

Minutes of the Ordinary Cutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at the Moorland Hall

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

In attendance: Liz Stitt – Clerk, Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cllr Steven Pugsley

Also Present: Two members of the public

Item	Minutes	Action
	Public Question Time No matters were raised during this section.	
24/01	To receive Apologies for Absence Cllr Oliver Yiend gave apologies to the Clerk.	
24/02	To receive declarations of Interest Cllr Norman item number 24/14 v)	
24/03	To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 19th of December 2023 These were approved and signed.	
24/04	To receive and discuss the clerk's report. This was received by Councillors.	
24/05	<p>To receive the Chair's Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The chair gave thanks to the LCN for paying the remainder of the costs of the 20mph speed limit scheme, saving the council a considerable amount of money. A letter of thanks will be sent to the LCN. ii) It is Important people go to the public meeting to have their say about the Dulverton Recycling Centre possibly being closed which is happening at 7pm at the Town Hall in Dulverton on the 27th of February. iii) The chair gave an update on the transformer issue. A meeting is being set up with National Grid to try and resolve the issue. 	Clerk
24/06	<p>To receive reports from Somerset Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) It was the Somerset Council budget meeting today and it looks as though the drainage and verge cutting services that were feared would be cut, will be kept in the budget for another year which was good news. ii) The LCN will need to continue to be a strong organisation and hope to be able to crack on with the economic development element of their work along with the housing element of their work which will be the next challenges to come. iii) The piling is now finished on the B3224 Roadwaters work and they are on schedule. Cllr Pugsley would like to arrange another public meeting to bring people up-to-date with everything which may happen in the middle of March and will be about half way through the program. There is a highways meeting coming up where it will be highlighted that extra signs are needed on the diversion asking people to please go slowly to try and slow traffic down. Cllr Rooke highlighted that a sign asking people not to follow their sat nav has disappeared, Cllr Nicholson asked for anything like this to be reported using the online reporting system as soon as possible. Cllr Rooke also highlighted issues with vans going down Thorne Lane and getting stuck. Cllr Pugsley will raise this at the next highways meeting. Cllr Pugsley also asked for Councillors to email them as soon as any issues arise so they can be acted on straight away. iv) Cllr Forward brought up that parishioners had been alarmed at the number of letters they had been sent regarding the new bin days which seemed to be a bit excessive and a waste of budget, Cllr Pugsley & Cllr Nicholson agreed and do not know why this was done. v) Cllr Foxwell raised concerns regarding Driver Farm and the possibility of it being made into a B&B. Cllr Foxwell said it should be let under a 10 year farm tenancy. vi) Cllr Foxwell raised that an applicant in Luckwell Bridge has not heard from Exmoor National Park Authority since September last year regarding his planning permission. Cllr Pugsley asked him to be told to give him a call regarding it. 	

24/13	<p>To consider any Planning matters. (This item was moved up the agenda by the Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Application No: 6/8/23/004 – Councillors unanimously agreed to support this application. ii) Application No: GDO 24/03 – Councillors unanimously agreed to support this application. [Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Pugsley & two members of the public left the meeting] 	
24/07	<p>To consider Highways and Transport Matters The Clerk read out the following updates which Cllr Yiend supplied via email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The jetting works were completed in the previous month. ii) Thank you to Cllr Levenson for keeping on top of the signage in relation to the businesses open as usual due to the diversion. iii) Cllr Yiend has chased for information as the list of tasks outlined to the highways warden. iv) Reports from the Roundwaters work shows things on track which is positive given the weather we have experienced. v) Councillors that are aware of any issues on the highways to pass them onto Cllr Yiend to ensure they are added to the list for the Highways Warden. vi) Cllr Forward said the Snowdrop Valley sign by the pub is stopping people from seeing what is coming along the road. Cllr Norman will look at moving this. vii) Cllr Norman will clean the public toilets sign in the car park with bleach. 	Cllr Norman
24/08	<p>To discuss implications of the Asset & Service Devolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Cllr Yiend to advise on the best approach regarding hedge cutting going forward. The Clerk read out an update from Cllr Yiend regarding this, but as was heard from the Somerset Councillors earlier on in the meeting this should carry on this year through Somerset Council so is not as urgent. 	
24/09	<p>Update on Moorland Hall & Recreation Ground The Clerk read out the following updates which Cllr Yiend supplied via email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) At the most recent meeting it was discussed the potential for the bank to be removed and replaced with a pavement, this work would be required to give the correct level of visibility to people leaving the proposed site. It was agreed clear plans were needed to outline the implications and for the Moorland Hall to reconvene at the following meeting. ii) The developer is carrying out an assessment on the Moorland Hall drains to assess the viability of using these rather than creating their own connection across the road, The Moorland Hall Trustees are awaiting the report. iii) Plans are progressing with adding showers to the Moorland Hall to enable the football club to come back next season. A sort out of the back room has begun. iv) The gang mowers are greased and in storage. 	
24/10	<p>To discuss a request for a local ‘Kindness Rock Garden’. Cllr Levenson had spoken to Rachel Dight regarding this, and they have had a re-think as to where is best to put this and will be doing a review. Therefore, this does not need to be discussed in the meeting and does not need to be added to the next agenda.</p>	
24/11	<p>Update on advertising and sponsorship of the Bus Shelter and Public Toilets Cllr Levenson has been busy with Snowdrop Valley and did not have an update on this, it will be carried forward to the next meeting.</p>	
24/12	<p>Update on the Community Review Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Review and adopt the Community Review Steering Group Terms of Reference. These were reviewed and following a few amendments were agreed and adopted by the council. ii) To receive the community review timeline. This was received by Councillors. The Survey will be officially launched at the annual meeting of electors on the 28th of May 2024. 	
24/14	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To approve Oliver Yiend and Andrew Forward as signatories for the bank. It 	

	<p>was agreed for Cllr Yiend and Cllr Forward to be added to the bank as signatories.</p> <p>ii) Grant and donation applications to consider for approval</p> <p>a) Exmoor Community Youth Club After discussion it was agreed to support this application and give a donation of £500.</p> <p>iii) To receive the Q3 council accounts reports and bank reconciliation These were received by the Council.</p> <p>iv) To appoint an internal auditor for 2023/24 It was agreed to appoint Paul Russell as the internal auditor who is now working under the Parish and Town Council Audit Services.</p> <p>v) To receive and approve the schedule of payments and note receipts These were received and approved.</p>	
24/15	<p>Update on Snowdrop Valley and to receive and acknowledge the draft minutes of the Snowdrop Valley Committee Meeting dated 19/12/2023. Cllr Norman said they have clicked 2,700 visitors but in reality it would be more as it's hard to click people in when it is a busy period. The weather has been very wet underfoot but there have been no accidents, there was an accident on the Coleridge Way which is separate to Snowdrop Valley. So far Snowdrop Valley has taken over £5,000 which is great considering the weather, and there are still five more days to go. The card reader payments worked well. Cllr Levenson highlighted last year the event had an ITV local news report done on it and they broadcast the weather from it, which in Marketing terms was worth around £20,000 which made a huge difference along with the better weather. We are very grateful to Cllr Norman and Jim Winzer who do most of the heavy lifting to enable the Snowdrop Valley event to take place, but we do need more volunteers for next year which we will look into. Cllr Foxwell raised issues with the ribbon markers rather than arrows being used in some places, Cllr Levenson said they had not heard any negative comments from the public and they would be sticking with the ribbons but there may be a few places where arrows can be put instead. Cllr Foxwell said it may be good from a Marketing point of view to find out where people are coming from to influence future marketing, this was noted and would be put to the committee to see how best it could be achieved. The minutes were received.</p>	
24/16	<p>To note the correspondence which Councillors have received in the correspondence report. This was received by Councillors.</p>	
24/17	<p>Items for consideration on the next Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on advertising and sponsorship of the Bus Shelter and Public Toilets 	

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix

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