

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 2022 AT 7:00pm
AT BUCKLAND BREWER METHODIST CHAPEL**

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

Also in attendance: 1 member of the public

Parish Clerk: Mr P Blossie

KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type Decisions are shown in bold red type

566. Apologies for Absence None

567. Declarations of Interest None. All members are covered by a dispensation to debate and vote on matters concerning the setting of a precept against council tax

568. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th December 2021: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

569. Public Participation A member of the public expressed his disappointment that the memorial wreaths had not yet been removed from the war memorial following November's memorial service. He also noted that, although the car parking markings round the village green had helped to "tidy up" the parking, it had effectively removed the pedestrian access round the green and that people now had to walk in the road. His comments were noted.

570. 2022/23 Budget and Precept: The Clerk had distributed a budget monitoring report and draft budget for 2022/23, together with a table of options for possible changes to the level of precept and their impact on Council Tax. He reported that the mast rent had been received and that it included the full annual amount of the rent uplift of £2,000. Members noted that the draft budget showed an overspend of over £4,000 but that this was because a number of schemes would be charged against earmarked reserves and that the anticipated general reserve at the end of the year was still anticipated to be in excess of £8,000. **It was agreed that £15,000 would be transferred from the Thornhillhead account to establish a Development Reserve to meet the costs of architects' fees, feasibility studies and agent costs relating to the industrial units and social housing developments.**

Following a discussion on various aspects of the budget the following alterations to the draft were agreed:

- a. The budget for benches in the amenity field should be increased from £500 to £750
- b. Install a defibrillator at Thornhillhead using the defibrillator reserve
- c. Increase allotment maintenance costs from £100 to £300
- d. Increase the post-coronavirus, firework event from £500 to £1,000
- e. Provide a budget of £4,000 for architects fees, feasibility studies, planning fees etc associated with the Industrial Units Development to be met from a Development Reserve

Also, the following additional items were expected in 21/22:

- a. Additional mast rent income received - £2,000
- b. Equipment hire re Orchard Scheme - £300
- c. Allotment expenses are expected to amount to £300

It was agreed that the precept should be increased by £1,000 to £14,500. This represents an increase in the council tax band D rate of 4.06%, slightly less than the current rate of inflation (CPI 4.6% as at November 2021), and is the equivalent of an increase of £1.63 per year per household.

The revised draft is shown at appendix 1

571. Members Reports:

David Watson reported that the proposed schools' merger was entering an official consultation period. Meetings would be held with parents of children at the school and the public. **It was agreed to invite the Heads of the Flying Start Federation and Woolsery School to the meeting on 9th February.**

Barbara Babb said that the roads from Scratchface Lane to Thorne Cross and Gorwood Cross were breaking up

George Heywood talked about an incident when a large vehicle had been damaged trying to manoeuvre around a large number of cars parked at the junction by the school. **The Clerk was asked to write to the school's head-teacher to ask for teachers' cars to be parked elsewhere and for her to ask parents to park more thoughtfully.** George also reported that salt was on order and that the salt bins would be refilled next week.

Trevor Mills said that the salt box on Craneham Hill is missing. George will report to Highways.

Richard Hooper said that he had attended a training session on an interactive map detailing all the road closure and other highways works in the county. The Clerk will try to incorporate this with the parish mapping system.

Jim Lowe (i) reported that he had obtained 100 metres of bunting, 80 metres of which had been donated to the parish by Peter Seward and Richard Cressford. **It was agreed to pay Dick Cressford £20 for the remainder.** It was agreed to add the Platinum Jubilee to the next agenda and that the Clerk would apply for any suitable grants to help with the cost of the occasion. (ii) Jim also reported that there had been site meetings about the proposal to build industrial units at Blackhorse Fields and that a major issue would be the speed of traffic at the access point. It had been suggested that the council should seek to have the speed limit reduced to at most 30mph. (iii) He said that the flashing light will be turned to face the opposite direction again in the near future. (iv) Jim also reported that he had been approached by two different people in recent weeks about the possibility of getting accommodation in Tuckers Park and that this indicated that there could be a demand for more similar properties in the future.

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

Dates of Future Meetings:

Parish Council, Thursday 27th January 2022

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**