

Minutes of a Meeting of Exbourne with Jacobstowe Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th September 2014 at 20.00 in the The Vestry of Jacobstowe Parish Church.

52. Those present

**Cllr M. Luxton
Cllr D. Weeks
Cllr S. Blakeman**

**There were no members of the public present.
Cllr Trevor Hill, Borough Councillor for the Exbourne Ward was present.**

Prior to the meeting starting the Chairman announced that the wife of John Stoneman had passed away. The council offer their condolences and the clerk was requested to arrange for a sympathy card to be sent to him.

53. Apologies for absence – Cllr Glanville, who is unable to attend, and Cllr Williams who is away. These apologies were accepted.

54. Declarations of interest – There were none.

55. Minutes of the last meeting – Cllr Weeks proposed that the minutes be signed as a correct record. This was seconded by Cllr Blakeman. The chairman then signed the minutes.

56. Matters arising from the last meeting

56.1 Report by Borough Councillor Trevor Hill (including an update on Neighbourhood Plans meeting) – Cllr Hill stated he had been preparing to arrange a meeting regarding the Neighbourhood Plans, but Sampford Courtenay Parish Council are to hold an open meeting at The Countryman on October 14th at 7.30 p.m. and have invited Rebecca Black to attend. Council in the Exbourne ward are invited to send representatives. The chairman stated he would be unable to attend. Cllrs Weeks and Blakeman will attend if they have no other commitments that evening.

WDBC are continuing with the Transformation 18 (T18). Interviews are to take place for corporate directors. Alan Robinson has not applied, but Tracey Windsor has. It is not currently known who has got the posts.

Ben Wilcox (the Enforcement Officer) has left. A new one has been appointed.

56.2 Cllr Hill to report on Enforcement Cases – as Ben Wilcox has left this has proved difficult. Once the new Enforcement Officer has settled in he find out the information requested by the council.

56.3 DCC Lengthsman – request regarding extra work in the two parishes. The chairman attended a meeting with Highways at Merton on September 17th. We have acquired the details of South Tawton's highways person. The chairman went to the meeting and found the presentation to be poor. The emphasis is now on supporting communities to keep hedges etc clear. The Snow Warden scheme was praised. The Road Warden scheme now endeavours to enable parishes to clean road signs and keep gullies clear. DCC could organise road closures to parishes can have a community road clean. Persons present at the meeting asked about insurance and risk assessments. DCC did not appear eager to put anything in writing. The general opinion seemed to be that the scheme was unworkable.

Potholes have to be the size of a dinner plate and 40mm deep for them to be repaired.

DCC have a new website to be launched on September 29th. It is supposed to be more user friendly.

The clerk to contact Ben Pell, the highways person for South Tawton, and ask if he is self employed, has his own insurance, if he carries out his own risk assessments and what he does with any spoil resulting from clearing debris on the highway.

Cllr Weeks suggested a few sites that would benefit from some work.

56.4 West Devon Borough Council Strategy Plan – Land Consultation

An email has been received from a parishioner asking about this consultation regarding possible development sites. A response was discussed and the clerk advised to respond to the parishioner concerned.

56.5 TAP fund for broadband access for village hall – it is understood that the person who has offered the broadband coverage is currently changing provider so leave in abeyance for now.

56.6 Street Lights – update by clerk the clerk has spoken with Maurizio at DCC. He informed her that they are using LED's in new developments. The long term plan is to use LED's across the county, but it is a matter of funding. They will replace the large wattage lights on the main roads and in urban areas first. If the parish council wished to change the bulbs to LED's it could cost in the region of £200 - £300 per light, but it would need to be looked at. LED's spread out the light differently and if columns needed to be moved or lanterns changed then the cost would increase significantly.

56.7 Report of Northern Links meeting held on September 11th – Cllr Blakeman attended. There was a discussion by the PCSO – crime figures are not too bad. Moor watch has reduced crime on the Moor.

The chair of the railway group stated they are still working to improve rail links.

TAP funding – Hatherleigh Hall has received money to paint a room.

DCC Road Warden scheme was discussed and it was felt it was not workable.

WDBC – discussed 'Our Plan' in which they work with communities.

The next meeting is on November 27th at Meldon Village Hall.

56.8 Overgrown hedges in Duck Lane, Exbourne – Cllr Blakeman has not had an opportunity to speak to anyone since the last meeting.

57. New Items

57.1 Precept – suggestions for discretionary items for consideration. Cllr Weeks explained that the FWG will begin looking at next years budget in Nov/Dec. If anyone has any items for consideration to be included in the precept then please let him know. He stated £250 had been budgeted for the provision of dog bins, but the situation has improved in the village. Perhaps this amount of money could be moved to another expenditure item?

Cllr Blakeman stated the bus shelter by the Red Lion will need maintenance at some point and wondered whether monies for this eventuality should be put aside.

57.2 Replacement of bench at North Road – discuss quotes from H.M. Prison Dartmoor woodwork shop. Trevor Foster had provided quotes from the prison. A four foot bench would cost £160-£180 and a six foot bench would cost £260 - £300. They are made out of mahogany.

The clerk asked about getting it from the prison to Exbourne – the council stated they would be able to collect it.

It was agreed that the bench needed replacing. Cllr Weeks confirmed that there were funds available.

Cllr Weeks proposed purchasing a six foot bench (subject to Cllr Blakeman measuring the base and ensuring it will accommodate that size). Cllr Blakeman seconded and all agreed. The clerk to order a bench once the base has been measured.

57.3 Review Code of Conduct – an email from Catherine Bowen at WDBC explaining they have reviewed their code. The amendments seem reasonable and it was unanimously agreed to adopt these amendments.

57.4 Review Standing Orders in connection with Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. Currently section 59 of the Standing Orders states 'there shall be no audio or video recording or photographs of the meeting without the express approval of the council'

The 2014 regulations now state that a person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place, but can film or make an audio recording and report on the proceedings after the meeting. A protocol has also been produced, which may be useful to bring to the attention of anyone wishing to make a recording of proceedings. It was unanimously agreed that this amendment be made to the Standing Orders and the protocol also be adopted.

57.5 Report on CPRE meeting held on 19th September – Cllr Williams was not present at the meeting, but had sent out documents relating to the meeting. The clerk has printed these documents and placed them in the circulation file.

The clerk to forward the email on to Cllr Hill.

57.6 Request from Okehampton District Community Transport Group for a grant
The council did not wish to give a grant at this time.

58. Matters arising from circulated correspondence (info only)

There was none.

59. Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

59.1 Tim Laws and Stephen Attfield are both attending the P3 workshop at Beaford.
The chairman stated he had received an email from Tim informing him the path at Shilstone has been strimmed by the owner.

59.2 The brushcutter and safety helmet have been added to the insurance policy

60. Planning

60.1 Applic No. 01027/2014 Meadow View Farm, Exbourne – prior notification for agricultural or forestry development – proposed building. Comment required prior to meeting. The council supports this more realistic design. They still maintain that the footprint size of the proposed building is too large for the small acreage. Seek condition ensuring the use of the proposed building is for the applicants own personal machines and equipment.

An application has been received: Land adjacent to Hayes, Exbourne – erection of 4 bedroom dwelling, garage, new driveway, access and associated landscaping. It was not on the agenda and there would not be a quorum as the chairman would need to declare a personal and prejudicial interest. Cllr Weeks will oversee this application.

60.2 Applic No. 00721/2014 Gilead Foundation, Risdon Farm, Jacobstowe – Application for removal of condition 2 of 00264/2014 in order to allow retention of two bungalows. Granted conditional consent.

60.3 Applic No. 00799/2014 3 Cawsand View, Hight Street, Exbourne – householder application for erection of two storey rear extension. Granted conditional consent.

60.4 Public Inquiry at Southmoor, Jacobstowe – WDBC has sent an email requesting information. Cllr Weeks has submitted a comment and Cllr Blakeman hopes to attend and speak.

61. Finance

61.1 Received second half of precept - £2444.50

61.2 Received invoice from clerk for wages and expenses - £350.96

61.3 Review of budget – there are no problems. It was noted that P3 shows a negative balance, but the expenditure of the brushcutter and safety helmet has been covered by the P3 grant of £415.

61.4 Details of balance at bank – the bank balance as at 5th September 2014 was £12,651.82. There is the hire of the hall for April/May/July/August £60.00 and the Cheque signed this evening for £350.96. This brings the balance down to **£12240.86** There are still the sums of £1000 for the lengthsman and £300 for wi-fi (both from TAP funds) allocated, but not yet spent.

62. Matters at the discretion of the Chairman

62.1 The clerk has received notification of road closures between 10th October 2014 and 30 September 2015 for surface dressing. The B3216 Bassetts Cross to Keepers Cottage is affected. Warning signs will be placed on site at least 7 days before work begins.

62.2 Cllr Weeks asked for the donation to the Royal British Legion to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

62.3 The clerk confirmed she will be away for a week in October, but will be back in time for the meeting on 29th October.

62.4 The chairman stated he had received a letter from Simpkins Edwards Accountants confirming the clerk has declared her income as clerk for tax purposes.

62.5 The chairman sends his apologies for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at The Village Hall, Exbourne on Wednesday 29th October 2014. It will commence at 8.00 p.m.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.