

EXBOURNE WITH JACOBSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th August 2019
at 8:00pm in the Vestry, Jacobstowe

Councillors Present: Steve Blakeman (Chair), Adam Hedley (Vice Chair), John Guy, Pete O'Connor Ulrik Lawson, Dave Stuart and Barry Ratcliffe

In Attendance: Zena Tett (Clerk) 7 and members of the public

45. Welcome

Cllr Blakeman, Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting including Borough Councillor Barry Ratcliffe who attended on behalf of Borough Councillor Lois Samuel

46. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Brian Cobb sent his apologies.

47. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2019 and approved at the meeting held on 26th July 2019 were signed. The minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record: proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr O'Connor, all in favour.

48. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs O'Connor and Hedley reference item 53.1

49. Public Speaking Time

- 49.1 A member of the public made a statement with reference to item 53.1 – please see Appendix 1
- 49.2 Another member of the public spoke with reference to item 53.1 saying they felt the applicant was not meeting one of the main issues in this village and that is good access to the playing field and the plan does not help the school.
Cllr Blakeman said to his knowledge, at this stage, having checked on the West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) website, there were no letters of support and one neutral regarding affordable housing.
- 49.3 Another parishioner mentioned their objection to item 53.1, which had been sent to WDBC 5 days ago, had not been uploaded on the website yet.
- 49.4 A further member of the public made a statement regarding item 53.1 which concentrated on the integrity of the Conservation Area, which he felt should be of prime importance to the Parish Council and the village - please see Appendix II
- 49.5 As the applicant and a member of the public, Cllr O'Connor read out a statement with reference to item 53.1 – please see Appendix III
- 49.6 A parishioner asked about section 106 money with reference to item 53.1.
Cllr Blakeman explained it could not be guaranteed that any section 106 money associated with the proposed development would come back to Exbourne.
- 49.7 Cllr Hedley, speaking as a member of the public with reference to item 53.1, felt that Parish Council should not support the proposed development. He said the site was a historic important open space, inside the Conservation Area and outside the settlement boundary. The Joint Local Plan is fairly clear in that neighbourhood plans should be used as a means of identifying development in villages like Exbourne. The Parish Council is preparing a neighbourhood plan and the question of whether any public benefit of this development outweighs the negative impact on heritage assets and landscape should therefore be left to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 49.8 Cllr Blakeman moved to bring item 53.1 forward for discussion.

53.1 2505/19/PIP

High Street, Exbourne for permission in principle (PIP) application for erection of up to 6 dwellings with on-site parking, public open space provision and play area Land behind the Red Lion Inn.

Cllrs O'Connor and Hedley left the meeting.

Cllr Lawson said he was uncomfortable that Cllr O'Connor had made his statement whilst he was seated at the table. This gave the impression he was speaking as a member of the Parish Council. He felt it was wrong and Cllr O'Connor should have been seated with members of the public while making his statement. Cllr Blakeman asked the Clerk to put an item on the next agenda for further discussion. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Blakeman began by explaining PIP applications to members of the public. He then highlighted some of the objections that had been raised before Councillors formed a view.

Comments: Parish Councillors object to this application as they feel the proposed development does not demonstrate that it is likely to maintain or enhance the Conservation Area and concerns have been raised regarding the suitability of the access. In addition, there have been objections from the village in respect of traffic, loss of trees, preferable sites within the local area, effect on listed buildings and potential harm to the landscape.

Cllr Lawson proposed Councillors object to this application, seconded by Cllr Stuart, all in favour.

Decision: Object

Cllrs O'Connor and Hedley re-joined the meeting.

50. Borough Councillor Report

Borough Councillor Barry Ratcliffe reported how the waste management team are dealing with our waste. They are concerned that 28% of the contents of black sacks are food waste and there are proposals to try to improve the service they are providing. There will be a trial in two areas of West Devon starting in 2020 and towards the end of next year, if it's successful, the new scheme will be adopted. He went on to explain the proposals and that he would be attending a meeting in a couple of weeks where he will report back any comments made by the public.

A member of the public mentioned they were holding an event on 14th September in the Village Hall from 10 until 12 o'clock called Let's Talk Rubbish which is a new recycling scheme. There will be someone from WDBC in attendance.

51. Matters Arising

51.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hedley reported the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Group are in the process of applying for technical support from consultants to help with the process of site assessment and to carry out an objective assessment of need. The NP Group are also looking into the possibility of commissioning a local landscape character assessment. This has been put out to tender and they hope to receive some responses soon. However, if the Group do opt to carry out a landscape character assessment, it is likely they will need additional funding, whether from the Parish Council or other fund-raising efforts, as there will not be enough in the existing budget.

51.2 Maintenance of Parish Assets

Cllr Blakeman reported no change, deferred to the next meeting.

51.3 Devon Air Ambulance

Cllr Blakeman had had a discussion with a parishioner contractor, who will give a quote for the car park. He also said it was his understanding that the village owned the playing field where the car park will be located.

51.4 Projector

Cllr Blakeman had investigated cheaper types of projector. However, he was concerned that product reviews could be misleading and they would not be good enough. Cllr Hedley had reviewed projectors which were more expensive for comparison and again, felt it was difficult to tell which would be suitable. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out the make and model used by Sampford Courtney and whether they were happy with it. **Action Clerk**

51.5 Village Hall Funding

At the Annual Parish Meeting, members of the Village Hall Committee explained they were struggling to raise funds for the Village Hall and asked if the Parish Council (PC) would help to fund the insurance each year. Subsequently, the Clerk

received an email from a Parishioner who expressed concerns about the PC's ongoing funding of the Village Hall. The Parish Clerk had been asked to investigate what other Parish Councils did in relation to their village halls and she explained that funds were raised in various ways, ranging from regular lettings of the Halls, large events, applying for grants and support from the PC. Cllr Hedley had previously advised that every £100.00 spent by the PC towards community projects, costs each band D household £0.46. Cllr Blakeman asked for a show of hands from members of the public as to whether they would be opposed to a raise in the precept to support the Village Hall, which is a community benefit – all members of the public who were present at this meeting raised their hand. Cllr Hedley suggested he re-visits the budget to see if there were any monies available this year. **Action Cllr Hedley**

51.6 Queens Memorial

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

51.7 P3 Update

Cllr O'Connor reported the stile in question would be replaced with a gate.

51.8 Road Closure

The Clerk reported she had not had a reply to her email requesting further information.

52. **New Items**

52.1 There were no new items to discuss.

53. **Planning**

53.2 Other Applications

There were no further applications notified to the Parish Council after the Agenda for this meeting had been published.

54. **Clerks Report**

54.1 Correspondence

The correspondence listed below was reviewed and any comments were noted.

54.1.1 Peter Howard: Climate Emergency Network

54.1.2 Devon Communities Together: Rural Futures Conference notes

54.1.3 WDBC: West Devon Polling Places Review

54.1.4 WDBC: Council Tax Support Grant for 2020-21

54.2 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Clerk received the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Cllr Lawson.

54.3 Register of Interests

The Clerk received the Register of Interests form from Cllr Lawson.

54.4 Bank Account

The Clerk received signed declarations from Cllrs Guy and Stuart and at this meeting the form was signed by Cllrs Blakeman and Hedley. The Clerk will now forward the application form to the bank. **Action Clerk**

55. **Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda**

55.1 Cllr Blakeman reported he had a phone call from a parishioner re dog fouling outside the village. Members of the public had been putting dog waste in plastic bags and throwing them into nearby fields. Cllr Blakeman explained that dog walkers on Exmoor "stick and flick" and asked Councillors whether the Parish Council should adopt this policy outside the 30mph zone. The Clerk was asked to put on the next Agenda. **Action Clerk**

56. **Finance**

56.1 The following payments were agreed: proposed by Cllr Blakeman, seconded by Cllr Lawson, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

56.1.1 Clerks Expenses £12.50

56.2 Bank Balance Review

The balance in the Parish Council Account on 15th July 2019 was £14,456.22. Outstanding transactions, including the cheque above, amount to £449.00, giving the parish an actual balance of £14,007.22 once these payments have gone through.

57. **Date of Next Meeting:** Councillors confirmed the next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 24th September 2019 in the Village Hall, Exbourne at 8pm.

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

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: (Chair)

NAME: DATE:

DRAFT