

EXBOURNE WITH JACOBSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on:
Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 8:00pm in The Vestry, Jacobstowe

Councillors Present: Steve Blakeman (Chair), Adam Hedley (Vice Chair), Brian Cobb, Kirk England, John Guy and Borough Councillor Lois Samuel

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 3 members of the public

Business Transacted

124. Welcome: Cllr Blakeman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

125. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Williams and Lawson

126. Minutes of the Last Meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2018 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr Cobb, all in favour.

127. Declarations of Interest: None

128. Public Speaking Time:

128.1 A resident spoke of his objection to Hayfield House and how he would be affected by this development. Concerns were raised with regard to the access arrangements, in particular to the emergency services. Lack of parking for visitors and delivery vehicles was also an issue. This resident did not like the design saying it was significantly lacking in light on the ground floor and felt it was inappropriate to the location. He asked for support from the Parish Council in objecting to this application.

Cllr Blakeman explained the Parish Council would only be able to comment based on material planning considerations.

128.2 In total, 4 objections have been raised against the Hayfield House development – a resident had written to the Parish Council about their objection to this application, the main concerns were parking, micro drainage and the impact on both Wheelwright Cottage and Hayfield House.

Cllr Blakeman advised residents who wished to object or support this application should write to West Devon Borough Council.

129. Borough Councillor Report

B.Cllr Lois Samuel reported the budget setting meeting was held last month and tough decisions were made where Councillors voted for an increase to the council tax of 2.99%. However, a proposal to cut all discretionary grants to local charities was rejected, as it was felt that charities needed another year to prepare themselves.

The SeaMoor Lotto is being launched and both South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council are calling out to all community groups, charities and good causes in the area who might be interested in being part of this new council run Lottery initiative. It is a new venture which is being led by the councils to provide a way for local good causes to raise funds. 60% of all money raised will go towards local good causes, 20% of ticket sales will be put towards prizes and 20% will go towards running costs. Councils would like to hear from any interested parties, so they may be invited to a launch event in May and find out how to sign up to become part of the SeaMoor Lotto. Please email lotto@swdevon.gov.uk for more information.

SIB

Borough Councillors also agreed to close the Okehampton offices to make a saving of about £80k. Closure will be on 6th April and from then on the Localities Officer will be based on Tuesday and Friday at the Ockment Centre for residents that need help with any issues.

Finally, West Devon Borough Council are holding a series of drop in sessions around the Borough for those who would like a little extra help using their online service. The Council has had online services for Council Tax and Housing Benefit for some years now and is keen to encourage people to use self-serve options available to them.

130. Matters Arising

130.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hedley reported the Neighbourhood Plan Group are progressing with collating evidence to support policies within the Neighbourhood Plan. He explained that the community consultation process indicated there was strong support to develop a Village Design Statement in order to guide development within Exbourne. However, the *Neighbourhood Plan Group* had concerns about the amount of work this would entail and, before commencing the project, wanted to make sure the Parish Council had no objection in principal to a Village Design Statement being produced. Councillors raised a number of concerns about how a Village Design Statement can limit contemporary design and innovation and questioned whether one would have allowed good, or prevented bad, examples of historic development in the village. Cllr Hedley agreed to report back these concerns to the Neighbourhood Plan Group. **Action Cllr Hedley**

130.2 Devon Air Ambulance Trust

Cllr Williams has drafted a letter to the Playing Field Committee chairman which will be forwarded by the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

130.3 Super Link Meeting

Deferred until the next meeting.

130.4 Maintenance of Parish Assets

Cllr Blakeman to progress the bench further. **Action Cllr Blakeman**

130.5 Play Area Inspections

Cllr Williams has drafted a letter to the Playing Field Committee chairman which will be forwarded by the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

131. New Items

131.1 Council Plans for Snow or Similar Events

A parishioner has asked what the Parish Council was doing for residents during bad weather. Councillors were reminded that some years ago this Parish offered support to Sampford Courtney by way of the TAP Fund to enable them to purchase a snow plough and it was questioned whether they could assist during snowy weather.

Borough Councillor Lois Samuel offered to investigate. **Action B.Cllr Samuel**

The Clerk was asked to create a poster for Emergency Assistance Volunteers asking residents to come forward and help to coordinate assistance to the vulnerable in emergencies such as flooding, snow and ice. **Action Clerk**

131.2 St Marys Church – Tower Clock

The Clerk has received a quote for £988 plus VAT to repair the motor that operates the quarter chimings. The part of the motor that is faulty does not affect the rest of the workings of the clock so Councillors made the decision to take the time to obtain further quotes. **Action Cllr Guy**. In the meantime, the Clerk will request Smith of Derby to return the motor on their next visit to service the clock. **Action Clerk**

132. Planning

132.1 To discuss any other planning matters which have arisen between the date of the Agenda and this meeting: there were no planning matters to be discussed.

S/D

- 132.1.1 0878/18/FUL Hayfield House, Exbourne for the erection of a 2 storey, 3 bedroom house, detached single storey store/workshop/office building and provision of two car parking spaces
 Comments: The Parish Council wish to object on the grounds that the proposal does not maintain or enhance the character of the conservation area. The Appeal Inspector (Appeal Ref: APP/Q1153/W/16/3151684) said "I had a general sense that the core of the village is tighter knit than the area north of the appeal site with the existing garden of Hayfield House being the first part of this feathering of the edge of the village. This space provided by the undeveloped site does not look out of place and compliments the rural character of this part of the settlement." The Parish Council feels the development diminishes this character and therefore adversely affects the conservation area. The Parish Council is also concerned specifically regarding window to window overlooking between the proposed dwelling and Tumbles Bungalow. If the council is minded to grant permission, the Parish Council would request that a construction management plan is prepared and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of the development. Given that the dwelling only has a pedestrian access, the plan will describe how construction materials will be delivered and spoil removed, without adversely affecting the right of others using the access lane. Also, the levels on the surface water drainage design show the level of the manhole as being 1 metre lower than that shown on the survey drawing. If relevant this could potentially mean that the system would not function as designed.
 Decision: Object
 Proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr England, motion carried 3-1 in favour. **Action Clerk**

133. Clerks Report

- 133.1 Correspondence
 The Clerk has distributed various correspondence/newsletters to Councillors since the last meeting. The following correspondence was noted/reviewed/discussed:
 133.1.1 WDBC: Introducing a new way to present recycling in West Devon
 133.1.2 100 Club: Okehampton District Community Transport Group Newsletter
 133.1.3 Highways: Traffic Notices Hele Cross to Stone Cross

134. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- 134.1 Cllr Blakeman
 WDBC have advised that they will no longer accept cash and cheques for payment of council tax or for other payments such as planning fees. Clerk to put this item on the next Agenda. **Action Clerk**
 There was also mention of making a donation to the Church for the use of the building for Parish Meetings. Clerk to put this item on the next Agenda. **Action Clerk**

135. Finance

- 135.1 Payments for Approval
 The following costs were approved by the Parish Council.
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| 135.1.1 Clerks Expenses | £43.24 |
| 135.1.2 Clerks Salary | £923.80 |
| 135.1.3 Smith of Derby: Clock servicing | £180.00 |
| 135.1.4 The Burrow: NP Meeting | £15.00 |
- The Clerks Salary includes tax paid over the previous year due to a Tax Code change from the Tax Office. The Parish Council should receive a refund from the tax office of £313.80.
 Proposed by Cllr England, seconded by Cllr Blakeman, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
- 135.2 Review the Bank Balance
 The balance as of 15th March was £11,113.90. Outstanding payments, including the cheques above, total £1,147.04 and once these transactions have gone through the total balance will be £9,771.86.

136. Date of Next Meeting

SJB

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Exbourne, followed by the next meeting of the Parish Council.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: *S Blaken* (Chair)

NAME: *STEPHEN BLAKEMAN* DATE: *25/4/2018*