

## Minutes of the Ordinary Cutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in the Edwin Beckett Room, Moorland Hall

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

**In attendance:** Liz Stitt – Clerk

Item	Minutes	Action
	<b>Public Question Time.</b> There were no members of the public present.	
<b>25/40</b>	<b>To receive Apologies for Absence.</b> Apologies were received from Oliver Yiend, Richard Norman, Claire Rooke, Steven Pugsley and Frances Nicholson.	
<b>25/41</b>	<b>To receive declarations of Interest.</b> Cllr E. Norman, the Rest and Be Thankful item 25/52 ii)	
<b>25/42</b>	<b>To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.</b> These were approved and signed.	
<b>25/43</b>	<b>To receive the Clerk's Report.</b> The Hall has been booked for the Annual Meeting of Electors on the 27 <sup>th</sup> of May at 7pm. The Clerk will ask the following people if they would like to come and give any reports at the meeting:  Alison Blackmore – Cutcombe School Linda Moden – Avon and Somerset Police Roger Webber – Calvert Trust Jill Thompson – Moorland Hall David Weir – St John's Church	
<b>25/44</b>	<b>To receive the Chair's Report.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sadly, two parishioners have passed away, Alan Coles and Kay Jarret, we would all like to send condolences to their families.</li> <li>- Also sadly, Claire Rooke has written a letter to resign from the parish council. We thank Claire for her attendance on the parish council over a few years. The vacancy will be advertised, and the Clerk will contact Hazel Crockford who has previously wanted to join the council to let her know there is a new vacancy.</li> <li>- There have been issues with the roof to the lean to. The site has been prepared and the concrete is being laid tomorrow. It is hoped to be up within the next couple of weeks.</li> <li>- Where Coleridge Way crosses Heathpoult, the finger post has disappeared which has been reported and will be re-installed.</li> <li>- The signs are up for the 1<sup>st</sup> of May for the Forces March.</li> <li>- Cllr Levenson is not putting himself forward at the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be re-elected as Chair. He is happy to remain as a councillor and to remain on the Snowdrop Valley Committee and be a Snowdrop Valley volunteer but is stepping down as Chair after three years. This gives a month's notice to think about who might be able to step in.</li> </ul>	Clerk
<b>25/45</b>	<b>To receive reports from Somerset Councillors.</b> No report was given as the Somerset Councillors could not attend.	
<b>25/46</b>	<b>To consider highways and transport matters.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An artic lorry came down from Heathpoult and tried to turn left which ripped out the fascia and guttering of the building on the corner. The owners of the house reported it to their insurance company who arranged for an emergency road closure and closed the main road and Summerway. This caused an enormous amount of hassle with no diversion signs up and there was lots of obscene language being thrown around. Cllr E Norman notified the police, but they said they couldn't do anything as they are not breaking the law. It wasn't until a parishioner looked on their phone to see that the only road that should have been closed was Summerway and not the main road. A highways man arrived and asked them to move the signs from the main road which then meant the traffic could get through, but this didn't happen until 7.30pm. The next day a big</li> </ul>	

	<p>lorry and roofing van turned up who picked all the signs up and put them back in their vans, took the guttering down and any bits of wood that looked dangerous and left it on the pavement. The shop ran out of fuel as the tanker that delivers to the shop couldn't get through, which meant they got some abuse from customers. A lot of people and businesses were affected. Cllr E Norman explained everything that happened to Cllr Steven Pugsley who will be bringing it up at the next Exmoor LCN Highways Sub-Group meeting to look at lessons that can be learnt from this incident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At Couple Cross the historic finger post is at a 45-degree angle and the verge has been totally ruined by the lorries that are moving timber around. Cllr Levenson has been in touch with Kali Martin and Steven Pugsley and gave them the details of the haulage company but have not heard anything back about this since, but it is in hand.</li> <li>- It was suggested for the two Highways Representatives Cllr Yiend and Cllr R Norman to drive round the village together to get a list of jobs that need doing and reporting to Highways. It was also suggested for them to go to the LCN meetings. The Clerk will ask Cllr R Norman if he has done Chapter Eight Training.</li> </ul>	Clerk
25/47	<p><b>To Consider any planning matters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are still no further updates regarding the Dunkery View Planning Application behind the Moorland Hall.</li> <li>- Cllr E Norman believes that people have been coming from Birmingham and renting a place in Minehead for a few months which then gets them classed as local and means they can get a place at the Rainbow development in Minehead by manipulating the rules. It was asked for Cllr E Norman to bring this concern to the next LCN meeting to be discussed.</li> <li>- Cllr Foxwell has spoken to a parishioner who is seriously frustrated at the fact that it is going to cost £1200 for a 106 agreement which is a lot of money for a standard letter of conditions. Cllr Foxwell will email Steven Pugsley regarding this.</li> </ul>	
25/48	<p><b>Update on Moorland Hall &amp; Recreation Ground.</b> An update was read out which Cllr Yiend supplied via email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the football club folding the focus is on a simple cricket pavilion and MUGA improvements.</li> <li>- The Becketts are selecting a photo of General Beckett for the Beckett Room, then need to remove the old certifications from the walls in the main hall and fix the picture of the King in the hall.</li> <li>- ENPA are offering rights of way furniture to be dedicated to a loved one in exchange for a donation to CareMoor for Exmoor. The hunting gate onto the field has now been replaced and this has been sponsored so a plaque will appear at some point.</li> <li>- Emergency Hub funding – The energy audit report has been completed. Next step is to create a plan and costings to then apply for the funding. The Community Council Somerset give guidance for suitable grants.</li> <li>- Cllr Foxwell has raised with Jill Thompson that the fence around the dog walking area has been removed.</li> </ul>	
25/49	<p><b>Update on the Warm Space Initiative.</b> It was agreed for this to be taken off future agendas as it comes under the Emergency Hub which the Moorland Hall are looking into and driving forward.</p>	
25/50	<p><b>To note correspondence which Councillors have received in the correspondence report.</b> This was noted and received. Exmoor News Magazine have been in contact regarding delivery points for the magazine in the parish. Cllr E Norman is happy for them to be delivered to the Rest and Be Thankful.</p>	
25/51	<p><b>To discuss the Cricket Clubs donation application.</b> Last year the Cricket Club were asked if the Gang Mowers needed servicing which the council had budgeted for, but were told they did not. A number of years ago the precept was increased to employ a contractor to cut the grass, but since then the precept has been frozen for four financial years and the original extra money has been swallowed up by inflation. It was</p>	

	proposed and seconded to give half of the amount requested of £450 which would help cover the cost of maintenance, this was carried by majority vote. Cllr Foxwell abstained from voting. The Clerk will ask the Cricket Club to speak to the Moorland Hall to see if they can donate the other half as the owners of the Sports Field.	
<b>25/52</b>	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>i) <b>To receive the 2024/25 Q4 budget outturn and bank reconciliation.</b> This was received by Councillors. The Clerk also gave out a separate financial report showing the overall profit for Snowdrop Valley for 2024/25 which was £894.10 after all costs, which included buying a new trailer and the associated costs of this. Cllr Foxwell questioned why the costs weren't listed out separately for the trailer. The Clerk said that it all comes under payments from reserves as it was not originally budgeted for, but the payments were all separately listed out when they were paid on the schedule of payments throughout the year.</p> <p>Cllr Foxwell asked why we needed to pay to get electricity across to the trailer when we have a generator that can be used instead. Cllr E Norman explained that the cost of the electricity was the same as it would cost for the petrol for the generator, but the generator needed to be set up and put away each night which could not be done logistically with the volunteers as this involved pushing it up a hill, and it is also very noisy. The smaller generator that came with the trailer was not big enough to power everything that was needed.</p> <p>ii) <b>To receive and approve the schedule of payments and note receipts.</b> This was received and approved.</p>	
<b>25/53</b>	<p><b>Items for consideration on the next agenda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Clerk will ask Cllr Yiend if he can give a presentation at the Annual Electors Meeting on the Community Review, the outcomes, and the next steps, and highlighting if there are any projects the Parish Council could help with that's on the wish list.</li> </ul>	Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

Dated:

**Appendix:**

- i) Clerks Report**
- ii) Correspondence Report**
- iii) 2024/25 Q4 Budget Outturn**
- iv) Snowdrop Valley 2024/25 Year End Report**
- v) Schedule of Payments**