



MEETING MINUTES

Buckland Brewer Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 9th August 2023 Buckland Brewer Methodist Chapel

Councillors Present: Kathryn Cann, Sally Cole, George Heywood, Richard Hooper, Trevor Mills, Hen Staveley-Brown, David Watson

Also in attendance: 4 members of the public and Cllr Phil Pennington (TDC)

Parish Clerk: Jo Miles

Meeting Chair: Cllr Richard Hooper

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

Business transacted at the meeting:

43) Apologies for Absence: Councillors Phil Ainsworth, George Heywood and Jane Lowe

44) Declarations of Interest: None

45) Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27th July 2023

46) Public Participation

- a) An update was requested regarding the cones placed along Tower Hill. Cllr Hooper advised he had not been able to identify who has put the cones out. He has already pushed the cones back so that they are not causing an obstruction and will remove them if the owner isn't found.
- b) Numerous road repair problems have been highlighted previously. Mr Clive Stone advised that he has contacted Devon CC Highways personally but the response he got was not very satisfactory and indicated that the roads around Buckland Brewer were not considered a priority. The clerk advised that BBPC has been promised a copy of a road survey when it is completed by Devon Highways but no information had been given regarding the location of the roads to be examined. Mr Stone enquired whether parishioners could provide some suggestions. The report is not expected until at least September so the clerk will endeavour to find out which roads will be reviewed and if Devon CC would accept some input. The importance of individuals reporting potholes was also reiterated. **Clerk to contact Devon Highways.**

47) Clerk's Report:

- a) Correspondence:
 - i) Sir Geoffrey Cox visit to Buckland Brewer. Contacted by his Chief of Staff previous week so little notice given. Awaiting publicity material for distribution.
 - ii) Cellnex: Request to clear the area surrounding the mast as the moorland is overgrown. It is unclear who is responsible for maintenance but the Parish Council does not have a key to



the compound and hasn't cleared this area previously. A Heywood (R Hicks & Co.) is seeking quotes on behalf of BBPC. He has also raised that he thought an alternative route was normally used (Cllr Mills concurred and provided a map).

- iii) Complaint regarding an overgrown hedge (Rolle's Terrace). Advised it is owner's responsibility but growth is encroaching on footpath and includes long brambles at head height. **Clerk will drop a polite note through door.**
- iv) Request from residents to remove barriers on Hillpark. Pearce Construction had installed them at the request of BBPC so have advised the residents that BBPC must remove them. The clerk had not been able to find any reference to this in meeting minutes but Cllrs Mills and Watson confirmed that BBPC had instructed the contractor (the residents hadn't been consulted). **Clerk to contact the site manager to ask for the contractor's support.**
- v) Changes to bus services communicated from 3 September. No alternation to BB services but users that connect to other routes need to be aware.

b) Updates:

- i) Defibrillator cabinet – still chasing.
- ii) Defibrillator pads – manufacturer delay so still awaiting delivery to replace expired one (BB Hall). Expected by 13/8/23.
- iii) Council recycling centre – website checked following the discussion at the last meeting. DCC is continuing to charge for disposal of some household waste, despite the recent government announcement. Not all items are chargeable so it is recommended that the website is checked before visiting as a full breakdown is provided.
- iv) Coronation mug sales – see note under accounts.

48) DALC AGM & Conference Wed. 27th September: Decision to be taken regarding BBPC AGM representative(s) and any conference/exhibition attendees. Cllr Watson is the Council's DALC representative so will attend and will vote at the AGM the other BBPC attendees are to be confirmed. (Clerk attended in 2022.) **It was agreed to book 2 places.**

49) Emergency Planning:

- a) Decision whether to adopt the Emergency Plan presented to BBPC. It was acknowledged that this decision has been outstanding for some time. **Decision deferred.**
- b) Decision whether to submit a request for the TDC grant funding to be used for an alternative purpose or to return the grant to TDC. This was very urgent as BBPC obtained the grant over a year ago but has not spent it. **It was agreed to purchase a generator which can be used for events as well as for emergency use. Clerk to research options and cost.**

- 50) Decision regarding the purchase and installation of a sign directing pedestrians to Buckland Brewer Hall and the fitness equipment in the amenity field. **It was unanimously agreed to purchase and install a sign. Clerk to arrange.**
- 51) Chair's update relating to Parish Council roles and responsibilities. The Chair apologised for the confusion. He had assumed that everyone had read all emails and had had the same opportunity to put their names forward. He proposed that the process was restarted. **Agreed.**
- 52) Decision regarding the use of some of the 2022-23 footpath grant funding.
Cllr Hooper advised that he had been using his personal strimmer for footpath clearance and had incurred some out-of-pocket expenses, e.g. strimmer cord. Ultimately it was hoped that the council will be able to purchase equipment for future use. **It was unanimously agreed to allow for all such expenses to be recovered.**
It was confirmed that Back Lane had been cleared although someone has dumped their grass cuttings into the lane since.
- 53) Decision regarding hedge cutting/maintenance relating to parish-owned fields.
This was raised as some growth is encroaching on the highway. Cllrs expressed uncertainty whether the tenants should maintain hedges on the roadside as well as the internal field boundary. **Clerk to check tenancy agreements to establish responsibilities re parish fields.**
- 54) Decision whether to support a bonfire event in 2023.
The Clerk confirmed that the hog roast and BB Hall had been provisionally booked (a bar will be provided if required) but that sponsorship would be needed for fireworks. It was acknowledged that the location may need to be reviewed as more new houses surround the amenity field. Temporary toilets would also need to be hired if the playing field is used instead. **BBPC unanimously agreed to sponsor a bonfire event. Location to be reviewed.**
- 55) Update and decision regarding the recovery of the Jubilee Beacon.
The beacon is still in the possession of a former councillor. He is unable to access the storage area until a tenant farmer cuts the grass. This is expected to be done in a few weeks' time so he will confirm when the beacon can be delivered to the playing field.

56) Members' Reports

Trevor Mills

- More photos have been provided re mud on the road. Cllr Mills spoke to the site manager of the Allison Homes site again. He found that the bowser was broken so wheels are not being washed when leaving the site. The site manager stated they should lock the gates if this requirement cannot be fulfilled so it was questioned why this hadn't happened. (Escalated to TDC Planning via Cllr Pennington.)
- Feedback given that BBPC minutes are too long to fit on the THH noticeboard.
- Rivers Trust – A parishioner has signed up to undertake river sampling within the parish.

Sally Cole – Nothing to report.

Richard Hooper

- Reiterated that the visit from Sir Geoffrey Cox was a good opportunity to raise any queries and concerns about government policy.

Kathryn Cann - Nothing to report.

David Watson

- Youth Services – Cllr Watson will provide a summary of the progress to date. The account is currently being audited. Youth workers have been commissioned to seek views from young people within the parish. Cllr Hooper said he had been approached as parishioners had raised concerns that children were being contacted directly and queried whether the Parish Council should be helping to fund this if the youth workers were instructed by the Methodist Church. Cllr Watson advised that they are professional youth workers with the proper credentials and are employed by TDC to undertake this type of work. Cllr Watson advised that the youth work was separate and that he will be seeking parishioners to volunteer as committee members in due course.

Hen Staveley-Brown

- The wording of the sign on the stock-gate "by order" has been commented upon. Some parishioners have complained that it is unnecessarily aggressive. Cllr Hooper confirmed it was a replacement for a previous sign and that the same wording is displayed elsewhere. He will look at the sign to see whether anything can be done.
- The grass on the playing field has been cut recently but it isn't very short so it still looks untidy and will need to be cut again very soon. Cllr Hooper confirmed the PFA committee already has this in hand.

Phil Pennington District Councillor (TDC)

- Recent issues relating to construction traffic and possible planning breaches have been escalated within Torridge DC Planning. Cllr Pennington expressed his disappointment that parishioners have had to contend with so much disruption for so long due to the decision to approve multiple large construction sites to be implemented simultaneously. TDC Planners need to learn lessons from this to ensure that this isn't repeated elsewhere in future. Planning should be actively involved in enforcement as should other agencies, including the Police, if highways are being impacted.
- Cllr Pennington mentioned that TDC was having to evict travellers from Victoria Park in Bideford.
- In response to the previous public participation comments, Cllr Pennington confirmed there are highways issues throughout Torridge and roads are in very poor condition. He highlighted Torridge Hill as an example where wheel trims can be seen piled on the edge of the road as they fall off when cars hit a particularly large pothole.
- Cllr Pennington highlighted that changes to oil heating legislation is being brought in from 2026 which will greatly affect rural areas. Possible topic to raise with Sir Geoffrey Cox on 23 August.

57) Planning Application(s): No new applications and no decisions advised since the last meeting.

58) Accounts – Balances are unchanged since the last meeting as awaiting the July bank statement:

<u>Summary</u>	General Account	Thornhillhead Moor Account	Savings Account	Consolidated
Opening Balance	£18,475.29	£15,025.20	£27,357.48	£60,857.97
Receipts to date	£7,635.00	£30.00	£57.04	£7,722.04
Payments to date	£5,555.51	£0.00	£0.00	£5,555.51
Closing cash book balance	£20,554.78	£15,055.20	£27,414.52	£63,024.50
Closing Bank Balances	£23,631.67	£15,055.20	£27,414.52	£66,101.39
As at	30/06/2023	30/06/2023	30/06/2023	
Unreconciled (net)	-£3,076.89	£0.00	£0.00	-£3,076.89
Net THM Savings			£11,000.00	
Fund Balances	£40,046.19	£26,055.20		£66,101.39

i) Payments for July/August 2023 (Since last meeting: £480 (inc VAT))

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| (1) DALC (Cllr Training JL & GH) | £180.00 |
| (2) THHM Sign installation | £300.00 |

ii) Receipts for July/August 2023 (Since last meeting): £0

iii) Other

- (1) Clerk has the final £175 collected re Coronation mugs sales. **It was agreed that BBPC would retain this towards the cost of the bonfire event.** (All previous mug proceeds have already been paid into the BB Jubilee Fund – current balance is approx. £537.)

There being no further business, the meeting was formally closed at 8:04pm.

Signed as a true record: Date: