv) <b>To receive the Q2 council accounts reports and bank reconciliation.</b> This was received and noted by the Councillors.</p> <p>v) <b>To receive and approve the schedule of payments, which includes the Local Government Pay Award and back payment 2023/24 and note receipts.</b> Cllr Foxwell raised that he was not happy the Snowdrop Valley 'Thank You' dinner is being paid through the Chair's allowance. The chair acknowledged Cllr Foxwell's comments and explained that it had been agreed by the full council in a previous meeting and is the only way it can legally be done. The Clerk will transfer this money from the Snowdrop Valley Account, so it is not coming out of the main Parish Council funds. Following this discussion, it was resolved and agreed to pay the schedule of payments with a majority vote.</p>	
23/130	<p><b>To receive and acknowledge the draft minutes of the Snowdrop Valley</b></p>	

	<b>Committee Meeting dated 17/10/2023.</b> Cllr Norman gave an update on Snowdrop Valley. The minutes were received and noted.	
<b>23/131</b>	<b>To note the correspondence which Councillors have received in the correspondence report.</b> The report was received and noted by the council.	
<b>23/132</b>	<b>Items for consideration on the next Agenda.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas for advertising and sponsorship of the bus shelter and public toilets.</li> <li>• Kindness Rock Garden.</li> <li>• Snowdrop Valley banner quotes.</li> <li>• Quotes for servicing the gang mowers.</li> <li>• Update on Community Review.</li> <li>• Grants &amp; Donations Applications.</li> </ul>	

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:

Dated:

#### Appendix

- i) Clerks Report
- ii) Schedule of Payments
- iii) Correspondence Report
- iv) 2024/25 Budget