

EXBOURNE WITH JACOBSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on
Tuesday 31st July 2018 at 8:00pm in the Vestry, Jacobstowe

Councillors Present: Steve Blakeman (Chair), Adam Hedley (Vice Chair), Kirk England and John Guy

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 19 members of the public

Business Transacted

19. **Apologies for Absence:** Borough Councillor Lois Samuels and Councillors Lawson, Williams and Cobb
20. **Welcome:** Cllr Blakeman, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
21. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** the minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2018 were amended to acknowledge that a letter received by Cllr Blakeman showed the parishioners return address. They were then agreed and signed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr England, all in favour.
22. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Hedley for item 31.2.1
23. **Public Speaking Time:**

- 23.1 Several members of the public spoke regarding their disappointment with the handling of the processes around the potential designation of Local Green Spaces and development site assessments in the Neighbourhood Plan ('NP'). Please see attached written statements which were either read out at the meeting, or had been sent to the Parish Council the day before the meeting.

Cllr Blakeman explained that the Parish Council was unable to release names and addresses of the individuals that nominated Local Green Space sites due to the General Data Protection Regulations. It was his view that releasing personal details was only likely to cause animosity in any case.

Cllr Hedley emphasised that no sites had yet been proposed for designation and would not be until the assessment process had been completed. The assessments would be agreed by the NP Group and then West Devon Borough Council and landowners would be consulted.

- 23.2 Another parishioner was concerned that members of the public had been nominating areas because they were beautiful and not giving a valid reason, he would like to see those reasons. He also felt that members of the NP Group had nominated sites and voted in the community consultation process and if they had, they shouldn't be allowed to vote further in the assessment of the sites.

Cllr Blakeman confirmed that appropriate guidance had been followed in the Local Green Spaces nomination process and that any designation would need to meet the criteria in the National Planning Practice Framework ('NPPF'), otherwise they would *not pass the examination by the Independent Examiner.*

Cllr Hedley confirmed that the NP Group was prepared to release copies of the nomination forms with any personal information redacted, however, this may take some time. He then read out a statement, which is also attached, that tried to address the key issues that had been raised by landowners in both this meeting and the latest NP Group meeting.

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- 23.3 A parishioner said she was conscious of how much work the NP Group have put into the project already and felt that the Group had not been appreciated considering the time freely given by each member.

Cllr Blakeman requested the Clerk to put Cllr Hedley's offer to resign as Project Leader of the NP Group on the next Agenda. **Action Clerk**

- 23.4 Cllr England was also respectful of the hard work by Cllr Hedley and other members of the NP Group, however, he felt Cllr Hedley was unfair to suggest that the recent NP Group meeting had been ambushed by landowners affected by the Local Green Space. It was rather, a democracy in action. He felt that parishioners had been respectful in sharing their views in light of their very real concerns and they are entitled to challenge the process.

He went on to say he had spoken with an Independent Examiner who tests neighbourhood plans. This examiner, after having the situation explained, said she would strike out any private gardens because they are a legitimate concern.

Cllr England suggested the whole process could get really messy and the Parish Council should employ an independent expert to review the assessment report to give reassurance to landowners and other parishioners that sites will only go forward if they meet the proper criteria.

A NP Group member who was present explained that it was she who was preparing the Local Green Space assessment report and apologised for the time it was taking. However, she felt she had a duty to the wider community and, in particular to those people who gave their nominations in good faith and to over 100 people that had attended to community consultation day to spend the time required to adequately assess the nominations. Cllr Blakeman agreed this was an important point.

Cllr Hedley confirmed that an initial draft of the Local Green Space assessment report should be completed by the next NP Group meeting when it was intended that the NP Group would discuss its contents and agree whether or not the various sites met the NPPF criteria.

24. Parish Paths Partnership Co-Ordinators

Tim Laws and Steve Attwell left the meeting during Public Speaking session due to time constraints. The Clerk will forward apologies and invite them to the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

25. Borough Councillor Report

Borough Councillor Lois Samuel sent her apologies.

26. Matters Arising

26.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr England offered to speak with Stuart Todd, the NP Group's planning consultant, to determine how he could assist in the Local Green Space assessment process. Cllr Hedley was concerned about the costs of asking the NP Group's consultant to review the Local Green Space report and attend public meetings. He thought involving experts from West Devon Borough Council might be the more cost-effective route, especially as the NP would ultimately be their development plan. It was agreed that the NP Group should ultimately decide on the appropriate course of action to take.

Cllr Hedley suggested the Council should hold off from making the latest Locality grant application until a decision had been made on the use of a consultant for the Local Green Space review, as monies could not be spent on areas which had not been specifically allocated in the application. It was agreed that the approval of the grant application and the budget would be deferred.

26.2 Complaint

The parishioner who had previously complained about Cllrs Blakeman and Lawson confirmed that, following encouragement by Cllr Blakeman, she had made a formal

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complaint with West Devon Borough Council and had now received confirmation of her submission. The parishioner asked whether Cllr Blakeman would consider meeting to discuss the matter further.

- 26.3 Devon Air Ambulance Trust
Deferred to the next meeting.

- 26.4 Play Area Inspections
Councillors moved to close this item as they have been unable to make any progress with the Playing Field Committee.

- 26.5 Maintenance of Parish Assets
Cllr Blakeman asked the Clerk to put on record that thanks should be given to Cllr Lawson for organising the work to be done to the notice board in Jacobstowe and to a helpful parishioner for carrying out the repairs.

- 26.6 Emergency Assistance Volunteers
The Burrow has a list of emergency assistance volunteers on a central database which also holds confidential information on vulnerable people in the area. Cllr England to liaise with The Burrow and make them aware that the Parish Council is on a similar mission and perhaps some co-ordination would be in order. **Action Cllr England**

- 26.7 Remembrance Sunday
In the absence of Cllr Williams this item was deferred until the next meeting.

- 26.8 Standing Orders
Councillors moved to replace the old Standing Orders with the new amended version. This was proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr Guy, all in favour. Clerk to ensure all Councillors receive a copy of the new Standing Orders. **Action Clerk**

27. New Items

- 27.1 First Aid Training
In the absence of Cllr Williams this item was deferred until the next meeting.
- 27.2 Planning Training
Deferred until the next meeting.
- 27.3 Parish Councillor Contact List
Councillors agreed the new Contact List ad this will be displayed in the Village Hall, Notice Boards and the website. **Action Clerk**

28. Planning

- 28.1 0878/18/FUL: Hayfield House for erection of 2 storey, 3 bedroom house, detached single storey store/workshop/office building and provision of two car parking spaces. Comments: Cllr Hedley attended a planning committee hearing on 19th June 2018 and repeated the objections previously made by the Parish Council to this application. The application was refused.
- 28.2 2027/18/LBC: Glebe House for listed building consent for replacement of three upstairs south-west facing sash windows, replacement of south-west facing French Doors (retaining original shaped window casement) and replacement of south-east facing bathroom window.
Decision: Support
Comments: Support subject to the Conservation Officers approval of the design. Proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr Guy, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
- 28.3 1320/18/FUL: Land at Birchwood Acres, Exbourne for erection of hay barn and seasonal lambing shed.

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To note the decision made by Parish Councillors via email to support this application provided that the Planning Authority is satisfied that there is a genuine agricultural need for the building.

- 28.4 2106/18/FUL: Westdown Farm, Hatherleigh for frame roofed building to cover existing cattle coral to prevent runoff.
Decision: Support
Comments: Provided that the Planning Authority being satisfied that there is a genuine agricultural need for the building.
Proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr England, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
- 28.5 To discuss any applications which may have arisen between the date of the Agenda and this meeting: there were none.

29. Clerks Report

- 29.1 Correspondence
The following items of correspondence were discussed/reviewed:
29.1.1 WDBC: Communities Together Fund
29.1.2 Okehampton Hamlets: Northern Link Agenda
29.1.3 WDBC: Car Parking Charges
29.1.4 Highways: road closure
- 29.2 Register of Interests
Cllrs Williams and Guy approved their Register of Interests forms.
- 29.3 Data Protection
Councillors agreed to renew the Data Protection Registration Fee, proposed by Cllr Hedley, seconded by Cllr England, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

30. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- 30.1 Our sympathies go out to Cllr Cobb and his family at this time for their loss.
- 30.2 Cllr Hedley had been asked by the Burrow to raise the issue of the lack of notice given in the recent Highways notification concerning the closure of the High Street. More consideration should have been given to local businesses. Clerk to write to Highways. **Action Clerk**
- 30.3 Cllr Williams, via Cllr Blakeman, mentioned there was a plaque in the church relating to the clock, suggesting it was provided at the same time as the War Memorial. Cllr Williams asked for the plaque to be added to the Asset Register. **Action Clerk**
- 30.4 Cllr Williams, via Cllr Blakeman, stated she will contact Devon County Council to ascertain what works they will be carrying out over this winter and the Parish Council still has funds available and we do not want to double up on work.
- 30.5 The Clerk was asked to put the Air Ambulance Playing Field Access on the Agenda for next month – **Action Clerk**

31. Finance

- 31.1 Payments
The following payments were proposed by Cllr Blakeman, seconded by Cllr England, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
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| 31.1.1 Clerks Expenses: July | £28.00 |
| 31.1.2 Smith of Derby: St Marys Clock | £727.20 |
| 31.1.3 Data Protection Registration Fee | £40.00 |
| 31.1.4 Councillor Hedley Expenses | £18.00 |
| 31.1.5 DALC: Cllr Guy – Councillor Course | £30.00 |



31.2 Payments

To note the following payments which were signed prior to this meeting.

31.2.1	The Burrow: NP Meeting	£15.00
31.2.2	Clerks Salary	£657.40
31.2.3	HMRC	£22.40
31.2.4	Clerks Expenses: June	£36.25

31.3 Review of the Bank Balance

The Clerk confirmed that a VAT reclaim had been submitted to the value of £506.01. The bank balance as of 13th July 2018 statement was £11,302.41. Outstanding payments, including the cheques above, amount to £754.40, giving the parish an actual balance of £10,548.01.

- 32 **Date of Next Meeting** – Councillors confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 28th August in the Village Hall, Exbourne at 8pm.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9:40pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: S. Blal (Chair)

NAME: S. BLAKEMAN DATE: 28/8/2018