

**Minutes of the meeting of Buckerell Parish Council held at Buckerell
Church on Tuesday 18th March 2014**

Those Present

Mr Steve Stone (Chair)
Mr Stuart Bader (Vice- Chair)
Mrs Wendy Wayne
Mr Ryan Knight
Councillor Claire Wright
Councillor Susie Bond
Heloise Marlow – Clerk

There were three members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Mrs Jenny Palfrey, PC Clive Vickery

ACTION

Steve Stone advising that with much regret he had that day received Jenny's resignation. The Councillors were unanimous in expressing their regret at the news but wishing to thank Jenny for all her hard work. It was agreed that the Parish Council would advertise for a new Councillor.

HM

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on the 28th January 2014 were agreed and signed

3. Matters arising

Wendy Wayne advising that Dave Wayne had not yet been able to undertake the pressure washing of the War Memorial but that this would be done within the next two weeks.

WW

4. Police Report

Heloise Marlow confirming that she had received confirmation of nil reported crime between 28th January 2014 and 18th March 2014.

5. Public Questions

There were no questions from the public.

6. Finance

- a) The balance at the bank is £3379.05.
- b) The following payments for approval were proposed by Steve Stone and seconded by Ryan Knight
 - i. David Wayne – Plastics Run March - £20.00
 - ii. Buckerell Parish Church - £50.00
 - iii. Heloise Marlow – Clerks fees and expenses £174.00
 - iv. Wendy Wayne – Bulbs and snowdrops - £32.86

HM

7. Parishes Together Fund

Heloise Marlow confirming that the application had been submitted and that the Ottery Help Scheme had been nominated as the preferred recipient. It was agreed that the Scheme would be advertised again in the Bugle and on the Website.

HM/SS
/RK

8. Computer Course

Heloise Marlow confirming that she had had over 12 positive responses for the proposed computer course offered by Cosmic – Ryan Knight will contact them to obtain suggested dates and times with a view to booking Doug's Shed. The Parish Council will need to cover the cost of the hall – Heloise Marlow will also put details on the Notice Board for those villagers who are not aware of the proposed computer course as they may not have access to the village email.

HM

9. Councillor Claire Wright's report

Councillor Claire Wright advised that there were to be significant budget cuts at Devon County Council. The Council has to cut £110m from the Budget by 2017 because the government is withdrawing around 40% of council funding up to 2017. The main cuts were as follows:

- a) £6m from Highways – at a recent meeting it was stated that 100 roads had been temporarily closed due to the recent bad weather causing damage – some may never be reopened as the Council cannot afford to repair them. Other roads are structurally inadequate and may be open but impassable. The Council's spending power has reduced to 60% of what they had in 2009/2010. The Council has lobbied local MPs hard and this has led to some further funding but this is not sufficient. A and B roads are in a fair state but 13% of C roads need urgent attention and 20% of unclassified roads also. In 10 years it is predicted that this will rise to 50%. The Council cannot see a way of dealing with this especially as Devon has the largest highway network in the country. Councillor Claire Wright reiterated the need to report potholes via the online system.

The above was met with dismay by all Councillors and with also a degree of frustration. Both Steve Stone and Heloise Marlow confirmed that all their efforts to assist the Highways Authority had been rebuffed – when the Parish Council offered to assist by employing a Parish Lengthsman it was made clear that the highways were not to be touched and the red tape of obtaining the services of a local Parish Lengthsman made it prohibitive eg training etc. Councillor Claire Wright admitted that sometimes it did not appear logical but could only suggest that there were issues of health and safety which had to be taken into account.

- b) There are currently consultations ongoing with regards to cutting the hot meals subsidy on meals on wheels – this is likely to be lost – consultation ends 19th March.
- c) Residential care homes – all those owned by Devon County Council are likely to close – again consultation ends on 23rd March – many of these are in North Devon. The Council expects the residents to go into private homes or receive care in a different way.
- d) Day centres run or owned by Devon County Council are likely to close – there is 1 in Honiton.
- e) Three children's homes in Devon are likely to close – this is currently under consultation – to Councillor Claire Wright's dismay the staff of one of the homes and

supporters – Blossom Corner in Exeter – were prevented from speaking at the Council meeting.

- f) All Devon County Council run Youth Centres are proposed to close. There has been a petition and demonstrations against but again young campaigners were not allowed to speak at the Council meeting on budget day in February – the Conservative councillors voted against. 60/70 jobs will be lost with £970,000 cut from the youth budget
- g) Councillor Claire Wright advising that the above is only the start of the cuts – there will be further significant cuts up to 2017. All Councils across the country are facing similar cuts.
- h) One piece of good news is that the broadband linked to the Feniton exchange is to be upgraded by June 2014 – this should improve Buckerell's access to the internet. However Councillor Susie Bond advised that she was struggling to get details from DCC about this in practice.

Steve Stone thanking Councillor Claire Wright for her report but asking her that she advises Devon County Council that Buckerell Parish Council and the residents of Buckerell are extremely unhappy and also largely frustrated by the Council's actions. Councillor Claire Wright confirmed that she would pass this on.

10. Councillor Susie Bond's report

Councillor Susie Bond advising that following the full Council meeting recently it had been agreed not to increase the council tax for a 5th year running.

As regards the move from Knowle, the Conservative led Council have now agreed that a move to Skypark is the best option. This has generated much heated debate as it would involve selling off Knowle, the East Devon Business Centre in Honiton AND potentially borrowing £4m. A final decision has yet to be made but this now appears to be the preferred option. Councillor Susie Bond confirming that initially the Councillors had suggested a move to Honiton would be preferable but now it appears that with Asda and McDonalds interested in the Honiton site, the Councillors are looking at Skypark. Concerns have been raised about how residents of East Devon will access Skypark although Councillor Susie Bond suggested that Skypark is more accessible than Knowle. The land at Skypark will cost at least £1m and one issue is that the economics of the move have not been made public on the basis that it is commercially sensitive. Buckerell Parish Council unanimously expressed their dismay at the lack of transparency on the part of East Devon District Council who have refused a FOI request even though as it was pointed out if East Devon District Council borrow £4M it is effectively the residents of East Devon who are borrowing this money. The Council argues that Knowle is too expensive to run and maintain and insists a move is necessary. Initially the Council advised that any move would be cost neutral. That can no longer be achieved. Then it advised that any move would be at no extra cost to the taxpayer but now they are recommending a move which could entail a £4m loan.

Buckerell Parish Council unanimously advised Councillor Susie Bond that they were against the proposed move to Skypark and Councillor Susie Bond confirmed that she would take this back.

The results of the Feniton Super Enquiry are due on the 4th April.

The train station at Cranbrook is due to open in the Autumn.

The new Local Plan has had its examination in public and the inspectors are due to report back by the end of the month.

As regards Graham Brown the police say that they are still investigating.

Tomorrow there is an appeal hearing with regards to the proposed travellers site at Weston – Gittisham Parish Council are not sending a representative- Heloise Marlow offering to go on behalf of Buckerell Parish Council. The only ground for objecting is the possible issues of flooding – Councillors voted 3:1 to oppose the application.

Stuart Bader advising that travellers had set up camp behind Homebase – Councillor Susie Bond not aware of this previously.

Hayne Lane Planning Application – this is going to committee on 1st April with a recommendation from the planners to approve. Councillor Claire Wright is objecting to this application as the Devon County Councillor for Gittisham but Councillor Susie Bond advising that there is a strong chance it will be approved. Buckerell Parish Council expressing their dismay at this and at the apparent lack of control over large scale development locally.

11. Planning

- a) 14/0329/FUL – Jenirens Farm, Buckerell – approved with conditions. Stuart Bader noting that the Council had recognised the need to deal with the run off of surface water by way of a condition.
- b) 14/0489/LBC – Buckerell House – the Councillors had no objections to this application.

12. Roads report

Stuart Bader confirming that the roads were better at the moment – there are a few potholes dotted around and he does use the online logging system although feels that this is very slow – each pothole has to be logged individually.

13. Trees, footpaths, hedgerows and drains

Wendy Wayne confirming that trees had fallen down at Knabben but otherwise all ok – agreed again that the Parish Council would fund new replacement trees for the village – Ryan Knight and Wendy Wayne to survey the village.

It was noted that water was running across the field opposite Treslake rather than going into the ditch – Heloise Marlow to approach the owner to see what can be done.

RK/WW/
HM

14. Parish Lengthsman

Steve Stone confirming that John Stocker is no longer interested as he does not want to do the training required by Devon County Council – Heloise Marlow advising that the Parish Council Clerk at Luppitt had advised her that one of their residents has the necessary licences etc and it was agreed that Heloise Marlow would find out how much he would charge to assist here in Buckerell. Wendy Wayne advising that David Wayne is interested in the position – she will speak with him further but all Councillors agreed that if David Wayne could do it that would be preferable.

HM/WW

15. Telephone Box

It was agreed to fund the repainting at a cost of £300.00 plus materials. Wendy Wayne will liaise with Mike Carson.

WW

16. Butts Cottages

Heloise Marlow confirming that EDDC have sold this – the new owner has inspected but has advised that the property is so damp he will not be able to start work until it has dried out – probably sometime near Easter – Heloise Marlow to ask EDDC for the contact details of the new owner.

HM

17. AOB

Steve Stone advising that the old notice board at the top of the village was falling into disrepair – it was agreed that he would remove it.

Stuart Bader advising that there were still issues with Dog Fouling in the village – Heloise Marlow will send something over the village email and put a notice up on the Notice Board. There has also been an incident involving a sheep dog and a dead sheep – Steve Stone will investigate.

18. Agenda items for next meeting

The BCA are having their meeting later in the week – Ben Marlow their Chair will be asked whether they wish the Parish Council to purchase any items of use and if so details to be provided for the next meeting.

19. Date of next meeting -

Tuesday 20th May 2014 at Buckerell Parish Church.

Meeting closed 09.05 p.m.

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____