



## **Exbourne with Jacobstowe Parish Council.**

Clerk: Miss Alice Turner,  
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Local Government Act 1972 Notice of Annual Parish Meeting for Exbourne with Jacobstowe.

### **Draft: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall, Exbourne**

**Councillors Present:** Steve Blakeman (Chair), Michael Brady, & Dave Stuart.

**Also In Attendance:** Alice Turner – Parish Clerk, County Cllr James McInnes and 2 members of the public.

### **Business transacted at the Meeting as follows: -**

#### **1.23: Welcome.**

Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Steve Blakeman opened the meeting and informed the meeting that an audio recording was in progress to aid in the preparation of Minutes, the recording will be deleted once draft minutes are prepared.

#### **2.23: Minutes of the Last Meeting ([available on the website](#)).**

To consider the approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were approved by the room and signed by Cllr Blakeman as a true and accurate record.

#### **3.23: Local Government Reports:**

- **Cllr James McInnes – Devon County Council.**

Annual report to follow and will be loaded to website when received.

County Cllr James McInnes reported that Donna Manson is the new Chief Executive and has been in post for the last 3 weeks, she is very enthusiastic in her role.

DCC are facing a challenging situation financially and they hope that the books will balance by Year-End.

£696m budget for next year, kids 18% more money next year, 8.1% increase in adults social service but have to find £30million of savings so they are looking at the way that they deliver service, this does not mean cutting services but modernising how they are delivered.

Highways: the hard frost in December had a severely negative effect on road condition, potholes should continue to be reported at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

Cllr McInnes answered questions from the meeting.

- **Cllr Barry Ratcliffe – West Devon Borough Council - No report received.**

- **Cllr Steve Blakeman – Parish Council Chairs report.**

As you will know the PC is responsible for approximately 2% of your Council tax bill which will you has received recently. The Council uses this money to pay for wages, insurances, maintenance including the Church Clock of example, so grants to organisations where it is of community benefit, amongst other things.

Over the past years the Council had been liaising with the DAAT regarding the Night Landing Site for Exbourne and Jacobstowe which is to be sited at the playing field, the parish council has set fund aside for this project which we hoe will happen this year.

The Parish Council supports the Neighbourhood Plan Group and thanks the members for all their hard work in its production in the last 7 or so years.

There is a vacancy for a P3 co-ordinator please ask any interested party to contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council has also commented on many planning applications, and while there are varying views from both Cllrs and members of the public we try to focus on material planning considerations and in line with published joint local plan were possible.

This last year saw the Queens Jubilee which the Council contributed to in a small way, I would like to thank all the members of the community who put in an awful lot of work to make the celebrations such a success.

This year we have been lucky to co-opt Eve Spittles to the Council – welcome. Also to note that we have elections in May 2023 so if you are interested in standing, please contact the Clerk who can direct you to candidate packs for completion. Forms must be delivered back to WDBC by hand.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alice, our Clerk for her work in keeping the Council finance in order and keeping the Council on track.

- **Clerk - Parish Council Annual Finance report.**

The Council began the 2022-2023 financial year with a balance of £11,765.75 so far during the year the council received £8,277.18 in income and have made payments of £5,440.79 giving the current balance of £14,602.14 with approx. £10,447 in earmarked reserves.

At the January Council meeting the Council approved a budget for 2023-24 of £12,500 and have approved a precept of £10,500.

#### **4.23: Reports from local organisations, including:**

- **Village Hall, Exbourne – Written report received from Sheila White (Treasurer)**

In 2022 the Village Hall refurbishment project was finally finished just in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

This final phase comprised a new roof for the kitchen and toilet block, damp proofing and internal replastering the front wall, secondary double glazing to the main Hall windows, redecoration of the main Hall and new curtains and curtain rails. This has been a huge task and we are extremely grateful to W.E Bird & Sons, Okehampton Glass and Pump House upholstery and especially all the Committee members who worked so hard on the project. We have received very positive feedback from the Community on the changes which have been made.

We were fortunate to obtain funding from the Government Covid Support fund, the Co-op Local Community Fund, Waitrose Community Matters and Devon County Council Invest in Devon Scheme. After all costs have been covered we have a balance of some £11,000 in the bank.

However, our income has been dramatically reduced over the last two years due to Covid and limitations on gatherings and subsequently there has been a drop in the number of bookings to use the Hall compared to the pre-covid level. As a result we have a shortfall of expenditure over income of approximately £1000 for the current financial year. The cost of keeping the Hall open is likely to increase in the future so we have to be prudent with our finances. The Committee members are planning a number of fund raising events to encourage people back into the Hall and a local advertising campaign is starting. At the moment we have decided to keep the hire costs at the same pre-covid level of £15 per session. A session being a morning or an afternoon or an evening.

We have two new members on the Committee and Lorraine Aagaard (the current Chair) and I (current Treasurer) will be retiring in April. The new Treasurer and Booking Clerk will be David Kyle and his contact details will be forwarded to Alice.

Thank you for your support during what has been a challenging time for everyone.

- **St Mary the Virgin, Exbourne – Report given by Lorraine Aagaard as summarised below (Churchwarden)**

St. Marys Church continues to hold 3 services a month with a very small congregation, but we have been pleased to be able to host: 1 baptism, 2 weddings and a funeral in this

past year. A well-attended remembrance service, a service for the jubilee and a special service to commemorate the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II have also been held. Which shows that the Church still holds importance in peoples lives even if they do not regularly attend.

The Church struggles financially as we receive no outside funding however with regular fundraising, we manage to pay our utility bills and our parochial share, unfortunately this year we do have extra large bills to pay for repair works to reroof and other urgent repair works identified by the quinquennial.

There is a planning sponsored abseil down the Church tower to help pay for this.

The Church ask if the Parish Council would consider a donation towards the maintenance of the churchyard which the school use for recreational purposes.

- **St James, Jacobstowe – No report received.**
- **Exbourne Neighbourhood Plan Group -Written report from Gaye Langham on behalf of Exbourne Neighbourhood Plan Group.**

I have prepared this report mindful of the fact that there are a number of people who have recently moved into the parish and may not know about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Therefore I take this opportunity to start at the beginning.

In 2015 West Devon Borough Council together with the Parish Council held a public meeting in the village hall to inform the community of the need to build more houses within the borough. The Localism Act 2011 allowed for communities to have a say where these houses should go (amongst other things) The Parish Council agreed that if sufficient members of the parish wished to form a Neighbourhood Plan Group they would support it.

West Devon Borough Council drew up a planning policy, called the **Joint Local Plan for Plymouth and South West Devon (JLP)** which was given approval by government in 2019. This document is important as it covers a wide range of issues and doesn't just deal with the number of houses and where they are to go. The other document that is relevant is the government's planning policy – the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**. The government has issued several revisions of these; 2012, 2018, 2019 and 2021 each of which has meant that the Neighbourhood Plan Group has needed to update the material we had collected. It has not been an easy task.

Exbourne is classified under the heading of Thriving Towns and Villages and was designated to have 30 houses from the period of 2014 -2034 the period of the JLP plan. The 9 houses allocated at Cliston View count toward this figure (Although not all are built as yet).

There are several stages to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Determine the neighbourhood area
2. First draft of vision, aims and objectives
3. Build the evidence base for the plan using responses from consultation
4. Develop policies and draft plan
5. Public consultation on draft plan – Parish Council comments
6. Amend the plan if necessary
7. Plan submitted to WDBC
8. Independent Examination by a Planning Inspector
9. Plan put to the community and referendum held
10. If approved then it will be adopted by WDBC in their JLP and carries weight in the planning process for the Parish

### **What has been achieved so far?**

In 2019 the group commissioned an independent organisation (AECOM) to survey all the proposed development sites and prepare a report. This report in essence graded sites as either 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green'. Only one site was given 'Green' and that is Meadows

Edge, North Road. This site also had been granted Planning in Principle status by WDBC for 4-9 dwellings.

Consultations have been held with the community on various issues; in 2016 every household received a questionnaire and the responses provided the group with a basis upon which to draw up 'Vision, Aims and Objectives' and these provided a framework for the public consultation in 2017. A Housing Needs Survey has also been carried out and in 2021 a consultation took place asking residents to give feedback on their preference to where the houses should go. All the information provided is analysed and will feed into the final plan.

Policies are drawn up and these need to be approved by WDBC and the Parish Council.

#### **Where are we now?**

Stage 3 – The evidence base has been completed. It is quite a lengthy document as it needs to contain details about Exbourne and the responses from the various consultations. It is currently awaiting the addition of photos and maps.

Stage 4 – Policies covering themes e.g. the Built Environment, Natural Environment, Roads and Community and Facilities have been prepared. We are reviewing the evidence before making a decision on allocation of site(s) for the new housing. The Group has some questions of WDBC before this is finalised.

Stage 5 – The Group hope to have all the necessary paper work in place for a public consultation either in late May or June 2023. This is a 6 week consultation period. Confirmation of the date and how to respond will be advertised in the Parish Pump, the Okehampton Times and by leaflet. This is an important step as this will be opportunity for the residents of Exbourne to comment on the proposals.

Whilst it may seem that we are a long way from finalising the NP it should be remembered that the latter stages are about consultation. Stages 7 – 10 are to a large extent in the hands of others e.g. WDBC and the Independent Examiner.

The Group would like to take this opportunity to thank Adam Hedley for all his hard work at the outset of this project and subsequently. Our thanks also go Councillor Barry Ratcliffe who has been our chair for some time now and has been a huge help in providing a link between the group and WDBC.

For more information, please go to <https://exbournewithjacobstowepc.org.uk/exbourne-neighbourhood-plan> and follow the links.

### **5.23: Open Forum**

To receive questions and comments from the public concerning matters over which the Parish Council has control or some influence.

- Parishioner raised concerns about the way that special meetings etc is advertised.
- Suggested that the vacancy for the P3 co-ordinator for the parish be advertised in the Okehampton times, to ensure that the 5 footpaths are maintained.
- Concern about the speeding issues – on the main road. It was agreed that the matter be added to a future Parish Council agenda.

### **6.23: Discussion on how Exbourne plans to Celebrate of the Coronation of King Charles III**

Purchase 100 of the Coins with Pouch approved by the Meeting for the Children of the Children of the Parish. The Clerk was asked to purchase.

Parishioners thanked the Parish Council for their work.

There being no other business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.46pm.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_