

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at the Moorland Hall

Present: Councillors Jon Levenson (Chair), Eric Norman, Roger Foxwell, Sarah Cook, Jon Davis

In attendance: Liz Stitt – Clerk, Steven Pugsley (District)

Also Present: Jill Thompson, Vice Chair of the Moorland Hall & Recreation Ground and five members of the public

Item	Minutes	Action
23/1	Parish Council Chairmans Welcome. Cllr Levenson welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to observe a minute's silence in respect of Cllr Vivian White who sadly passed away recently and also two other members of the parish Betty Howe and John Harrington who also sadly passed away recently.	
23/2	To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held on 24 May 2022. It was resolved to approve the minutes of the 24 th of May 2022.	
23/3	Chairman's report on the work of the Parish Council during the past year. Cllr Levenson gave an update on what has happened over the past year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The new website has gone live, and Cllr Levenson thanked Cally Elston and the Clerk for their work on this, and also gave a massive thanks to Cynthia Stevens who started the original website which gave the basis of the content to the new website. ii) Cllr Levenson highlighted that the Precept stayed the same this year and the previous year it had a reduction. iii) The Council were able to provide some saplings through S.A.L.C. to the Parish. iv) The bus shelter renovations have started. v) Snowdrop Valley had more visitors than ever this year thanks to the wonderful weather. Cllr Norman thanked the amazing volunteers that helped with the event and a vote of thanks was given to Jim Winzer for all his help. 	
23/4	Financial Report for 2022/2023 The Clerk introduced herself and said she has managed to get the Parish Bank accounts all online now. She went on to explain that the figures for the end of the financial year haven't been finalised yet but reported that there is £5,207.21 in the current account, £35,682.69 in the Reserve account and £18,993.96 in the Snowdrop Valley Account which gives a total of £59,883.86 in total. Snowdrop Valley took a total of £11,043.80 through parking, donations, map and merchandise sales and had roughly 6552 visitors.	
23/5	Update on Cutcombe First School - Alison Blackmore, Headteacher. Alison Blackmore thanked the Parish Council for inviting her to give an update on the school and gave a very detailed update a few points were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The school currently has 35 children on the roll, 5 of which joined since January 2023 with two classes. ii) The staff at the school are absolutely brilliant and go above and beyond giving up their time in addition to the school day to give the children the best opportunities and experiences. iii) The Moorland Federation is now working collaboratively with other schools in the local area to share good practice. These are Langford Budville and the schools of the Exmoor Federation (All Saints Infant School and Dulverton Junior School). <p>The full report is attached as an appendix item.[Cllr Davis joined the meeting]</p>	
23/6	Policing Report – Written report supplied by Michelle Haines and Linda Brooks. A written policing report was handed to all participants. Some highlights were:	

	<p>i) The team have been very busy signing people up for Farm watch and Horse watch.</p> <p>ii) They have announced a partnership with Devon & Cornwall Police on Operation Landlike which seeks to crack down on drink and drug driving in rural moorland communities.</p> <p>Cllr Levenson thanked Michelle and Linda for providing the report. The full report is attached as an appendix item.</p>	
23/7	<p>Update on 20 mile per hour request at Wheddon Cross. Cllr Foxwell updated electors that the Traffic regulation Order will be advertised on the 14th of April in the West Somerset Free Press and local noticeboards, there will then be a three week window for people to raise objections. The council applied for some funding from the highways pilot scheme which they are hoping to get but this hasn't been confirmed yet. A £900 deposit has been paid towards the work so far but the council are looking into whether the rest of the work can be done for free as it has been highlighted that some other parishes have had it done for free.</p>	
23/8	<p>Kings Coronation Lunch/Picnic Ideas. Jill Thompson said they are looking to do a big lunch for the Coronation on the 7th of May and are looking at a couple of options as to whether people bring their own food or they pay for a ticket with food supplied. Another member of the public said the jubilee didn't have much of a turnout and it's difficult to know how many people will turn up. The idea was to gauge consensus tonight but unfortunately not many people have come to the meeting. Some money is being fundraised for the event. It was highlighted that the website can help with advertising the event and the sooner something can go on there the better. They are also planning leaflet drops for the event. It was asked whether a donation could come from the Parish Council. It was agreed to add this to the next Parish Council Meeting on the 18th of April to be discussed. Cllr Levenson thanked the members of the public for organising the event and said good luck.</p>	
23/9	<p>To gain views from electors as to whether they would like a clock at the bus shelter. The original clock was donated by a family of the parish and the council have had an offer of a donation of £50 from the same family towards a new clock. Views were gained from electors, and it was agreed that they would like a clock at the bus stop but not one that costs too much. Cllr Cook suggested looking into a solar clock. The Clerk will research clock options for the bus stop, and it will be brought to a Parish Council Meeting for a final decision.</p>	Clerk
23/10	<p>The Village Playing Field. Jill Thompson gave an update and said the sports club has reformed and has finally managed to get people added to the bank account which was extremely difficult. They are happy to hand the money over that they have got through a grant for the Moorland Hall and Recreation Ground for the new Pavilion, but this couldn't be done up until now as they were sorting out the new signatories on the bank. Cllr Levenson said that this would be great news as once the money has been passed over the sub-committee who were looking into building the new pavilion can start getting quotes. Cllr Foxwell said that we need to put all the old history between the Sports club and Moorland Hall & Recreation Club to bed and move forward. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Moorland Hall have resigned recently, Cllr Foxwell said it was a tough decision to make but the treasurer got legal advice and didn't feel happy with how things were. It is a community asset and things need to move forward.</p> <p>Resumption of Cricket/Football/Tennis. Cllr Foxwell said that the cricket club have got every intention to be playing cricket here this season and using the facilities in the Moorland Hall until a new pavilion is built. Cllr Davis said he has not been happy that the Cricket Club, Football club and sports club have all been independent, it should be amalgamated into one group so they can help as a body with the running of it all and then it would gel together and move forward and should come under the Moorland Hall and Recreation Ground. Cllr</p>	

	<p>Levenson put forward a suggestion that the present sports club transfers their funds into the Moorland Hall Bank account, a new Sports Club committee of the Moorland Hall is set up which can include officers of the present sports club, which would then be a properly controlled and managed committee of the Moorland Hall which would put everything under one umbrella. Jill Thompson took on board everything that had been discussed and will try and take things forward. Cllr Levenson offered the support of the Parish Council to Jill in trying to get things moving forward.</p> <p>New Pavilion Ideas to help the Moorland Hall Trustees gain local views. There was a general consensus that a new pavilion just needed to have the basics to be able to have football and cricket etc. played again on the Sports Field. Once the money has been transferred and quotes have been received, new pavilion ideas will be put forward. [Cllr Pugsley joined the meeting]</p>	
23/11	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A member of the public highlighted that Snowdrop Valley wouldn't have been able to go ahead without the Farmers Market and the car park. Cllr Norman apologised for not bringing this up this evening but said that he has thanked them immensely at the last Snowdrop Valley and Parish Council Meeting. ii) Cllr Levenson highlighted to Cllr Pugsley that some other Parishes have had their 20mph zones put in for free and asked why we are being charged for ours. Cllr Pugsley said it might be to do with the circumstance of the current speed limit and it could be to do with a school but it will be looked into. Cllr Foxwell asked if the decision for the highways pilot funding could also be chased. iii) Cllr Pugsley gave an update regarding the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) and highlighted that residents feel closer to the National Park than they do their county council. He has had discussions about the need to notify parish councils with regards to any change in governance for the ENPA as he thinks this is very important. iv) A member of the public mentioned the potholes that are on the roads. Cllr Pugsley said that unfortunately due to the weather conditions recently it has caused more potholes but thanks to the Highways Pilot scheme they are conscious of making sure repairs are done in a fit and timely manner, and actually you can tell the difference between driving on a Somerset Road and a Devon one. Cllr Pugsley highlighted that you can report potholes on the County website and it will be repaired very quickly. <p>Cllr Levenson finished off by thanking everyone for coming and thanked the team that are organising the King's Coronation lunch event and offered the Parish Councils support to the Moorland Hall Trustees to help with moving things forward.</p>	Cllr Pugsley

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix

- i) Cutcombe School Report
- ii) Police Report

Report from Cutcombe School for Parish Meeting
4th April 2023, 7pm at the Moorland Hall

Thank you for inviting me to present this report from Cutcombe CofE First School. As a school we are extremely lucky to have so much support from the local community, this is greatly appreciated.

We currently have 35 children on roll, 5 children have joined us since January 2023. There are two classes, Robin Class – Reception and Year 1 and Owl Class – Year 2/3/4. We are extremely lucky to have a fantastic team of staff who are working hard to ensure the children receive the best opportunities and experiences.

Before I go on to talk about highlights of Cutcombe School, I would like to briefly update you on the positive collaborative work that is and has taken place across the Moorland Federation (Cutcombe, Dunster, Exford, St Dubricius and Timberscombe).

- The Moorland Federation is now working collaboratively with other schools in the local area to share good practice. These are Langford Budville and the schools of the Exmoor Federation (All Saints Infant School and Dulverton Junior School).
- The Moorland Federation schools worked with Little Dreams Consulting, to support our families with sleep patterns and routines. This was extra special for Cutcombe as it was lead by a past pupil, Fay Smith, nee Morton.
- St Dubricius had an Ofsted visit at the end of the February, whilst the report is still confidential it was pleasing to see the collaboration of the Federation coming together, with staff from across the schools supporting. Gemma Jackson from Cutcombe was at St Dubricius in her role of Art Champion and supported the Deep Dive in art. Exford have also had a recent Ofsted inspection and again the report is confidential.
- Curriculum development is a focus for all schools. Whilst individual schools are developing their own curriculum to meet the needs and raise aspirations for its own children, we are working together to share good practice, ensure expectations are high and consistent across all the schools. In addition to covering the National Curriculum objectives we are also building in progression, enrichment opportunities, ensuring it is inclusive and raising children's awareness of diversity and their place in multicultural Britain. As a Moorland Federation we are also working alongside county to develop mixed-age planning to support other schools.

Now on to Cutcombe School:

- Climbing Frame – you may have noticed as you drive or walk past the school, the new climbing frame has been installed. This took place just before the Christmas holidays in the snowy weather. It has been a great success with the children. They are developing their gross motor skills as they pull themselves up and are extending their imagination through open play. Thank you for your generous donation to enable us to go ahead with this project.
- Church Services. We are extremely lucky to have Rev Weir and until recently Rev Butt working with and supporting the school. This year we have held Church Services, for Harvest, Christingle and Easter. It is wonderful for the children to visit the Church and a real skill to stand up in front of people and speak. It is wonderful to see members of the village at these events. We also joined the village in November for their Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.
- In the Autumn term, Owl Class joined children from Kingfisher class at Exford School to visit the Roman Baths in Bath. This was a very long day, catching the train from Taunton. It was a brilliant day, where the children were able to take on the role of archaeologists, handle

real Roman artefacts, have a tour of the Roman Baths and we even squeezed in a visit to Bath Abbey.

- Christmas events.
 - Once again we were able to hold our Nativity at Exmoor Liverstock Market. The children worked so hard, learning their lines and the songs. They performed beautifully and it was wonderful to be able to open it up to the community once more. Thank you to those who came along and supported
 - Unfortunately, we were unable to go to The Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple to see the pantomime due to the icy roads. However, we were able to watch a Christmas film in school, complete with ice cream at the interval.
 - Carols around the campfire. We invited children and parents back to school at 4.30pm to explore the garden at a different time of day, sing carols around the campfire and enjoy hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows. This was even more magical as the garden was covered in snow
- Forest School and Generation Exmoor continues to be very successful. Robin Class enjoy a weekly session, with Year 2s joining every other week. They have created pictures out of natural materials, printed using nature, developed fine motor skills through weaving, used bow saws to cut wood and of course enjoy hot chocolate around the fire. They also planted trees kindly delivered to the school by the Parish Council. Children in Year 3 and 4 go out onto Exmoor with a member of Exmoor National Park staff every other week. This is an opportunity for the children to learn more about their local environment, understand their role and responsibility to conserve it for future generations. We have mapped out the curriculum to enable us to take the children's learning outside and apply it to real life contexts. So far the children have learnt about habitats and food chains as part of their science curriculum through Generation Exmoor.
- Robin Class have enjoyed trips to Snowdrop Valley and Nutcombe Bottom. Throughout the year the children revisit Nutcombe Bottom observing the changes during the different seasons.
- We had a visit from Exmoor Zoo linked to Owl Class unit of work on Rainforests. Both classes really enjoyed the opportunity to see a range of different animals.
- Sporting events have resumed with children in Owl Class taking part in either Friday Football or Catchball. Children have taken part in Gymnastics competitions as a Cutcombe team at Dunster school and we have also had a child from Cutcombe be part of a Moorland Federation team who competed against schools across Somerset and came 3rd.
- We had a visit from Gary at Carrymoor who spoke to the children about recycling. We then linked this to the activities carried out for British Science week. The children reused and recycled a range of different items to create either robots or objects linked to rainforests.
- In addition to British Science week, we have also celebrated: World Book Day, Safer Internet Day and Shrove Tuesday. Thank you to Rev Weir and Mrs Angela Edwards for making pancakes with the children and then organising a pancake race in the playground.
- We have been lucky to have a student teacher with us in the Spring term and we may have another one joining us in the summer term. It is great to be able to guide and influence future teachers and also to provide them with the opportunity to implement their current training which helps ensure our practice is current and up to date.
- Each week, we welcome a mindfulness coach into school who works with the children. It is really important to consider children's well being and help them to develop strategies to be happy. We also received some money from county which was matched by the diocese for some sensory equipment which the children are enjoying.
- Before the Easter holidays there was great excitement in school as we had 9 eggs hatch.

- Children in Year 3 and 4 experienced and performed in an opera along with children from Dunster school

I'm sure there are other things I have missed. We try to include as much as possible in the Parish Magazine.

We have a number of other events planned before the end of term, which include:

- Y4 residential to Pinkery
- Y3 residential to Bristol (postponed from March)
- Year 3/4 transition musical at Minehead Middle School (postponed from March)
- Y4 Pilgrimage to Taunton Minster
- Trip to Stonehenge linked to our learning about Stone Age to Iron Age
- Water sports at Wimbleball Lake
- iSing pop worship
- Moorland Federation Celebration Event
- Beach trip
- Swimming
- Leavers' Service

Thank you once again for inviting me to present this report on the school. We do enjoy being part of such a supportive community.

Are there any questions?

Police Report

Firstly, our apologies that due to annual leave and shift commitments, there is no available to attend your meeting on this occasion.

The Exmoor team currently consists of Acting Sgt Kat Forrest, PCSO Supervisor Katherine Williams, PC James Calloway and PCSO's Linda Brooks and Michelle Haines.

It has been a busy year on Exmoor – although thankfully a relatively low crime one generally. Recent crimes on Exmoor have consisted of some rural crime during January, some catalytic converter thefts (Dulverton area) and some poaching incidents (again in and around Dulverton). There was a theft of a gator from Wheddon Cross in February. The vehicle was recovered by Police but to date the culprit has not been identified.

There were some incidents between October and January when hoax 999 calls were made from the village phone box. Enquiries were made resulting in an individual being identified and dealt with. There have been no further incidents.

The monthly visits to Cutcombe Market have continued resulting in an increase in sign ups to Farm Watch. The Rural Affairs unit attended Novembers Market, in company with the local team and marked 20 trailers as part of a funded crime reduction initiative. PC Dan Cox will be attending this week's market to give help and advice in relation to road safety issues.

Avon and Somerset Police are working in partnership with Devon and Cornwall Police on "OPERATION LANDLIKE" – a road safety initiative focussing on drink/drug driving on Exmoor. There have already been days of actions in relation to this with more to follow. Posters have gone out to the various villages encouraging anyone with concerns about Drink/Drug driving to report them directly to the Police or via Crimestoppers. An informative letter in relation to this has been sent to all licenced premises, Hunts, Shoots and partner agencies. (I have attached a copy for your information).

As the visitor season begins, we are planning cycle marking events (to be advertised via the A & S website and in the monthly newsletter). We shall also be attending Rural Shows and events when able to do so. We will be visiting local campsites, hotel and visitor attractions this month with flyers to remind visitors not to leave valuables on show when parking at local beauty spots, as in previous years there have been incidents when vehicles have been broken into.

The PCSO's are visiting local schools in April to give a safety input to the children.

This is just a snapshot of addition work on top of the daily duties of victim visits, safeguarding, regular Police Posts and responding to various calls.

If you have any concerns or questions please email and one of the team will respond.

Michelle Haines

PCSO 8913

Exmoor Neighbourhood Policing Team

March 2023

This letter is being sent for the information of representatives of all Shoots, Hunts, Racing Stables and Licenced premises on Exmoor.

Re: OPERATION LANDLIKE

Avon & Somerset Police have joined forces with Devon & Cornwall Police to launch Operation Landlike on Exmoor, which straddles the border between Devon and Somerset.

The operation seeks to crack down on drink and drug driving in rural moorland communities. Both forces are working with Crimestoppers to encourage people to anonymously report instances of drink and drug driving to highlight problem areas or premises. Anyone who witnesses drink or drug driving in real time is urged to contact police direct by dialling 999. Publicans, event organisers, local shoots and racing yards are being informed of the operation by police in both counties and leaflets have been distributed among local communities. A targeted social media campaign has also sought to inform residents of the issue.

Aligning OP LANDLIKE will provide high visibility patrols on Exmoor in support of Project Medusa and provides an opportunity for high profile attention and/or media coverage of the two operations.

In partnership with the organiser, licensing and other agencies, the intention is:

- To ensure public safety.
- To provide a high visibility uniform presence.
- To minimise opportunities for disorder and crime.
- To identify offences and offenders and bring them to justice.
- To secure and preserve all available evidence.
- To enhance community relations.

As we look ahead throughout the year to increase our presence and protect our rural communities, we seek your support with regards to sharing our preventative, supportive measures, and schemes to deter criminality, whilst also raising awareness of **Op Landlike** to improve road safety for all.

In assisting us to promote this focus to protect our rural communities, please report any issues to our local policing teams, via the links below and then choosing the “What is happening in your area?” section –

[Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Devon and Cornwall Police](#)

Thank you for your support.

Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant

Kat Forrest 4479

West Somerset & Exmoor