

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00 P.M. AT BUCKLAND BREWER METHODIST CHAPEL

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

Also in attendance: 2 members of the public; Alison Ward from Middlemarch Community Led Housing CIC, Ros Davies from Devon County Council

Parish Clerk: Patrick Blossie absent with apologies received; minutes taken by Jane Lowe on Mr Blossie's behalf.

494. Apologies for Absence: Mr Trevor Mills; (Mr Patrick Blossie as noted above)

495. Declarations of Interest: None received

496. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 8th and 23rd September 2021; Agreed and signed by the Chair

497. Public Participation; no participation requested

498. Presentation by Alison Ward, Middlemarch Community Led CIC re Community Land Trusts for Affordable Housing Projects: copy notes and summary to be sent to parish clerk. Mr Heywood enquired whether S106 funding can be transferred from other building projects and transferred/used as a starter fund elsewhere within the parish. **ACTION Further comments on this to follow from Ms Ward once she has investigated.**

499. Presentation by Ros Davies, Parish Paths Partnership: Following the presentation councillors enquired re progress of "Footpath 2" upon which the preparation work has been carried out from within the parish - all that remains is the lifting of the moratorium. **ACTION Ms Davies to ascertain exact position and report back by e-mail to Parish Clerk.** Mr Heywood asked where responsibility lay for maintenance where exact land ownership cannot be ascertained or proven. Ms Davies responded "she assumed her department would adopt such responsibility". However if a landowner is known but not capable of maintenance for any reason, they are still liable. **AGREED Various solutions discussed on a local clearance requirement and to be left open to the Parish Council. AGREED Training on use by locals of equipment for footpath maintenance to be further discussed by Parish Council. ACTION Ms Davies will send to the Parish Clerk a draft partnership agreement for scrutiny and discussion.**

500. Presentation by Paul Nethercott, Airband re Broadband. Mr Nethercott did not appear at the meeting - no apologies received by those present. Mr Lowe commented that Airband have recently decommissioned the church facility - there will be no further provision of Broadband from this location.

501. District and County Representatives Reports :

- a Cllr James Morrish, Devon County Council - none received at this meeting
- b Cllr Phil Pennington Torridge Council - none received at this meeting

502. Clerks Report

- a. Correspondence - none circulated owing to Mr Blossie's illness
- b. Reconnect, Rebuild, Recover Fund: £1000 Grant awarded - **AGREED deferred to next meeting**
- c. Speed checks - **AGREED deferred to next meeting**
- d. Memorial wreath - although it is understood the wreath is on order

503. New Wayleave: EE Kiosk located at Stibb Cross. No paperwork received. **AGREED deferred to next meeting**

504. 372 Bus service; Report from Jim Lowe. Mr Lowe advised there had been no bus service on Monday 11th owing to a road closure, which meant our service had been cut by 50% that week. He suggested more coordination between County Council departments - no impacting road closures on Mondays or Fridays. He was also concerned that Devon County Council was in the process of claiming monies to improve services in urban areas and nothing was mentioned within this project about rural bus routes. Mr Hewitt agreed that there is a need to push for more rural buses to acknowledge the global warming crisis, but also this must be a service that gets people to and from work. A letter should be written to our Devon County Councillor embracing a business case for both issues.

505. Amenity Field:

a. Orchard Scheme and Planting an Oak Tree for the Platinum Jubilee **AGREED deferred to next meeting**

b. Adult Fitness equipment: to consider tenders **AGREED deferred to next meeting**

506. Citizens Science investigations: report by Trevor Mills: Report not made owing to Mr Mills's absence but the organisation is scheduled to be at the Climate Change awareness Day on 23rd - it may be possible to address this at that time.

507. Climate Change Open Day: Progress Report. Owing to Mr Blosses' illness a formal report was not possible. **Proposal the event should still go ahead proposed Mrs Babb, seconded Miss Beer AGREED by the Parish Council.** Sensible Covid precautions e.g. request to use masks, hand sanitiser recommended. **ACTION Mr Hewitt to assess availability of the hall the night before to prepare.** Advertising and provision of refreshments is in hand.

508 Thornehillhead Information Board. Mr Lowe suggested an ecological information board in the layby possibly involving Devon Wildlife Trust. Mr Takken agreed that this would enhance the area. DWT will be represented at the Climate Change Awareness Day and Mr Lowe will make an approach to them with a view to obtaining quotes.

509. Post-Covid Event: report by Jim Lowe. Mr Lowe proposed that the time was not yet right, agreed all. It may be possible to combine this with the Jubilee Event. **AGREED deferred to next meeting**

510. Marking of car parking spaces on the village green - progress report. AGREED deferred to next meeting

511. School Field Rental Agreement and Proposed License to Gain Access - progress report. AGREED deferred to next meeting. It was agreed that Japanese Knotweed remains a problem and that further clearance action was needed fairly urgently. **ACTION Mr Blossie to engage Matt Fry to do extra hours as needed.**

512. Feedback from DALC AGM - Dave Watson.

Some bullet points - 3 new directors have been elected; Devolution - process to be started for Devon although it appears there are 2 separate draft proposals, one of which has been submitted by Plymouth; Community Kitchens - a project evolving out of food banks, more localised and highly dependent upon volunteers. Mr Watson has requested more information on this; County Council economics team have a proposal to support the economy post-Covid - more data is awaited. Housing is now a key issue. There is a proposal for flexible work hubs; Parish Online - Mrs Lowe was able to confirm to the parish council that this device/software has been funded and training for the parish clerk and herself took place in the summer, and that we are able to go live.

513. Zoom: should the Council continue to offer this alternative service for meetings? Proposal from Mr Hewitt - defer to November for further testing. Seconded Mr Watson. AGREED. Following a request for clarity by Mr Watson, it was agreed that live streaming should continue permanently subject to technical capability. FUTURE ACTION - once the Zoom response has been agreed, parish council must agree a mechanism for how broadcasting meetings is communicated to the wider public.

514. Members Reports :

Mr Heywood - the tree stump at Bowden Cross is a health and safety issue and the view of the parish council is that this is the responsibility of the Church as it lies on Glebe land. ACTION Mr Blossie to write to the Church in the strongest terms requesting that the stump is removed.

Mrs Babb - there remain drainage issues that need to be dealt with at Hillpark. What can be done to secure a speed check device in the lower half of the village. **Ideal solution is to install a light similar to that in Tower Hill - Mr Hewitt advised this must be built into budgeting.**

Miss Beer - referred to item 504. With many new houses being built at Parkham is there mileage in liaising with other interested parishes when securing bus services. **To be pursued under Item 504.**

Mr Hooper - advised that he observed the road at Thornehillhead is now virtually impassable. Known and ongoing issue

Mr Takken - nothing to report.

Mr Lowe - reminded councillors that the allotments inspection due on Saturday - **was it possible to defer to Sunday morning. Agreed , 10 a.m. ACTION Mr Hewitt will liaise with Mr Mills.** There is to be a loss of service from the Post Office van on Thursdays from 4th November. **ACTION Mr Blossie to write to Woolsery Post Office expressing deep disappointment at this decision (in line with the promised daily service when the Post Office counter was withdrawn from Buckland Brewer some years previously). ACTION Webmaster to update the website. ACTION Mr Hooper to pass the laminated advice of service revision to the Community Shop.**

Mr Watson - advised that Winslade Lane has been tarmac-ed.

515. Accounts:

- a. Receipts and Payments. **AGREED deferred to next meeting**
- b. Budgetary Control Statement as at 30th September 2021. **AGREED deferred to next meeting**
- c. 2020/21 External Audit. **AGREED deferred to next meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9 25 p.m.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**