

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 28th APRIL 2022**

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: 7 members of the public

Parish Clerk: Mr P Blosse

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

632. Apologies for Absence Rosie Beer

633. Declarations of Interest Richard Hooper in respect of item 645, Allotments:
Request for a galvanised shed

634. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th March 2022: The minutes of the meetings held on 9th March 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

635. Public Participation Alan Sutton asked whether a map could be produced that showed the traditional names of local roads and junctions that are not normally marked on OS maps. The Clerk said that he had already planned to produce such a map using the Parish Council's mapping system but had not yet had time to do it. He will try to complete this in the next few months.

636. District and County Representatives' Reports:

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

637. Clerk's Report

- a. Correspondence: There had been 93 items of correspondence forwarded by email since the last meeting. He highlighted:
 - i. Matt Cole (Schools Federation): Consultation Outcome It had been confirmed that a new federation, to be called the Village Schools Federation, linking Buckland Brewer, Parkham and Woolser schools was established with effect from 25th April. It is being headed by Matt Cole, previously head teacher at Woolser School who had also taken over as head of the previous Flying Start Foundation following the resignation of Gina Finch in March 2022.

II. NALC: MAKE A CHANGE (see 637.f below)

III. Torrridge Council: People & Place Project Torrridge Council is seeking feedback from landowners about potential sites for housing and industrial development. The closing date was originally 29th April, but it had been announced today that the deadline is extended to 27th May 2022. The Clerk will re-register the Council's options for affordable housing at Higher Turnaway and industrial units at Blackhorse Fields.

- b. Emergency Planning: Grant from Councillor Hicks A grant of £2,065.89 has been received from Councillor Hicks via the Councillor Grant Scheme for emergency equipment, specifically a gas generator, gas cooker and gas bottles.
- c. Transport Survey The Clerk had distributed a summary of the responses to the Transport Survey that had been circulated last month (see Appendix 1) There had been only 20 responses. The Clerk also has access to the responses to the Revised Parish Plan questionnaire covering this topic and will provide a fuller report later.
- d. Litter Picking Day A community litter-picking day had taken place on 9th April. Fourteen volunteers had taken part, collecting a dozen black sacks of rubbish from the village and some of the outlying lanes. The Clerk thought it had been a very successful event and should be repeated every year as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean Campaign.
- e. Parking on village green The Clerk had received three complaints in the space of one week about vehicles parked across the entrance to Northwood Lane despite the additional line marking and 'no parking' signage. The situation will continue to be monitored.
- f. Preparations for the new Parish Council starting May 2023 The NALC has started to publish press releases and videos promoting the elections for new parish councillors in May 2022. The Clerk said that it was likely that there would be a few vacancies to fill in Buckland Brewer next year and that we should start our own local campaign. Jane has already added a couple of 'news' items to the community website.

638. Amenity Field: Adult Fitness Equipment Confirmation has been received from Torrridge Planning that our S106 grant application has been approved. The Planning Manager has said that he will try to expedite the drawing up of the legal documents and the transfer of the monies.

639. Reconnect, Rebuild, Recover Grant Request: BB Gardener's Club The Gardening Club would like to restart, having disbanded due to the covid lockdowns and restrictions. They have asked for a contribution of about £250 towards the cost of paying for guest speakers and some presentation equipment. **A grant of £200 was agreed** and it was noted that this would use up the remaining balance of the £1,000 Reconnect, Rebuild, Recover Grant monies.

640. Parish Paths Scheme – Update by Richard Hooper Ros Davies, the DCC Paths Officer, has confirmed that diversion orders are still 'on hold' for now, but that she is keen to inspect ours with a view to prioritising it. However, due to staff shortages, she can't say when that will be or when she can arrange a visit. Richard Hooper has started to inspect the 11 footpaths within the parish and has carried out some minor repairs such as broken gates, repositioning direction signs and clearing away undergrowth. He is keeping a log of his inspections and the work carried out. The footpaths cover 7.6 kilometres in total. Richard suggested that some new or additional signage might be needed. Richard has attracted a team of 7 volunteers to help with inspections and maintenance.

641. Platinum Jubilee:

- a. Beacon Event, 2nd June
 - i) Grant application: Playing Field Association The PFA has asked for a grant of £250 towards the cost of the barbecue event at the beacon lighting. **This was approved unanimously.** The PFA is applying for a drinks licence, and they have sufficient volunteers to run a bar and a barbecue. Andrew Hewitt will build the beacon.
- b. Mugs
 - i) Order and distribution 150 mugs have been received. It is expected that 75 or more will be presented to children at the school and others in the parish and that the rest will be sold at £4.00 each by the Jubilee Committee, which will retain the funds. Lesley Blossie is liaising with Matt Cole about how they should be presented. A straw poll of those present indicated that more than 75 mugs would be wanted for sale. **It was agreed to purchase a further 75.**
 - ii) Grant from Councillor Hicks A grant of £250 has been received from Councillor Hicks via the Councillor Grants Scheme towards the cost of the mugs. The balance of the cost to be met by the parish council is £253.00. The cost of the additional 75 mugs will be recovered through sales.
- c. Tea Party, 5th June Barbara Babb said that preparations were well under way. Men will be needed to transport and erect the marquee on the Saturday afternoon and to remove it on the following Monday.
- d. Other activities Alan Sutton is organising a royalty-based quiz for Friday 3rd June at the Coach and Horses. Hen and Lu Staveley Brown are organising 'A Little Bit of Buckingham Palace in Buckland Brewer!' an inside/outside decoration event that celebrates the Queen.

642. Thornhillhead Moor: Information Board The Clerk has asked Andrew Heywood at Hicks and Co. to help with producing a suitable map.

- 643. Tree Planting: Availability of Lower Chetnell (Field 2110)** The tenant of Lower Chetnell has asked to terminate the tenancy. The Clerk suggested that, rather than, advertise the field immediately, it might be a more suitable location for a woodland than Portway. **It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the best scheme to fund it.**
- 644. Proposed Improvement to Northwood Lane by Local Residents:** Residents who regularly use Northwood Lane have offered to carry out improvement works that they estimate to cost £1,500 and have asked the parish council to consider making a contribution towards the cost. **It was agreed that the Parish Council would meet £200 of the cost of materials to reflect the improved access for the general public using the track as access to the playing field.**
- 645. Allotments: Request for a galvanized shed:** One of the allotment holders has asked for permission to erect a galvanised shed. The terms and conditions currently state that they should be made of wood but there are three other sheds that already utilise metal for roofs and some of their walls. The Clerk suggested that the terms and conditions should be reworded to include galvanised sheds. **This was agreed unanimously.** It was noted that, due to the recent death of one of the allotment tenants, plot 11 was available. **The Clerk said that he would not contact anyone on the waiting list until Trevor Mills had confirmed that the plot had been cleared.**
- 646. Public Consultations:**
- a. North Devon and Torridge Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Responses requested by 13th May. Deferred to next meeting.
 - b. Joint Validation Checklist – Requirements for Planning Applications Deferred
- 647. Defibrillators for Thornhillhead** David Watson said that a decision had been deferred as the Church Council was considering whether they would continue supporting the chapel. **It was agreed to ask Mark West if he would be prepared to host the defibrillator in return for a contribution towards electricity costs.**
- 648. School Field Rental Agreement and Proposed Licence to Gain Access** Although all the documents, including both covenants, have now been signed off, the solicitors are now waiting for an amendment for a change in trustees to be agreed. In the meantime, the school has been given permission to use the field with effect from 1st April 2022.
- 649. Feedback from DALC AGM – David Watson** There had been no meeting in the last month, but David said there were some ongoing Task & Finish Groups for Housing and Social Services that had been meeting.

650. Members Reports:

George Heywood reported that some dogwalkers were throwing dog-litter bags into hedges or just leaving them behind.

Richard Hooper (i) asked when the allotment water supply would be turned on. Andrew Hewitt explained that we were waiting for an engineer from Southwest Water to visit and locate or re-install the stopcock as it had been buried when electricity cables had been laid. There was also some reseeding needed after the trenches had been topped up. (ii) Richard had also been asked by a resident about applying for one of the empty properties in Tuckers Park. He was asked to refer them to Devon Home Services.

Jim Lowe (i) reminded the Clerk that the Parish Council should add the industrial units development at Blackhorse Fields and affordable houses at Higher Turnaway to the North Devon and Torridge People and Places consultation. (ii) Jim also reported that the Village Hall Trustees had engaged an architect to draw up plans for an extension to the village hall.

Trevor Mills (i) **asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Paul Knox of Pearce Construction to discuss access to the amenity field for laying a drainage pipe.** (ii) Trevor also reported that Glen Bridge had been damaged yet again.

651. Planning

- a. Application: 1/0336/2022/FUL, Land South of Northwood Lane, General purpose agricultural machinery and fodder storage building **Supported unanimously**
- b. Decision: 1/0058/2022/FULM, Land At Bulkworthy, Solar park and ancillary development (on 14.6 hectares of land) (Variation of condition 2 of planning permission – granted permission - noted
- c. Decision: 1/0188/2022/FUL, Land At Grid Reference 242109 117038, Proposed extension to agricultural livestock building – granted permission - noted
- d. Decision: 1/0054/2022/FULM, Milford Farm, Proposed Parlour/Dairy, Collecting Yard, Handling Facility, Stalls and Loose Box's. (Affecting A Public Right of Way) – granted permission - noted

652. Accounts:

- a. Receipts and Payments for March/April 2022
 - i) Bank balances as at 31st March 2022 (£69,663.26):
 - (1) Parish Council Current Account was £13,025.99
 - (2) Thornhillhead Moor Account was £9,327.20
 - (3) Savings Account was £47,310.07
 - ii) Fund balances as at 31st March 2022 (£69,663.26):
 - (1) General Account - £49,336.06
 - (2) Thornhill Head Account - £20,327.20

iii) Payments for March/April 2022 (£3,368.21 + VAT)

- (1) P G Blossie, March salary - £785.43 + VAT (including £127.40 PAYE, £95.00 laptop insurance and £20.96 for litter picking equipment)
- (2) Dash (UK) Ltd, Commemorative Mugs - £502.50 + VAT
- (3) SLCC, Annual subscription - £85.00
- (4) Parish Gardener - £84.00
- (5) M Fry, Grass Cutting - £130.00
- (6) Eon, electricity (balance to 31/3/22) - £0.79 + VAT
- (7) British Gas, electricity (wef 1/4/22) - £14.12 + VAT
- (8) Buckland Brewer Jubilee Committee, grant - £500.00
- (9) Buckland Brewer 10k Run, grant - £100.00
- (10) Geosphere, Parish Online Fee - £70.00
- (11) Bridgmans, Water Supply materials - £920.37 + VAT
- (12) DALC, Annual Subscription - £176.00 + VAT

The payment schedule was proposed by Jim Lowe, seconded by Barbara Babb and approved unanimously.

iv) Receipts for March/April 2022 (£11,357.39)

- (1) Field Rents - £1,246.50
- (2) Allotment Rents - £145.00
- (3) AONB Grant re Wellpark Tree Planting - £150.00
- (4) Devon Communities Together, Grant towards Emergency Planning - £250.00
- (5) Torridge Council (Bob Hicks), Grant toward commemorative mugs - £250.00
- (6) Torridge Council (Bob Hicks), Grant for emergency equipment - £2,065.89
- (7) Torridge Council, Precept (1st instalment) - £7,250.00

There being no further business, the meeting closed 10:10 pm

Dates of Future Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 11th May 2022 (7:30pm in the Methodist Church). This will be the last annual parish council meeting of this 4-year term.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**