

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH 2022 AT 7:00pm
AT BUCKLAND BREWER METHODIST CHAPEL

Members Present: Mrs Barbara Babb, Mr Andrew Hewitt, Mr George Heywood, Mr Richard Hooper, Mr Jim Lowe, Mr Trevor Mills and Mr David Watson

Also in attendance: 3 members of the public and Andrew Heywood (Hicks & Co.)

Parish Clerk: Mr P Blossie

KEY: Actions are shown in bold	blue type	Decisions are shown in bold red type
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610. Apologies for Absence Rosie Beer, Frits Takken and Frank Benbow (361 Energy)

611. Declarations of Interest None

612. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th February 2022 and the Fields and the Fields and Allotments sub-committee: The minutes of the meetings held on 9th and 28th February 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

613. Public Participation None

614. Presentation from Frank Benbow, 361 Energy and Bratton Fleming Parish Council
Frank Benbow was unable to attend due to ill health. He had supplied a copy of his presentation slides. Noted.

615. Presentation by Andrew Heywood, Hicks & Co. re Thornhillhead Moor Andrew said that the SSSI was still being operated under an extension of the original agreement and, as this was financially more favourable than changing to a new scheme, he proposed that it should be extended for a further year. He agreement can only be extended one year at a time at present. He said that some fencing work would need to be done in the summer but no swaling was necessary this year and Natural England are happy with the work that is being carried out there. It was noted that the broken fence by the cattle grid had been repaired, probably by Devon Highways. There was some discussion about abandoning the idea of creating a woodland at Portway in favour of one at Thornhillhead Moor, but Andrew felt that permission might not be given due to its proximity to the SSSI. **Andrew will investigate this and report back. He was also asked to provide an invoice for Hicks & Co.'s management fee as one had not been received for a number of years.**

616. District and County Representatives' Reports:

- a. Cllr James Morrish, Devon County Council Not present

b. Cllr Phil Pennington, Torridge Council

Not present

617. Clerk's Report

- a. Correspondence: There had been 58 items of correspondence forwarded by email since the last meeting. He highlighted:
- i. Keep Britain Tidy: Great British Spring Clean 2022: Will You Take Part?
This is an annual campaign to organise litter picking events. The Clerk said that, judging by comments on the community Facebook page, there might be more interest from parishioners to take part in one this year. **It was agreed that he should organise a litter picking day.**
- b. Transport Survey The Clerk had published a short survey to gauge the use and possible future needs for bus services and electric cars. Copies were distributed with Village Scene and are available in the shop, pub and Methodist Church. He will present a report of the results at the next meeting and, if possible, will compare the results to those found in a similar survey taken for the revised Parish Plan.
- c. NJC Pay Award The award for 2021/22 has been announced. The Clerk's pay will increase from £14.90 to £15.16 per hour with effect from 1st April 2021.
- d. Set a date for the Clerk's annual appraisal A date was set for a meeting of the Personnel sub-committee on Thursday 24th March 2022 at 7:30pm in the Methodist Chapel.
- e. Annual Parish Meeting, 28th April 2022 It was agreed to invite Councillor Ken James, Leader of Torridge District Council as guest speaker, or, if he is unable to attend, Councillor James Morrish, our County Council representative. The meeting will be held at 7:30pm in the Methodist Church on Thursday 28th April 2022.

618. Industrial Units: Progress Report The Clerk has received three quotations. He has also been informed by Steve Sherry that he would like to supply a quotation for the design work as well as providing planning advice and hopes to visit the site soon. The Clerk will present all four quotations at the next meeting.

619. Amenity Field: Adult Fitness Equipment Confirmation has been received that the scheme meets the criteria for permitted development and the Clerk submitted an application for the s106 grant on 15th February, but no decision has been received yet. Jim Lowe offered to contact the Planning Manager, Shaun Harrington. **It was agreed that the Clerk would order 3 x 4-seater benches from Torridge Gates for the amenity field.**

620. Report of the Fields and Allotments Sub-committee held on 28th February 2022

Andrew reported that the inspection of the allotments had found no matters of any great concern. The allotments are looking better than they have done for some time. It was agreed that a small shed could be erected as a seed/produce swap area and it was left for the tenants to decide where they wished to site it. The hedge alongside the old football field still needs trimming back and is too high for the tenants to do themselves. It will be cut back in the autumn, after which the hedge will again be the responsibility of the tenants. Richard Mills has been asked to carry out the laying of the water pipe and installation of a tap. At the same time, he will be cutting back some dead and dying ash trees. The section of pipe in the old football field will be laid in 6" ducting to make it easier to install a second supply to the industrial units in due course.

621. Tree Planting

- a. Devon Wildlife Treescapes Scheme/Creating a Parish Woodland This item was deferred pending advice from Andrew Heywood about the possibility of planting at Thornhillhead Moor.
- b. Offer from Phil Slocombe regarding tree planting in field 6552 Phil and Jim Slocombe have completed the work at their field. Phil Slocombe purchased about £240 worth of trees and has offered to absorb the difference between this and the £150 grant secured from AONB as his contribution towards the scheme in addition to his labour in carrying out the work. The net cost of the scheme to the parish council will be £329. The Clerk has asked Hicks and Co. to revise the rental agreement for the field as previously agreed.

622. Consultation: Public Spaces Protection Order - Dog Control There was a discussion about the potential impact of the order, but it was agreed to make no formal response from the Parish Council.

623. DAAT: Community Landing Site Grant A government grant of £2,719.40 is available towards the cost of the helicopter landing site. The Clerk has submitted the claim form and it is hoped that the money will be received shortly. **It was agreed that some of the money would be used to refresh the signage at the amenity field and to add another sign at the entrance to the path leading from the main road.**

624. Thornhillhead Moor: Information Board The Clerk had drafted an outline suggestion for a board at Thornhillhead Moor and distributed details of different types of board that are available. The general layout was approved but the Clerk will seek approval for a final draft before commissioning the sign. It was agreed that plastic would be better than aluminium or stainless steel and that it should be set on a wooden lectern-style board. The Clerk said that the total cost would be in the region of £1,500 to £2,000.

625. Defibrillators for Thornhillhead The scheme is awaiting approval by the Methodist Church. A meeting will be held in two weeks' time.

626. School Field Rental Agreement and Proposed Licence to Gain Access The Parish Council's solicitor has confirmed that approval has been received from the previous landowner's regarding their covenant. She is now awaiting a certificate from Pearce Construction confirming their agreement and has written to their solicitors. The Clerk has also been in touch with Paul Knox, the Managing Director of Pearce Construction, who has said that he will talk to their solicitor and to try to get it dealt with promptly.

627. Emergency Plan The Clerk had distributed a template for a possible Emergency Plan for the parish. It was agreed that a working party should include representatives from the Village Hall and other appropriate organisations. The Clerk will invite appropriate representatives to attend a public meeting on Thursday 26th May 2022 at 7:30pm in the Methodist Chapel. A working party will be formed to meet monthly over the following months with a view to having a workable plan in place before next Autumn. The Clerk has submitted a grant claim for £250 towards the cost of preparing and printing the plan, which has already been approved. A further grant of up to £1,500 could be claimed to help with the cost of emergency equipment once the plan is approved.

628. Feedback from DALC AGM – David Watson A number of new members had been co-opted to fill the gaps on the County Committee. Levelling-Up had been discussed. The current proposals indicate that a sum of between £50 and £80 million could be transferred into Devon. It had been decided that Devon did not want to appoint a mayor. The Heart of the South-West organisation is expected to be closed down. A task and finish group had been set up to discuss Affordable Housing. Andrew Hewitt said that the parish council should press Torridge to support immigrants from Ukraine and local young people. He will write to Torridge Council. A second task and finish group had been established to discuss Social Care and the role of the Town and Parish Councils. David Watson will be a member of that group. David will distribute minutes when they are available.

629. Members Reports:

Richard Hooper said that he had received a couple of complaints about the new railings at Tuckers Park. It had been determined that the land was owned by Westward Housing and that they were within their rights to carry out the work. It will prevent people parking half on the pavement and should make it safer for Tuckers Park residents. However, there had been no warning that there would be disruption and a partial road closure.

Jim Lowe i) said that Pearce Construction were compiling a welcome pack for the new residents of the Lower Abbots development. ii) He also asked whether a decision could be made about the beacon event planned for 2nd June as neither the Playing Field Association nor the individuals who had organised BBQs in the past were able to organise an event around it. It was agreed that the views of the parishioners would be sought, and a final decision made at the next meeting.

David Watson i) said that that the Buckland Brewer Fete was being held in the amenity field on Saturday 9th July. ii) At the school governors' meeting on 15th March it will be decided whether the proposed federation would go ahead. Gina Finch would be leaving on 18th March 2022 to take up a post in the Shetland Isles. Matt Cole will be taking over as Head at Buckland Brewer whether the federation goes ahead or not. iii) It was noted that parking outside the school, and in particular one car that is often parked at the corner of Cherry Vale, is still causing a problem, especially to larger farm vehicles and those with trailers.

630. Planning

- a. Application: 1/0107/2022/FUL, Jimara, Proposed first floor extension to dwelling – **Supported unanimously**
- b. Application: 1/0188/2022/FUL, Land At Grid Reference 242109 117038 (*near Hoarstone Cottage*), Proposed extension to agricultural livestock building – **Supported unanimously**
- c. Application: 1/0200/2022/FUL, Higher Thornhill Head, Erection of tap room and shop for the retail of craft beer brewed on site – **Supported unanimously**

631. Accounts:

- a. Receipts and Payments for February/March 2022
 - i) Bank balances as at 28th February 2022 (£71,529.29):
 - (1) Parish Council Current Account was £12,054.87
 - (2) Thornhillhead Moor Account was £12,164.35
 - (3) Savings Account was £47,310.07
 - ii) Fund balances as at 28th February 2022 (£71,529.29):
 - (1) General Account - £46,364.94
 - (2) Thornhill Head Account - £25,164.35
 - iii) Payments for February/March 2022 (£4,694.41 + VAT)
 - (1) P G Blossie, February salary - £767.90 (including £148.60 PAYE and £106.08 backpay)
 - (2) Tracy Cowling, gloves for litter picking - £24.62 + VAT
 - (3) Torridge Volunteer Cars, Covid Transport Scheme - £42.40
 - (4) Source For Business, Water Charges - £12.54
 - (5) Buckland Brewer Hall, Fitness Scheme Hall Booking - £121.00
 - (6) Eon, electricity - £21.80 + VAT
 - (7) Buckland Brewer PCC, Hall Hire - £12.00
 - (8) Various, Graziers Rights - £3,692.15
 - iv) Balance Transfers
 - (1) Thornhillhead Audit and Administration Fees (2 years) - £2,000
 - (2) Transfer from Thornhillhead to General A/C re Development Fund - £15,000

The payment schedule was proposed by Jim Lowe, seconded by Trevor Mills and approved unanimously.

v) Receipts for February/March 2022

(1) NIL

- b. New Supplier for Amenity Field Lights electricity supply The Clerk has arranged a new supplier for the electricity for the helicopter landing lights. British Gas Lite has been appointed with effect from 1st March 2022. This should reduce the monthly bill by about £12.00

There being no further business, the meeting closed 8:35 pm

Dates of Future Meetings:

Personnel Sub-Committee (Clerk's Appraisal - not open to the public), Thursday 24th March 2022 (7:30pm in the Methodist Church)

Annual Parish Meeting, 28th April 2022 (7:30pm in the Methodist Church) immediately followed by a Parish Council meeting

NB: The meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13th April 2022 has been deferred to 28th April as the Clerk will be unavailable.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**