

**Minutes of the meeting of Buckerell Parish Council held at Doug's Shed,
Splatthayes on Wednesday 21st November 2012.**

Those Present

Mr Steve Stone – Chairman
Mrs Jenny Palfrey
Mrs Kate Pratt
Mrs Wendy Wayne
Councillor Roger Giles
Mr Richard Reeve – Clerk

There were five members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Councillor Graham Brown

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed.

ACTION

3. Matters arising

- a) *Ref. 3 a)* The vacancy for a councillor has still not been filled, however following an article in The Bugle, two people had put their names forward, Mr Stuart Bader and Mr Paul Booth. Mr Reeve outlined how the vacancy would be filled, the details are as follows;
- i. Notice of the intention to co-opt to the vacancy should be given in the agenda for the meeting of the Parish Council;
 - ii. When the item is reached, the Chair should call for nominations, which should be duly proposed and seconded;
 - iii. When all the nominations have been received a vote should be taken. It is usual for the candidate's names to be put in alphabetical order;
 - iv. The person co-opted must receive a majority of the votes of those Councillors present and voting at the meeting where the co-option takes place. Where there are more than two candidates for one vacancy, this rule means that a person must get a majority of votes over all the other candidates. Thus where candidate A receives four votes, and candidates B and C each receive two, A is not elected because he has the same number of votes as B and C put together and does not have a majority over their combined votes. Where there are more than two candidates it is desirable to eliminate the candidate with the least number of votes, so that the final vote is between two candidates only;
 - v. After the vote has been taken, the Chair should declare the candidate who received the highest number of votes duly elected;
 - vi. The person elected must make a declaration of acceptance of office before, or at, the first meeting of the Parish Council following his election in the presence of a member of the Parish Council or the Proper Officer of the Parish Council. The declaration is then retained in the parish records. The person elected will need also to undertake to abide by the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.
- b) *Ref 3b)* Still nothing had been received from EDDC regarding the proposed development at Cranbrook. It was agreed Mr Stone would contact Councillor Brown and ask him provide an answer at the next meeting.

SS

- c) *Ref 3c)* A report had been received from Mike Brown (mike.brown@devon.co.uk) showing what work had been carried out by the Parish Lengthsman on his last visit, 17-18th October. Details had been circulated to councillors. Councillor Giles advised that John Hopkins had now retired and that all contact in future should go through Mike Brown.
- d) *Ref 3d)* It was agreed that a letter regarding dogs fouling crop fields would be sent out in February 2013. **SS**
- e) *Ref 3e)* Mrs Palfrey had discussed the War Memorial pots with Mrs Craig-Macquaide and agreed that they would be replaced in the spring. Mrs Palfrey asked what the actual budget was; Mr Reeve confirmed it was £200.00, £50.00 per pot and that the budget must be used before 31st March 2013.
- f) *Ref 5d)* Mr Stone advised that the damaged Footpath sign at Tape Lane had been reported to Devon County Council via their website.
- g) *Ref 5g)* Mr Reeve reported that the problem with the speeding school bus had been a one-off.

4. Police Report

No report had been received, it was agreed that Mr Stone would raise any issues arising from the meeting direct with the police. **SS**

5. Public Questions

- a) The procedures for dealing with questions from members of the public were outlined by Mr Reeve. It was agreed that something should be put in the next edition of The Bugle. **WW**
- b) A question was raised about the Parish Lengthsman's specific responsibilities particularly in relation to where properties adjoin the highway. Councillor Giles advised that Mike Brown at Devon County Council was the person to contact as he could define whether it was part or road or belonged to the property owner.
- c) The question of whether the PACT (Police and Communities Together) Initiative was still operating was also raised. Mr Stone agreed to contact the police to find out. **SS**
- d) The question of who was responsible for clearing the gully from the Grit Bin down to Knabben was raised. This is another issue that Mike Brown would be able to resolve. **KP**
- e) Whilst everyone was happy to see the new 30 m.p.h. speed signs, the question of whether this could be enforced was discussed. It was felt unlikely that due to the pressures on police resources, that this would be possible, however Mr Stone agreed to contact the police. Installing a speed activated warning sign was also discussed, but Councillor Giles pointed out that these would cost around £4000. **SS**

6. Finance

- a) The balance at the bank on 21st October 2012 was £2521.18
- b) The following payments for approval were proposed by Mrs Pratt and seconded by Mrs Palfrey:
 - i. David Wayne – Plastics Run October - £15.00
 - ii. Douglas Cowan – Room Hire November - £15.00
 - iii. Audit Commission – Annual Audit- £60.00
 - iv. Richard Reeve – Clerk's Services & Expenses - September & October - £111.96
 - v. Wendy Wayne – Tree Warden's Course & Mileage - £74.85

7. Precept

Mr Reeve advised that the deadline for submitting the precept for 2013/14 was 18th January. Mr Stone agreed to arrange a meeting with Mr Wayne and Mr Reeve to put together the proposal which would need to be agreed at a meeting before 18th January. Councillors were given details of how this year's precept was calculated and asked to provide Mr Stone with any additional items by 29th November.

ALL

8. Councillor Giles Report

- a) He advised that in June he had visited King's School with other councillors to meet students who were asked to come up with a project for consideration. The idea they put forward was for a cycleway from Feniton to Ottery and ultimately Sidmouth. On 18th October the students, including one from Buckerell, put their case at a public meeting, it then went to Ottery Town Council where a smaller number of students presented their case. It was agreed by Ottery Town Council that a steering committee would be set up to see how best to move the project forwards. It was thought that it would be 3 to 4 years before anything could happen.
- b) He reported that planning had been approved on appeal for 50 additional houses in Feniton; this was despite concerns about Feniton Primary School being able to cope with additional students. The appeal had been allowed because East Devon had not met its target for new houses as part of the local plan. An application for 32 houses at Acland Park had been refused.

9. Parishes Together Fund

Mr Reeve circulated details of the scheme to the councillors. Mr Stone agreed to find out more from Ally Eastland and Jamie Buckley to see how Buckerell could become involved.

SS

10. Community Infrastructure Levy

Details were handed out, Councillor Giles stressed it was important that we identified what we would like within the Parish and make sure it was on record. Mr Stone would complete the form and return.

SS

11. Planning

No new applications had been received. Concern has been expressed about the smell emanating from the site at The Oaks, it was agreed that this should be referred to the Environment Agency for them to investigate.

SS

12. Roads

- a) The problem with the embankments on the road down to Feniton has been resolved. Mrs Pratt had contacted Mike Brown at DCC who had arranged for the slippage to be cleared. He also clarified that it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the embankments but DCC's responsibility to keep the highways clear.
- b) The problem with the road outside Avenhayes Cottage was discussed again. Despite the area being marked with blue paint nothing has happened. South West Water have advised that it is not their responsibility, it was agreed that Mrs Pratt would go back to DCC advising that it was now becoming a Health and Safety issue which could result in an accident.
- c) Mrs Pratt had contacted DCC regarding the problems with the signage at Buckerell Cross but had been advised that there was no money available. It was pointed out that all that needed to happen was for the sign to be turned round to face the correct direction.

KP

- d) It was agreed to include the link for reporting road problems at Devon County Council - http://www.devon.gov.uk/road_maintenance.htm in the next edition of The Bugle.

WW

13. Butts Cottages

Mr Reeve reported that he had received the following from Giles Salter, Solicitor at EDDC; "this matter is listed for a hearing of 4 hours on 22 November at 10.30 am when the Court will decide whether to make an Enforced Sale Order". As soon as he received any further information he would circulate it to all councillors.

RR

14. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) Despite the recent heavy rain, the problem at the junction by Orchards Farm had not been as bad as previously. Any problems with drains should be referred to Mrs Wayne, if the problem falls within the remit of the Parish Lengthsman, he can be asked to help but it must go through Mike Brown at DCC. Individuals can refer problems using the DCC web site following the same link as in 12d).
- b) The hedgerows on the road down to Feniton have now been cut back making the road much safer.
- c) Mrs Wayne reported that she was not aware of any problems with footpaths.
- d) Mrs Wayne had recently attended a Tree Warden's course which she had found most useful. One of the things that came out of the course was the idea that each Parish should produce a catalogue of its special trees. It was agreed that this was a good idea and could possibly be done by using The Bugle.
- e) Mrs Wayne advised that people should be made aware of Ash Die back disease and that she had some literature on it.

15. Winter Services Review

Details of what was happening this winter had been received, Mr Stone advised that it would be operating in the same way as last year. He still needed to find a location to store the salt. He also re-stated that the salt was only for use on the highway and not for personal use. Mr Reeve advised that scoops for the grit bins have now been purchased.

SS

16. Village Appearance

- a) The planned meeting at the churchyard clear up did not place due to other commitments. It was agreed that Mrs Palfrey should be tasked with putting together a plan of what was required based on suggestions from the other councillors. It was suggested that we should recording where bulbs are currently planted to identify where more are needed and sites where some could be planted.
- b) Councillor Giles confirmed his offer of support to replace the bench by the War Memorial and would send through the relevant paperwork which needed to be completed as a matter of urgency. It was agreed that Mr Stone and Mr Reeve would sort out by Friday 30th November.
- c) The condition of the noticeboard by the phone box was discussed, it was agreed that it should be replaced. It was decided that the replacement board should be positioned on higher poles so it was not obscured by cars parking in front of it. Mr Reeve was asked to contact the company who supplied the main noticeboard.
- d) Mrs Palfrey requested an additional shelf for the telephone box, Mr Stone agreed to put one in if Mrs Palfrey let him know exactly what was needed.

JP

SS/RR

RR

SS/JP

17. Village Leaflet

It was agreed that a leaflet should be produced funded by the Parish Council. Councillors were asked to come up with a list of things to include for agreement at the next meeting. Mr Wayne to be asked if he would like produce it.

WW

18. The Buckerell Bugle

The Bugle has now been revived by Mr Wayne. The councillors were pleased to see it back. It was suggested that if possible, there should be a piece in the next edition about each of the councillors and their role on the Council. Mrs Wayne to see if this was possible.

WW

19. Clerk’s Position

Mr Stone advised the meeting that Mr Reeve had submitted his resignation to take effect from 30th November. Mr Stone and the other councillors asked for their thanks to Mr Reeve to be included in the minutes. An advertisement for the position would be placed on the noticeboard shortly. It was agreed that until a replacement could be appointed, all correspondence would go through Mr Stone. Mr Reeve would notify the various authorities and ask them to update their records.

RR

19. Items for next meeting

- a) Co-option of New councillor
- b) Replacement clerk
- c) Precept 2012/13
- d) Leaflet about the village
- e) Village Appearance Plan
- f) Dog Fouling letter.

20. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9th January 2013, 7.30 p.m. at Splatthayes

Meeting closed 10.05 p.m.

Signed:_____

Position:_____

Date:_____