

EXBOURNE WITH JACOBSTOWE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

was held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7:00pm
in the Village Hall, Exbourne

Those present were Councillors Steve Blakeman, Adam Hedley, Rose Williams, Elizabeth Batson, Brian Cobb and Borough Councillor Lois Samuel.

Also in attendance were Zena Tett, Parish Clerk and 0 members of the public.

2017.1 Chairman's Address – Steve Blakeman, Chairman of the Parish Council

I think initially I would like to mention some of the achievements that the Parish Council has been involved with over the past year. We have supported the Village Shop with a grant of £500 and the Village Hall with a grant of £500 for works required to the floor and a further £2,400 which was obtained via a successful bid for TAP funding for works to the end wall of the Hall. I would specifically like to thank Cllr Williams for her hard work in making the application.

In addition, the Council has also been successful in obtaining TAP funding for lengthsman works to the highway and again many thanks to Cllr Williams for her ongoing work in this respect.

This year the Council has its own website up and running, rather than being part of the Hatherleigh net. If you make a google search for Exbourne, Jacobstowe or Exbourne with Jacobstowe Council or Parish Council, we come at the top of the first page. I guess there are many businesses wish they could do the same. This allows residents to follow the working of the Council, see Minutes and Agendas and, as well of course, allowing residents to make contact via the web.

The external audit for the year ending March 2016 was returned with a satisfactory result and we should expect a similar satisfactory audit this year.

Our new Parish Clerk, Zena, has now been with us for approximately 12 months, I am pleased that she tends to keep us on a straight and narrow course, so to speak and would hope that she finds the Council a reasonable employer.

The Council has been fortunate in the co-option of Cllr Batson to the Council who I am pleased makes a positive contribution to the Council.

Sadly, Cllr Trevor Foster has had to resign from the Council for personal reasons but I would like to express the Council's thanks for his contribution during the past year. We therefore have a vacancy to fill so please do let any parishioners know who you feel may be interested.

I would like to offer thanks to members of the Finance Working Group for their time on setting the precept. The Council, at the end of last month had a balance slightly above £10,000 although I should mention that this does include ring fenced reserves, for emergencies, which hopefully are not required, but are recommended that we hold. There are also reserves for election/referendum expenses, IT and maintenance. The funds

also include monies that have been accessed for specific purposes and cannot, therefore, just be spent on anything. This position has been achieved without increasing the parish precept, but by strict budgeting and housekeeping so thank you to the working group.

In addition, I would like to thank Cllr Hedley and the other members of the Neighbourhood Plan group for the hard work and time spent which is required for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Exbourne. We look forward to seeing the plan progress following the next village consultation in May, but appreciate that there is still a lot of work required in the future.

I would also wish to thank our two P3 co-ordinators Steve Attfield and Tim Laws for the work during the year to the footpaths.

In addition, of course I would thank Cllr Samuel, our Borough Councillor in respect of her continuing support for the Parish, working to improve the services provided by the Borough Council. Also, thanks go to County Councillor James McInnes for his continued support of the Parish.

Finally, and not least I would thank you all for your continuing support and commitment to the Council.

2017.2 Minutes of the Last Meeting: the minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 25th May 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr Williams, all in favour.

2017.3 Borough Councillor Report

Since the Prime Ministers announcement for the General Elections, the office has been busy starting to prepare for this. Announcements should be out this week. The last day to register to vote would be the 22nd May. We also have the local elections for Devon County which is next Thursday 4th May, so I would like to encourage everyone to vote. West Devon Votes will be counted at the Kilworthy Office in Tavistock on 5th May starting at 10am. FYI those standing on our area which is Hatherleigh & Chagford are as follows:

- FRISBY Paula Louise - Labour Party
- MCINNES James Raymond - The Conservative Party
- OSBISTON David - Green Party
- RUSH Bob - UK Independence Party (UKIP)
- WOLVERSON Ross Anthony - Liberal Democrats

We have just had an email that Mel Stride, our MP has been appointed to the Privy Council, by the Queen which is really good news.

Young traders and performers will be given a chance to showcase their creative products and talents for free when the Teenage Market comes to Tavistock on Saturday 20th May, supported by West Devon Borough and Tavistock Town Council. Simply create your trader or performer profile on the Teenage Market website www.theteenagemarket.co.uk before Sunday 30th April and then apply to take part in the Tavistock Teenage Market on Saturday 20th May.

2017.4 Village Parking

Wayne Keenan, Watch Manager of the North Group Leadership Team was unable to join us for the meeting and will attend a future meeting to talk about parking issues in Exbourne and how they affect the Fire Service.

2017.5 **Open Forum**

No members of the public present.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: SRL (Chair)

NAME: STEPHEN BLAKEMAN DATE: 25/4/2018