

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Gorfin Hall Management Committee

Notes of the meeting held at 1715 on Monday 8th February 2021 via zoom.

Present

Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Bruce De Saram	BDS	Exmouth Town Council
Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Andrea Smale	AS	Sunshine Nursery
Julie Gregory	JG	Finance Administrator
Mollie Carey	MC	Administrator

Apologies

Lisa Bowman	LB	Town Clerk Exmouth Town Council
Paul Bartlett	PB	Sunshine Nursery
Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome and apologies.

FC welcomed members to the meeting as Chairman and apologies were given.

2. Notes

These were agreed as a true representation of the meeting held on 16th November 2021 and were signed off by the Chairman verbally.

3. Update on electricity contracts and smart meter.

FC invited JG to give an update.

JG has asked two different consultancy firms to look at our electric for the Gorfin hall along with other sites that Exmouth Town Council pay electricity tariffs for these include the festoon lights, the Jubilee clock tower, and the Christmas lights. All the contracts at present are with EDF energy.

JG will need to look at the contracts again when she is next in the office to see when they end as they all have different end dates.

JG has been told by EDF energy that at the moment smart meter installations have been put on hold due to the lockdown, they are only dealing with emergency work. JG will contact them as soon as the lockdown restrictions have been lifted so arrange an installation date for the smart meters to be installed.

It was noted that JG had asked that at least one of the quotes be for green energy and that we must have a smart meter installed at Gorfin hall. This was to coincide with the Town Councils greener energy policy.

One of the companies had come back and said due to covid 19 and the current volatile position of the markets, the rates that he would quote us would be higher and not be a true reflection of rates and had advised that we look at this again in a few months' time.

The other company were due to email quotes by 5pm today but as of the start of the meeting nothing had been received, will contact them again tomorrow to chase the quotes. JG will email the quotes to the members when once received, if members of the committee have any comments please can you email them directly to JG. The recommendation was made that JG and FC to look at the quotes and decide on the energy supplier, as well as considering any of the comments submitted by members. All members in agreement to give JG and FC authorisation to make a decision regarding the new energy supplier taking into consideration comments.

4. Update on the resurfacing of the service lane.

FC invited MC on behalf of the Town Clerk to give an update on the investigations into who has ownership of the service lane, a response had been received from an officer at DCC, but ownership was still not clear. The Town Clerk has suggested seeking legal advice from our solicitors to identify who has ownership by examining the title deeds. Members in agreement to proceed with this. FC to speak to LB to see if another area within the Withycombe ward can be included in this investigation as ownership is unclear there. JG confirmed that there is money in professional fees in the budget that can be used as well as money in reserves.

5. Update from Sunshine Nursery.

JG gave an update to the committee members regarding the hire charges for sunshine nursery.

With authority from LB and FC that it has been agreed to revert back to a sliding scale in respect of hire charges. JG explained that this means that currently due to the coronavirus pandemic Exmouth Town Council are charging 50% of the normal hire fee, this is due to a decrease in the number of children attending the setting following the Government guidelines. The sliding scale will mean that this will

increase as and when number of children attending the setting start to rise, as it was felt this was a way that Exmouth Town Council can help Sunshine nursery cope during this unusual situation, we find ourselves in. All members agreed that this is the right thing to do to help Sunshine nursery.

FC invited AS to give an update on the Sunshine Nursery. AS gave an update on the nursery and proceeded to tell members that the intake numbers are increasing and that they are at approximately half their normal intake now. Children are coping well and have adapted to the nursery's new way of working. Hopefully, the intake number will increase after the 8th of March following schools reopening. AS thanked the committee for allowing the Nursery to continue to pay on a sliding scale and that this measure has been a huge help.

Fire extinguishers are up to date and will check when the PAT testing was last carried out and will forward the next due date to MC to arrange Baker Electrical to carry out the work in line with regulations.

Wi-fi is working fine, Jurassic fibre have made good the car park following the completed work and additional chipping have been put down. AS will follow up with PB if Jurassic fibre have been in contact with regards to advertising as this was a condition of the work. JG to follow this up.

6. Any Other Business

FC raised the issue of the hedgerow on the Allotment boundary not growing back sufficiently. MC to check with LB on who owns the boundary. If ETC own the boundary then FC suggested working with the allotment association to help with the restoration of the hedge.

Date of next meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 28th June 2021 at 1715. Zoom meeting link and meeting documents will be sent out prior to the meeting.

The meeting finished at 17.33.