

**Minutes of the meeting of Buckerell Parish Council held at Buckerell
Church on Tuesday 22nd July 2014**

Those Present

Mr Stuart Bader (Vice- Chair)

Mrs Wendy Wayne

Mr Ryan Knight

Councillor Susie Bond

Heloise Marlow – Clerk

There were three members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Mr Steve Stone, Councillor Claire Wright, PC Clive Vickery

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the AGM on the 20th May 2014 were agreed and signed

ACTION

3. Matters arising

The grit bin on the road out from the village towards Feniton has been demolished. Steve Stone has already agreed to enquire of Kier who have been dealing with road works to see if they were responsible and if so he will request that they replace/repair it.

SS

4. Police Report

Heloise Marlow confirming that she had received confirmation of nil reported crime between 1st April 2014 and 21st July 2014.

NB it was noted that for a crime to be reported a crime number had to be requested.

5. Public Questions

A member of the public queried the position regarding 2 Glebe Cottages, Cabbage Lane as the tenants have moved out and she had heard that the property had been condemned. The owner lives in Honiton. Heloise Marlow will make enquiries of EDDC.

It was also noted that no work had yet started on 3 Butts Cottages – Heloise Marlow will contact new owner to ascertain current position.

HM

6. Finance

- a) The balance at the bank is £4,181.69
- b) The following payments for approval were unanimously agreed by the Councillors:

- i. David Wayne – Plastics Run July - £20.00
- ii. David Wayne – Balance of Plastics Run April - £5.00
- iii. Hospice Care - £50
- iv. T.R.I.P - £50
- v. Heloise Marlow – Clerks expenses – June, July and August - £174.00
- vi. BCA – Gazebo £331.00
- vii. Richard Reeve – Internal auditor fee £50.00

7. Councillor Claire Wrights report

Community hospital bed loss risk

The local clinical commissioning group (CCG) which runs health services in North, East and West Devon, will shortly publish a document inviting people's views on a shift from hospital based care, to home based care. I am a member of Devon County Council's health scrutiny committee, and it is expected that there will be proposals for widespread community hospital bed losses, and in some cases it may be the case that hospitals are set to lose all their beds.

The CCG is in a dire financial position, with a deficit of around £14m.

The document will come before the scrutiny committee on Thursday 18 September.

As yet we don't know the detail, but we are expecting the document to be published at the beginning of August. I am keeping a very close on this and will keep you informed.

Broadband

There may have been a delay in implementing broadband at Feniton, which hopefully when complete, will boost Buckerell's speeds. The Ottery exchange has certainly seen a delay due to infrastructure problems and I believe that Feniton has also been hit by similar problems, although I have not been able to get a firm answer from Devon County Council officers yet. Essentially, it looks as though the upgrade will now require road closures and then once work is finished, residents will need to get in touch with their service providers to connect to the faster speed.

The new service will now hopefully be available in the autumn.

More funding for pothole filling

There has been a boost of just over £9m from the government for DCC's highways budget, which it successfully bid for last month. Although this is helpful, there is still a significant shortfall. Officers say they need around £64m a year just to keep the roads in Devon in a reasonable state of repair. See press release here - <https://www.devonnewscentre.info/devon-welcomes-extra-pothole-funding/>

Beavers on the Otter

You may have seen the national press stories about a family of beavers living on the Otter (without a licence) and DEFRA's interest in them. DEFRA seem keen to remove them and put them in a zoo, because of a remote risk of a disease that they may carry.

The Angling Trust has been lobbying ministers hard about their removal, despite the fact that beavers are completely vegetarian and help with water purity and can be helpful with preventing flooding.

My view is that they are a native species and were hunted to extinction hundreds of years ago for their fur. It is up to us to reintroduce them in a sensible manner. Devon Wildlife Trust have confirmed that they would monitor them and I believe are hoping to carry out some consultation events in the next few weeks.

I am hoping that DEFRA will see sense and allow them to continue living on the Otter with monitoring in place.

8. Councillor Susie Bond's report

Speaking at DMC: New speaking arrangements at DMC (planning committee) to be brought in at full Council tomorrow (23 July). Public representation will now be severely limited. People who wish to speak at DMC will have to register in advance on line and their contact details will be published so that other objectors/supporters can contact them to ask them to represent their views as well.

Speakers will be limited to 2 objectors/2 supporters on minor applications and 5 objectors/5 supporters on major applications, town or parish councillor, the applicant or his agent and the ward member. This will be on a first come, first served basis.

The Independent group at full Council will be asking that these major changes are delayed for a year to allow the Local Plan to be adopted. There are currently a large number of planning applications which are only being brought forward because of the lack of 5-year land supply and the problem of overlong DMC meetings (which is the reason for the changes) will be self-limiting.

Graham Brown: I shall be requesting for clarification into the police investigation into former Councillor Graham Brown. At the Audit & Governance meeting of 26 June, a councillor was heard to say that he had been told that Graham Brown had visited the police with his solicitor and been informed that the investigation had been concluded with the finding that he had no case to answer. EDDC have not made any statement to this effect.

Land west of Hayne Lane: Having been approved at the Planning Inspections Committee on 25 April, the site for 300 homes has been brought back to PIC following a meeting with the Chief Executive of EDDC, planning officers, Gittisham parish councillors and myself. Issues were raised about lack of consultation on the landscape impact of the site which sits very close to two AONBs. Following late reports from the two AONBs, Natural England, the NHS and DCC in relation to school provision, determination of the application was deferred until officers had time to consider the reports and make a recommendation.

9. Planning

- a) 11 APP/U1105/A/13/2210497 – The Old Barn, South of Trafalgar Bridge, Weston
Appeal dismissed by Planning Inspector – Noted
- b) 14/1284/FUL – Creation of 2 no dwellings – 1 Hamlet Cottages, Weston, EX14 3PB
As adjoining village – Buckerell Parish Council supports this application
- c) 14/1755/FUL – Creation of parking area and access to highway – Rose Cottage, Buckerell
Buckerell Parish Council supports this application – it will reduce the number of cars parked on the highway and will be safer for the children waiting for the school bus.

d) 14/1016/FUL – Demolition of existing agricultural building; erection of winery, small shop and associated ancillary space; erection of kitchen garden school/dwelling – Land to east of Paynes Cottages (Otter Farm) Weston Buckerell Parish Council supports this application and has already submitted its comments to EDDC.

10. Roads report

Stuart Bader confirming that the roads were better at the moment – there was some rubble on the road going towards Hembury Fort but this just causes cars to slow down which is not a bad thing approaching the junction.

11. Trees, footpaths, hedgerows and drains

Wendy Wayne confirming that hedgerows currently were all fine - there has been a lot of growth due to the recent warm weather but any brambles or nettles blocking stiles can just be bent back or stamped on.

The tree at 4 Orchard Farm was discussed. A member of the public present confirmed that whilst the tree was not on her land she had been contacted by Western Power regarding the possible hazard to the adjoining electricity lines. After discussion it was agreed that Heloise Marlow would contact Western Power to see if they were planning to take any action and if so that the Parish Council would wish to be consulted. Wendy Wayne advising that this was a mature tree which could be clearly seen from much of the village and was therefore part of the village. Whilst the Parish Council has no objection to maintenance work being undertaken especially if there is a hazard, any work should be carried out sympathetically and be as minimal as possible.

HM

12. Audit

Heloise Marlow confirming that the audit had been submitted. Richard Reeve had kindly assisted by being the internal auditor. Heloise Marlow will report back to the Parish Council as soon as she has heard back.

HM

13. Computer Course

This had been cancelled due to the very low number of persons confirming their attendance – it was agreed that it would be deferred until the autumn and would be put on the September Agenda to discuss further.

HM

14. Telephone Box

Wendy Wayne confirming that work had had to be delayed due to the road works but the telephone box will be repainted as soon as the road works have been completed. Ryan Knight advising that his wife was holding about 300 books after the Parish Fete – she was intending to donate these to Hospicare but some could go

into the Telephone Library. Heloise Marlow to enquire of Jenny Palfrey as to whether she is happy to continue dealing with the library.

HM

15. AOB

None.

16. Date of next meeting -

Tuesday 23rd September 2014 at Buckerell Parish Church.

Meeting closed 9.00 p.m.

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____