

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT 7:30pm**  
**IN THE PARISH CHURCH SCHOOL ROOM**

**Members Present:** Mrs Barbara Babb, Mr Andrew Hewitt, Mr George Heywood, Mr Trevor Mills, Mr David Watson and Mr Bob Wilson

**Also in attendance:** 1 member of the public

**Parish Clerk:** Mr P Blosse

<b>KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type   Decisions are shown in bold red type</b>
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**148.    Apologies for Absence**                      Cllr Barry Parsons and Cllr Phil Pennington

**149.    Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020:** The minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed and signed. The minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee were amended to show that David Watson and Trevor Mills had not been present.

**150.    Declarations of Interest**                      Bob Wilson in respect of item 157, Thornhillhead Moor.  
Although not strictly required on this occasion because the item was only to announce the date of a proposed walk, it was agreed that a dispensation should be agreed for Cllr Wilson to discuss and vote on matters pertaining to Thornhillhead Moor, despite being a grazier, as there are so few councillors this term. **A dispensation will be presented to the next meeting.**

**151.    Public Participation**                      i) Cllr Heywood exercised his right to speak under paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct in respect of an item on the previous meeting's minutes. It had been mentioned in the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> January that an infestation of rats in Castle Meadow might be due to its proximity to a number of sources, including the chicken farm owned by Cllr Heywood's son. George explained that this was highly unlikely since the farm follows strict vermin control procedures and is regularly inspected. He said that rat infestations were common this year due to the weather conditions and that they were more commonly associated with compost heaps and food waste bins.  
li) Jim Lowe talked about the Lower Abbots planning application (1/0788/2019/FULM) which had been delayed by the Planning Department. **It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Planning Department to ask what was causing the delay.**  
lii) Jim Lowe also talked about the dispute between Torridge Council and Kivells over the Holsworthy Agri-Business Centre. It appeared that Torridge Council had breached their contract in respect of the dirty water system and that substantial damages and costs might be payable (rumoured to be £1,000,000). He wondered what the impact might be on Torridge's services and finances and how this might affect Buckland Brewer. **It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Cllr Pennington for an update.**

**152. County and District Councillors' Reports**

- a. Councillor Barry Parsons (Devon County Council): Not present
- b. Councillor Phil Pennington (Torridge Council): Not present

**153. Clerk's Report**

- a. Correspondence: There had been 66 items of correspondence since the December meeting. The Clerk highlighted, i) Torridge Council: Polling Places Review Torridge Council is undertaking a review of polling places. The Village Hall has no concerns about the arrangements. The Parish Council had nothing to add.

ii) Devon Wildlife Trust, Thorne Moor walk: A date has been set (28<sup>th</sup> July 2020) for a guided walk on Thorne Moor to which councillors are invited. (see item 157)

iii) DALC: Lesley Smith MBE It had been reported that Lesley Smith, who had retired as Secretary to the DALC only last year, had sadly passed away. A celebration of her life will be held at The Church of the Holy Cross. Crediton on Tuesday 28th January at 2pm

iv) Great Torrington Town Council: Great Torrington's Dementia Friendly Community Project – noted

v) Is your community VE Day ready? (8th May) – an advertisement for VE Day memorabilia had prompted the Clerk to ask whether the Parish Council wished to organise anything to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. David Watson said that the History Group had considered it but had decided not to mark the occasion. The Parish Council agreed with this view.

vi) BT: Completion notice: 01237451379 – received today. The telephone box officially becomes the property of the Parish Council after 5 days, ie. 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Clerk will arrange for the box to be cleaned, for new signage and for the defibrillator to be moved into it from the bus shelter.

- b. Royal Garden Party, 2020: Nominations had been invited for this year's Royal Garden Party. There were no nominees.

**154. Co-option of New Councillors** There had been no further nominations for the three vacant councillor posts, but Bob Wilson had been approached by a parishioner who it is hoped will attend the next meeting.

**155. DALC: Draft Memorandum and Articles of Association** Members noted that DALC had published draft memorandum and articles of association. They wished to submit no comments.

**156. Power for the People: Request to support the Local Electricity Bill** An independent group known as 'Power for the People' is asking Parish, Town and Community Councils to support a Local Electricity Bill. The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so. The ultimate result of this would be that local communities and businesses could

buy their electricity from a local energy company, and more local renewable energy would be financially viable. Communities would benefit from the revenues that new local energy supply companies would generate, such as more local skilled jobs, energy efficiency schemes and investment in local facilities. The 27 councils that have pledged their support so far includes Bideford Town Council. **It was agreed that the Clerk would write to confirm that Buckland Brewer Parish Council supports the bill.**

**157. Proposed Thorne Moor Walk, 28th July 2020** A guided walk will take place at 7:30 on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and might possibly include a short visit to parts of Veilstone as well (especially if the reserves officer is able to join the party that evening). Any Parish Councillors and other residents who would like to attend will be very welcome.

**158. School Field Rental Agreement and Proposed Amendment to Covenant:** It has been determined that the dog-leg of land referred to previously is a small patch of ground outside the school's back gate, which is still in Pearce's ownership and should not have been included in the map that accompanied the lease. This is being corrected and therefore, it is hoped that the lease can be signed off in the near future.

**159. Members' Reports**

Barbara Babb noted that the Parish Council supports the maintenance of the village churchyard with an annual grant but does not do so for the graveyard at Thornhillhead. **It was agreed that this ought to be considered for the 2021/22 budget. It was also agreed that the Clerk should try to arrange for one of the summer Parish Council meetings to be held at the Thornhillhead Chapel.** This will probably be the June meeting, but this will be confirmed later.

Andrew Hewitt talked about the Parish Plan. **It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a joint meeting with the Steering Group to discuss the findings in the report and the presentation for the Annual Parish Meeting, which has been booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.**

George Heywood discussed the long term future of the field known as Higher Turnaway, which is designated in the Settlement Plan for social housing. **It was agreed that this would be added to a future agenda but that, in the meantime, the Clerk would advertise for tenders for its continued use for agricultural purposes.**

Trevor Mills reported that SWEB had asked permission to cut back hedges affecting some power lines, which he had given.

David Watson said that he had noticed that there are no grit boxes at Thornhillhead. It was agreed that this area was on the salting route and that they were not needed.

**160. Planning:**

- a. Decision: 1/0961/2019/FUL, Land to The West of Tower Hill, Variation of condition 3 (Plans Schedule) of planning permission 1/0784/2016/OUT (affecting public right of way) – Granted permission - Noted
- b. Decision: 1/0634/2018/REM, Land to The West of Tower Hill, Reserved matters application for 5 dwellings, pursuant to outline application 1/0784/2016/OUT and Variation of condition application 1/0166/2018/FUL – Granted permission - Noted

## 161. Accounts

### a. Receipts and Payments

- i) Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (£61,766.06):
  - (1) Parish Council Current Account was £11,571.85
  - (2) Thornhillhead Moor Account was £15,916.35
  - (3) Savings Account was £34,277.86
- ii) Fund balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> December (£61,766.06):
  - (1) General Account - £25,849.71
  - (2) Thornhill Head Account - £35,916.35
- iii) Payments due (£1,766.80 + VAT) The following list of payments was approved:
  - (1) Parish Clerk's salary, expenses and associated PAYE (December 2019): £438.06 including PAYE of £81.70
  - (2) E.on, electricity - £7.36 + VAT
  - (3) Buckland Brewer Village Hall, grant - £955.50
  - (4) M Fray, grass cutting - £64.00
  - (5) J Hector, Parish Plan expenses – £226.88
  - (6) SLCC, Training Seminar - £75.00 + VAT
- iv) Receipts (£11,915.02)
  - (1) Arqiva, Mast rent - £3,000.00
  - (2) RPA, Thornehillhead Moor Stewardship Fee - £8,846.60.00
  - (3) Interest received - £68.42

- b. 2020/21 Budget and Precept: The Clerk had distributed a revised draft budget following the deliberations of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020. **The budget was approved unanimously without any further amendment.** (see Appendix 1) He explained the impact of an increase in the precept demand of about 3% from £12,125 to £12,500 (£375) as proposed at that meeting. Due to an increase in the taxbase, this increase in income could be achieved with a small drop in the Band D council tax rate. A 3% increase in council tax would generate £789 of additional income – from £12,125 to £12,914. **It was agreed that the precept for 2020/21 should be set at £12,500. The Clerk will submit the precept form to Torridge Council by the closing date, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:05 pm**

### Dates of Future Meetings:

Parish Council, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (7:30pm in the Parish Church Schoolroom)

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: ..... Date: .....