

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 27th JANUARY 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, Mr Frits Takken and Mr David Watson

Also in attendance: 1 member of the public

Parish Clerk: Mr P Blosse

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

The Chair opened the meeting by reminding members that this was International Holocaust Remembrance Day

572. Apologies for Absence Rosie Beer

573. Declarations of Interest The Clerk reminded members that they were covered by a dispensations to debate and vote on matters affecting budget setting.

574. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th January 2022: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

575. Public Participation Mr Keith Jackson said that the dog bin by the village green was often overflowing and asked whether an ordinary waste bin could be installed next to it. It was pointed out that there is already a waste bin a few yards away on the village green.

576. District and County Representatives' Reports:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a. Cllr James Morrish, Devon County Council | Not present |
| b. Cllr Phil Pennington, Torridge Council | Not present |

577. Clerk's Report

- a. Correspondence: There had been 68 items of correspondence forwarded by email since the December 2021 meeting. He highlighted:
- i. Buckingham Palace Garden Party Applications have been invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace. The invitation is only open to members who qualify as past Chairs and Mayors of Town and Parish Councils. Andrew Hewitt nominated Trevor Mills but he declined. Andrew said that he would not be well enough to make the journey. Jim Lowe nominated himself and it was agreed unanimously that his name should be put forward.

- II. Jim Lowe mentioned some of the items that had been distributed:
1. Grant funding opportunities for sports activities and village halls. The Clerk said that the se had already been forwarded to the Village Hall Trustees.
 2. A Devon Communities Together poster about fuel bills to be advertised widely
 3. DALC are holding a seminar on affordable housing at 2:00pm on 2/2/2022
 4. He asked if the Clerk had yet made a bid for a grant from the Elevation Funds. The scheme is not open yet but the Clerk has registered our interest and will be notified when applications can be submitted.
 5. Nominations had been sought for a Youth Parliament (see <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/youth-services/#:~:text=Youth%20Parliament%20The%20Devon%20wing%20of%20UK%20Youth,on%20issues%20that%20matter%20most%20to%20young%20people.>)

578. 20s Plenty: Consider whether to support a countrywide campaign The 20s Plenty campaign is urging parish councils to support a motion urging for a countywide 20mph limit in certain areas. It was agreed, based on the Chair's casting vote, to support the following motion:

Buckland Brewer Parish Council:

- *Supports the 20s Plenty for Devon Campaign*
- *Will write to Devon County Council to request 20 mph speed limits on streets throughout Devon where people, live, shop, play or learn, with 30 mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.*

579. Industrial Units: Progress Report Three firms of architects have agreed to provide quotations to draw up plans and two have made site visits. One company has submitted a quotation, but the Clerk will present all of these once they all received.

580. Parish Paths Partnership The agreement has been signed with a start date of 1st December 2021. The council will a contribution of £150 a year towards:

- a. Condition surveys and inspections
- b. The upkeep and improvement of the path network
- c. Events and activities to encourage use

Richard Hooper offered to be the lead member. **The Clerk will advertise for volunteers to assist him.** Members discussed the footpath off Tower Hill which will now also be accessible via Capern Park.

- 581. Amenity Field: Adult Fitness Equipment** The Clerk has chased up the pre-planning enquiry but is waiting to hear back from the officer dealing with it. **He will contact Cllr Phil Pennington to try to move it along.**
- 582. Tree Planting**
- a. Devon Wildlife Treescapes Scheme/Creating a Parish Woodland The Clerk, Barbara Babb and George Heywood met with representatives from Devon County at the site on 12th January. They have contacted Western Power Distribution about the overhead line in the field who have suggested leaving an 8m ride or 3m either side when planting. They could plant both sides of the field, but the County needs to make sure WPD are also happy with the plan. There are concerns about the close proximity of the turbine and they would be talking to the owner about it. It has been requested by the Clerk that any planting must avoid any interference with its efficient operation. We are now awaiting the final plan. DCC has confirmed that their grant would cover the full cost of preparing the field, planting and maintenance for 5 years. **It was agreed to continue with the scheme as per the draft plan. The Clerk will ask whether the County Council had given any more thought to a scheme at Hymns Piece.**
 - b. Offer from Phil Slocombe regarding tree planting in field 6552 A grant towards the fencing costs has been received from Councillor Phil Pennington. Phil Slocombe has ordered the fencing and gates and proposes installing these in the coming few weeks. The Clerk has submitted an application to AONB for a grant of £150 from their Sustainable Development Fund for help with the cost of purchasing about 100 suitable trees. Phil Slocombe will also be providing a number of willow saplings.
- 583. Thornhillhead Moor: Information Board** No progress yet
- 584. Defibrillators for Thornhillhead** David Watson said that permission was needed from the chapel before the scheme could go ahead.
- 585. Meeting with Village Hall Trustees re possible hall extension** The Chair and the Clerk attended a Village Hall meeting on 19th January. Andrew said that had explained that the Trustees needed to make Torridge Council aware of their plans quickly if they were to secure any s106 grant funding. He asked them to consider whether the village hall could be used as a community hub in the event of an emergency and to think about what additional resources they would need, such as generators. The possibility that the pub might close was discussed and whether any development at the hall should include bar facilities. Andrew said that the amenity field next door was being used and promoted for sporting activities and that these would be greatly enhanced by providing changing facilities in the hall. Barbara Babb had attended the meeting as a trustee. She said that after the Andrew and the Clerk left the meeting, the Trustees discussed plans about how to raise more funds. A possibility of creating another area for alternative use by installing a divider was also discussed. The development plans are likely to unclude a smaller kitchen area with a bar.

586. Grants Applications:

- a. **Citizens Advice** **It was agreed to award a grant of £50.00**
- b. **Craft Group** **It was agreed to reserve £200 from the Reconnect, Rebuild, Recover Grant pending receipt of an application.**
- c. **Fitness Scheme** Jim Lowe explained that Nicki Wolfe has spent about £140 on equipment and is trying to get a range of fitness sessions organised that will be suitable for all ages and levels of ability. A quiz is being held on 27th January, the proceeds of which will be used to support her. **It was agreed that the Council will meet the cost of 12 weeks' worth of hall booking (36 sessions).** Jim Lowe said that any profits remaining from the quiz night will be donated to the Parish Council to help towards the cost.

587. School Field Rental Agreement and Proposed Licence to Gain Access No news.

Trevor Mills will remind Matt that he still needs to cut the grass. **The Clerk was asked to send George Heywood and Barbara Babb details of what their solicitor is expected to do that is holding up the execution of the lease.**

588. Feedback from DALC AGM – David Watson There had not been a DALC meeting recently but David has attended the TTVS AGM. They had experienced a difficult year but had managed to keep going through the Covid epidemic. They are currently looking at schemes to assist young carers and for proscripting for GPs. **David will circulate a copy of the AGM report.**

589. Members Reports:

Barbara Babb is organising a meeting of volunteers on Friday 4th February in the Methodist Church to discuss plans for the Platinum Jubilee. The council has a budget of £500 for the event and the Jubilee committee has £178 in its funds. It may be possible to get another £200 from grant funding. **The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation for mugs.**

George Heywood would like to see an emergency plan in place for next winter. He will start to put together a list of farmers and others with suitable vehicles and equipment to help when needed. **The Clerk was asked to determine whether red diesel can be used when farm vehicles are being used in emergencies and to check that our insurance would cover any damage caused by volunteer snow clearers. The Clerk will draft a template emergency plan suitable for Buckland Brewer.**

Richard Hooper i) noted that Tracy Cowling has collected over 100 black bags of rubbish but has only taken a few pairs of gloves from the stock of litter picking equipment provided by the Council. **The Clerk will let her know that she can claim expenses if she can provide VAT receipts.** ii) He also reported that a resident had been shocked by gunfire while walking her dog and had asked whether some prior warning or signage could be provided. Members thought that this was impractical and that any organised shoots would be well away from any roads or footpaths. iii) Richard will be taking part in a sponsored run on behalf of the North Devon Hospice on 26th February 2022.

Jim Lowe i) noted the recent changes to the Highway Code. These had been advertised on the website. ii) The contractor working for Geoff Beer is unwell and unable to cut the allotment hedges. **Trevor Mills offered to ask Richard Mills to cut them.** iii) Jim asked about progress with the allotment water supply. The Clerk will ask Ray Hoyle to do it in the next few weeks. It was suggested that the water pipe should be laid inside a drainage pipe in readiness for extending the supply to the industrial units, if necessary. iv) He asked Trevor Mills about the water surveys. The equipment has not arrived yet. Trevor will chase Westcountry CSI. v) Jim asked the Clerk about progress on the telephone box. The contractor had promised it would be done by Christmas, but work has not started yet. **He will chase it up.**

David Watson noted that the road from Abbotsham Cross to Hoopers Water is getting busier. Much of this may be due to the road closure at Whitehall but it was agreed that traffic levels are getting higher generally. **The Clerk was asked to write to the County Councillor to raise awareness that a better road network is needed.**

590. Planning

- a. Application: 1/0007/2022/FUL, Land at East Hele, Extension to existing agricultural building - **Supported unanimously**

591. Accounts:

- a. Receipts and Payments for December 2021 and January 2022
 - i) Bank balances as at 31st December 2021 (£75,248.29):
 - (1) Parish Council Current Account was £15,773.87
 - (2) Thornhillhead Moor Account was £12,164.35
 - (3) Savings Account was £47,310.07
 - ii) Fund balances as at 31st December 2021 (£75,248.29):
 - (1) General Account - £35,083.94
 - (2) Thornhill Head Account - £40,164.35
 - iii) Payments for December 2021 and January 2022 (£2,634.15 + VAT)
 - (1) P G Blossie, December salary - £792.20 (including £119.20 PAYE and £144.00 + VAT website fees)
 - (2) Devon Communities Together, Membership Fee - £50.00
 - (3) Buckland Brewer Short Mat Bowls Club, Grant - £200.00
 - (4) 1st Woolsery Scouts, Grant - £250.00
 - (5) Oak tree for Platinum Jubilee - £95.82 + VAT
 - (6) Karen Black, Allotment deposit refund - £62.50
 - (7) Buckland Brewer Hall, Grant - £1,038.01
 - (8) Eon, electricity - £25.02 + VAT
 - (9) Bridgmans, new gate for Blackhorse Fields - £129.40 + VAT
 - (10) Richard Cessford, bunting - £20.00

The payment schedule was approved unanimously.

iv) Receipts for December 2021 and January 2022 (£407.50)

- (1) Torridge Council, Grant - £250.00
- (2) Allotment rent and deposits - £157.50

- b. Final approval of 2022/23 Budget The Clerk had submitted the precept form in the sum of £14,500 by the due date. A revised version of the budget had been distributed taking account of the alterations suggested at the last meeting. **The Clerk asked to make an adjustment to the budget for grasscutting at the Playing Field from £950 to £990, which was agreed unanimously. The final budget, attached at appendix 1, was approved unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed 9:00 pm

Dates of Future Meetings:

Parish Council, Wednesday 9th February 2022 (Speakers: Gina Finch and Matt Cole re Schools Merger)

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**