

Minutes of the Ordinary Cutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th February 2025 in the Edwin Beckett Room, Moorland Hall

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

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

Item	Minutes	Action
	Public Question Time. There were no members of the public present.	
25/05	To receive Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Yiend.	
25/06	To receive declarations of Interest. Cllr Norman, The Rest and Be Thankful Inn.	
25/07	To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 17th of December 2024 and the Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 21st of January 2025. These were both approved and signed. [Cllr Nicholson joined the meeting]	
25/08	To receive the Clerk's Report. This was received by the Councillors.	
25/09	To receive the Chair's Report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The chair wondered whether the three Defibrillators in the parish are registered on the National Defibrillator Database as it is free to do so. The Clerk will email the necessary contacts to find out. - The lean to will be up by the middle of March. [Cllr Pugsley joined the meeting] - In the minutes of a recent LCN rural economic meeting there was a note from Exmoor National Park saying that Somerset Council are awarding Visit Exmoor £250,000 which is an incredible amount of money. - There has been an enormous amount of heat generated over the re-introduction of white-tailed eagles to Exmoor. There are farmers in our parish who are quite concerned about it. - A field in the village has just had a hedge coppiced and made the most marvelous view of the countryside and looks fantastic. 	Clerk
25/10	To receive reports from Somerset Councillors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Somerset Council are looking into a revised car parking policy which will charge for extra parking bays in some towns including Minehead, they will charge on Sundays where they don't currently, and will charge overnight. They say it is to harmonise what each district did previously to bring it together under a single Somerset Council. They are looking to start charging for parking at the Rest and Be Thankful car park under this new policy. The Rest and Be Thankful own the car park and lease it to Somerset council, however the council has never paid any money towards the lease therefore they are in breach of the lease. Cllr Pugsley said it would be disastrous in terms of the business and the community if this were to happen and urged the council and Cllr Norman as the owner of the Rest and Be Thankful to write a letter stating why this is a terrible idea and send to Chris Hall, Executive Director, Community, Place and Economy. Cllr Levenson will also ring Alison Blackmore asking her to write a letter from a point of the view of the school as a lot of parents use the car park to collect their children. - Somerset Council has got permission from the government to raise council tax above the cap to 7.5%. They are looking to save money by a reduction in staffing numbers rather than in service cuts, except they have said the service will not be as it was before. - There is a lot of pressure on the Highways budget due to the latest storms and flood damage. 	Cllr Levenson, Cllr Norman
25/11	To consider highways and transport matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SID has been maintained and got a new battery and has been handed over to Cllr Foxwell to pass onto Cllr Yiend. - Work has still not been done outside Blagdon House, the drains are still 	Cllr

	blocked, and the barriers are falling into the road by Combeshead Farm. Cllr Nicholson will raise this at the next Highways meeting.	Nicholson
25/12	<p>To Consider any planning matters.</p> <p>i) Application No. 6/8/25/001 – Land at Cutcombe Market. Proposed construction of health and wellbeing hub and associated works. Councillors agreed that a hub was needed, and it would be a good location. It was unanimously agreed to support the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Dunkery View application has not been decided yet as they are working through a surface water issue. - The Clerk will scan in the 'Guide to Custom and Self-Build Affordable Housing on Exmoor' leaflet and put on the website to help promote it. <p>ii) Update from the planning working group. The planning working group had no updates.</p>	Clerk
25/13	Discuss the council's response to Exmoor National Park's five-year plan. The plan was circulated to Councillors before the meeting. There were concerns shared about the planting of more trees in the plan. Cllr Levenson asked Councillors to send any comments they have on the plan to the Clerk no later than the 1 st of March, to be able to submit a response by the deadline of the 10 th of March.	All Cllrs
25/14	<p>Update on Snowdrop Valley & to receive the draft minutes from the Snowdrop Valley Committee Meeting dated 7th of January 2025. The minutes were received by Councillors. There has been a good number of visitors to the site and has raised approximately £5,000 so far. The school pop up café has done an enormous amount of trade and the customers have appreciated having refreshments down in the valley. All the volunteers have been exceptionally good. The comments from visitors have been very positive. The new 2025 Exmoor National Park Magazines have been given out free which have been very well received. Two volunteers Jim and Gary have done almost half of all the shifts on the trailer, which is incredible, but going forward we will need more volunteers. Exmoor welding made some metal monks for a competition for the children to do which gives some background to the snow drops and is bringing more families to visit.</p> <p>There was an outstanding bill from last year that Bakers Dolphin coaches haven't paid to Andrew Turner for the Land Rover taxi service, they have promised Cllr Norman that they are going to pay the outstanding bill.</p>	
25/15	<p>Update on Moorland Hall & Recreation Ground. Cllr Yiend sent the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The hall is looking at setting up as an emergency shelter, they have an energy audit next month and off the back of this support with a grant application to make required improvements and this will also go towards the alterations including showers to provide an option for football and cricket etc. to use the hall as changing rooms. - Fascia boarding is due to be painted when the weather allows. 	
25/16	Update on the Warm Space Initiative. There was no further update on this.	
25/17	Update on the Community Review Project. The Community review, Executive Summary, Community Review Report and Action Plan have all been shared to Councillors.	
25/18	Update on the communication survey of the gaps in good broadband and mobile phone signal. Cllr Levenson has visited 183 homes in the parish to give them the survey, and we have already had around 30 returned, hopefully more will be returned soon. There will hopefully be a summary of the findings at the next Parish Council meeting.	
25/19	<p>Grants & Donations Applications.</p> <p>i) Discuss the application from Cutcombe First School. As this was a retrospective application and it is within our Grants & Donations policy criteria</p>	

	that donations will not be made retrospectively, it was decided not to go ahead with this donation.	
25/20	To note correspondence which Councillors have received in the correspondence report. This was received by Councillors. A phone call that was received by the council by a parishioner to say that their recycling bins had not been collected was investigated by Cllr Foxwell and they had been removed from the collection route, they have now been put back onto the route after a lengthy procedure.	
25/21	To receive the notes from the FRWG meeting dated 7th of January 2025. These were received by Councillors.	
25/22	Finance: i) To appoint an internal auditor for the 2024/25 AGAR. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with our current Internal Auditor, Paul Russell of Parish and Town Auditing Services at a cost of £195. ii) To approve removing Andrew Forward as a signatory on the bank. It was approved to remove Andrew. iii) To receive and approve the schedule of payments and note receipts. This was received and approved which included £245 compensation from National Grid for the power cuts that happened at the Public Toilets during Storm Darragh.	
25/23	Items for consideration on the next agenda No items were put forward.	

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

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix:

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