



## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

### **Buckland Brewer Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Buckland Brewer Methodist Chapel**

**Members Present:** Mrs Barbara Babb, Mr Andrew Hewitt, Mr Jim Lowe, Miss Rosie Beer, Mr Richard Hooper, Mr George Heywood\* and Mr David Watson

**Also in attendance:** 3 members of the public (1 left at 7:35pm)

**Parish Clerk:** Mrs Jo Miles

<b>KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type    Decisions are shown in bold red type</b>
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#### **Business transacted at the meeting:**

801. Apologies for Absence: Mr Trevor Mills, Mr Frits Takken

802. Declarations of Interest:

803. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Agreed.

Proposed: Councillor Watson Seconded: Councillor Heywood

804. Public Participation:

- a. A parishioner read a statement outlining his disappointment in the Parish Council's communication with the public. He concurred with Councillor Takken's statement at the last meeting (14<sup>th</sup> December) that there needs to be greater interaction with residents and that people should be encouraged to speak and not be vilified when they do. Many parishioners regularly review parish meetings online and he stated that he hoped live streaming would not be withdrawn when the topic was discussed later in the meeting.
- b. Facebook: A parishioner referred to discussions at the last meeting. He felt that the Chair's comments regarding FB were odd and not at all in keeping with serving the community. He also expressed shock at another councillor's statement that FB was "pathetic" and felt that it denigrated the views of the parishioners that are served by the PC. Whilst two councillors stated their unwillingness to use FB personally, others stated they found it a useful source of communication.

It was also questioned why the Parish Council even asked for comments from parishioners if the councillors were not aware of them personally and did not take any notice of them. It was clarified that the Clerk's role includes handling all forms of communications on behalf of the PC and that she shares this information with the PC as appropriate, regardless of how they are received.

805. Clerk's Report

- a. Correspondence:
  - I. The Clerk highlighted that a letter had been received from a parishioner expressing his dismay at the way he was spoken to at the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December. All councillors were reminded that they are bound by a Code of Conduct.
  - II. Barclays Bank: Ongoing issues relating to the PC bank account are in hand. The correspondence address has been updated and a statement has been ordered to verify whether the requested transfer has been made. Signatures have also been updated.



806. Live streaming PC meetings. A discussion took place whether to continue in 2023:
- Councillor Watson had reviewed the YT views for all of the PC meetings for the last 6 months: 40, 17, 24, 18, 44, 18 views respectively. It is not possible to establish how many individuals watch or when. It was acknowledged that the sound quality is quite poor but the chapel's system cannot be improved.
  - Councillor Babb queried how many PC's around Devon offer this service and felt that BBPC may be providing something that may be not be necessary or provided elsewhere.
  - Councillors Heywood and Hooper felt that the PC should move with the times and continue to offer this facility.
- It was agreed to explore options to improve the sound quality with a view to continuing with live streaming. Action: Clerk to make enquiries regarding the cost and viability of a standalone sound system.**
807. Presentation and decision regarding proposed footpath diversion
- a. Councillor Hooper delivered a presentation regarding the proposal to redirect the existing footpath. Due to funding constraints, lack of resourcing etc DCC have stated that a formal redirection will not be considered unless linked to new housing, so alternative options were discussed. The DCC Footpaths Officer agreed to a proposal regarding a *permissive footpath* which will allow the path to be amended and resolve the existing problem. The Council agreed to supply and fit the stock-gate in the agreed location and supply all signage at no cost to BBPC - the PC will only need to fit the latter. As well as being very practical and cost-effective, this action will put BBPC in good stead to have the formal change approved as and when this becomes feasible.
- A disagreement ensued between the Chair and other councillors regarding Councillor Hooper's remit as Footpaths Officer and actions taken in relation to the footpath by Councillor Hewitt (or by the tenant after contact from Councillor Hewitt). Two councillors categorically stated that they believed Councillor Hooper had previously been given the Parish Council's permission to initiate discussions and action and that, where decisions needed to be made, he would report back to the PC. The Chair vehemently disagreed with this and felt that Councillor Hooper had exceeded his authority. This was countered by Councillor Heywood as he pointed out that the Chair had taken a subjective decision to stop the footpath works being carried out without the permission of the rest of the PC and that he should consider his own position.
- Councillors Beer and Babb walked out of the meeting at 7:40pm.
- Councillor Hewitt subsequently left the meeting at 7:48pm. He stated to the Clerk that he was resigning with immediate effect and that his formal resignation would be received promptly. This information was relayed to the remaining councillors and the two members of the public still present.
808. Members' Reports – No reports were delivered.

809. Planning: The Parish Council was unable to access any planning documents prior to or during the meeting as the TDC server was down. **Action: Clerk to write to TDC to request an extension to the planning deadline as critical documents were not publicly available. The applications below will be carried forward to the next meeting agenda.**

**a. Applications:**

- I. 1/1174/2022/LBC: Change In Time, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, Devon Regularisation of alterations to internal layout and installation of external soil pipe
- II. 1/1209/2022/FUL Proposed sub-division of 1no. dwelling to 3no. dwellings - Haywain Barn Barton Court Buckland Brewer Bideford Devon EX39 5LN
- III. 1/1068/2022/FUL: Land At Grid Reference 242202 120861, Orleigh Close  
Part retrospective application for the construction of attenuation basin and ancillary development, including landscaping in association with planning permissions 1/1134/2018/FULM & 1/0513/2022/REMM

**b. Decisions:**

- I. 1/1016/2022/FUL Buckland Brewer Hall Proposed Extension – Approved
- II. 1/0517/2022/FUL 3 Ashtons Row, 1<sup>st</sup> floor dormer conversion - Approved

It was established that there was a quorum (Councillors Heywood, Hooper, Lowe and Watson were still present) but no further business was undertaken in view of the preceding events.

**There being no further business, the meeting was formally closed at 8:00pm**

Dates of Future Meetings:

**Allison Homes Meeting, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January (TBC - 2pm Methodist Church)**

**Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January (7pm Methodist Church)**

**PC Budget Meeting, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January (7pm Church Schoolroom)**

**Fields & Allotments Sub-Committee Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January (7pm Church Schoolroom)**

**Signed as a true record: ..... Date: .....**