

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th March 2019 at
Doug's Shed Splatthayes

Those Present

Wendy Wayne – Chair (WW)
Prue Pinsent - Vice Chair (PP)
Clare Slater (CS)
Geoff Wright (GW)
Ron Galling (RG)
Cllr Philip Twiss – Devon County Council (PT)
Cllr Susie Bond – East Devon District Council (SB)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were no members of the public present. (Penny Mear had indicated that she would not be able to attend this meeting and asked that her apologies were noted).

1. Apologies

The meeting was in full attendance, therefore no apologies had been received from Councillors.

2. Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting Held 16th January 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th 2019 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting and signed accordingly.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of any personal or pecuniary interest in any of the agenda items.

4. Matters arising (not on agenda)

a) Stile -The damaged stile between Splatthayes and Treaslake had been reported to Devon Highways by the Clerk, and an e-mail response had been received to say that the landowner would be approached to permit a new gate to be fitted. No timescale given for this, and at present the stile is still awaiting attention.

b) Grit bin - A bid for monies from the Locality Budget had been successful, and it would therefore be possible to purchase and install a new grit bin. WW
/IT

c) Heathpark rush hour traffic – A copy of the letter to Councillor Twiss was circulated. Phil suggested that the Safety Partnership would be a more appropriate destination for this. It was agreed that the Clerk would re-direct the letter to them. IT

d) Meeting with Devon Police and Crime Commissioner – It was agreed to see if the “Shed” was available in the week 13-17 May before asking the Commissioner to attend a meeting of local residents and councillors.

IT

5. Police Report – PCSO Darren England

An e-mail had been received from Darren stressing the difficulties currently being experienced with PCSO posts across Devon, and the problems that he faced in reporting to so many councils. Councillors had not received this e-mail, and the Clerk was asked to re-send it.

IT

6. Public questions

A verbal request had been received to display a poster on the noticeboard relating to the “Repair Café” in Exeter. It was agreed that this should be encouraged.

IT

7. Finance:

Balance at bank £8647.28 as at 21st February 2019 (-£3697 Restricted a/c defibrillator) leaving a balance of £4950.28.

Payments to be approved -

Doug Cowan. Meeting room hire March 2019	£20.00	
Contribution to Buckerell Bugle	£150.00	
Charity Payment (TRIP)	£100.00	IT
Charity Payment (CAB)	£100.00	
Charity Payment (Hospicecare)	£100.00	

All the above payments were approved and **AGREED**. Proposed by Clare and seconded by Prue.

8. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

A legally required balanced budget was passed by DCC at a very long meeting on the 21st of February 2019 where full details can be downloaded at

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s24092/Devon%20County%20Council%20Budget%20Book%2020192020.pdf>.

For 2019/20, for an average band D property, the Council Tax charge from DCC will be £1,384.29 (£1,331.19 in 2018/19). This is an increase of 3.99% or £53.10. However, in 2019/20 government funding (core funding) for the County Council will reduce by £13.5 million from £115 million in 2018/19 to £101.5 million in 2019/20.

Your Council Tax is collected by EDDC and distributed across a number of local public authorities:

- Devon County Council uses Council Tax to provide education, roads, care for older people and people with disabilities, child protection, youth services, libraries and recycling centres and waste disposal.
- EDDC uses Council Tax to provide refuse collection, kerbside recycling, housing, planning, street cleaning and leisure.
- Devon & Cornwall Police Authority uses Council Tax to provide law and order and crime reduction.
- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority uses Council Tax to provide fire prevention and fire and rescue services.
- Buckerell PC uses Council Tax to provide local amenities.

Council Tax bands are decided by the listing officer from the Valuation Office and is based on the open market value of a property on 1 April 1991. All properties are placed into one of eight bands and the band for your home will be shown on your bill. In some cases, a Council Tax bill is decided on the number of adults living in the household.

Devon County Council charge (of the total bill you receive that adds Parish, District, Fire Authority and Police) for each band

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£922.86	£1,076.67	£1,230.48	£1,384.29	£1,691.91	£1,999.53	£2,307.15	£2,714.77

The total amount you will pay includes taxes payable to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, EDDC and Buckerell parish council.

Even with a balanced budget this can be easily and adversely affected by unpredicted demand on children's services, adult services and social care demands, which are ever increasing with limited resources.

Highways

Following the passing of the DDC budget I have now met with DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer Mike Brown to discuss the specifics of what the Division priorities are in terms of repairing and maintaining

Highways in the Feniton & Honiton Division, where we have an additional £61,000 from central government that had not been forecast and this will help, but is not factored in to the list attached to this report.

While not specifically mentioned in the attached list of programmed works the NHO is very aware of the attached worked on by Buckerell PC last year in to identifying areas of concern in three key sections where the report has proved helpful and give the fluid nature of capital and revenue estimates for the Feniton & Honiton Division there may be sufficient in the local budget to resolve these issues.

9. Councillor Susie Bond – Report

Full Council has agreed a rise of 3.7% for the District Council element of Council Tax (representing £5/year for a Band D property).

Overall across all authorities, Council Tax will rise by 4.86%

COUNCIL TAX LEVIES	2018/2019 £	2019/2020 £	Variation %
<i>East Devon District Council</i>	136.78	141.78	3.66%
<i>Parish & Town Councils (Average)</i>	65.01	68.18	4.88%
<i>Sub Total</i>	201.79	209.96	–
<i>Devon County Council</i>	1,331.19	1,384.29*	3.99%
<i>Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall</i>	188.28	212.28	12.75%
<i>Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority</i>	84.01	86.52	2.99%
TOTALS	£1,805.27	£1,893.05	4.86%

* This increase of 3.99% includes a charge for adult social care services representing 1% of the increase

- The **Greater Exeter Strategic Plan** is still causing concern as there is a lack of openness and transparency in the process. The representatives for East Devon on the GESP panel are Cllrs Diviani and Skinner. A consultation on draft policies and site options will be done in June 2019 (i.e. after the election). The first draft of GESP will be out for consultation in November this year, with a view to adoption in April 2022. Meanwhile, the Local Plan review will be under way in June with the GESP strategic policies replacing the LP policies following adoption. GESP will provide the overall spatial strategy and level of housing and employment land to be provided up to 2040.
- Meanwhile, EDDC is intending to take out a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at 3% to the tune of **£20,000,000** to invest in commercial property. This is intended to mitigate the impact of cuts to

central Government funding which are in the pipeline. There are serious concerns at Government level about this strategy (several councils have gone down this route, including Spelthorne DC which is currently servicing a debt of £1 billion). The strategy was approved at full Council on 27 February.

Susie also reported that the outcome of the Communities Together bids would be known on 19th March. The scheme would not be operating again, and crowd-funding would be the preferred way forward.

10. Planning

It was noted that there were no new applications at the time of preparing the agenda, but that one had been received on the morning of this Council meeting –

19/0388/LBC - Deer Park Hotel Weston Honiton EX14 3PG

As responses were required before the next meeting of the Parish Council in May, Councillors were asked to let the Clerk have any comments by 3rd April.

ALL

11. Village Clean-Up

Clare would be distributing flyers (electronic and paper) in the near future. The clean-up would take place between 10am and 1pm, and the Shed had been booked between 11.30am and 12.30 pm for refreshments. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for hire of the Shed (£20 agreed).

CS

There were a range of ideas about work that needed completing on the day.

It was agreed to link in with the national “Keep Britain Tidy” campaign which is taking place at the same time.

12. Village Minor Maintenance Work

- a) Phone Box – Wendy will ask Martin Glaeser for a quote to carry out repairs.
- b) Village Bench – to be pressure washed as part of village clean-up.
- c) Tarmac around War Memorial – Prue had received one quote of £3k and was still awaiting a response from another contractor. After discussion it was felt that patching might be more practicable than re-surfacing the entire area. It was agreed to defer any decision until a further quotation had been received.

**WW
CS**

PP

13. Community Resilience Forum (Report)

Wendy and Clare reported an interesting time at this Forum, and asked whether in fact Buckerell needed contingency planning to deal with any emergencies (such as flooding, epidemic, disaster). It was generally agreed that the risks were considered too low to warrant any further action.

14. Broadband Update

Prue had been in contact with a Richard Olive from Gigaclear regarding the current hold up in delivering the network. The response gave little indication of timescales for the work to be completed. The situation is to be monitored. Susie advised that Gittisham were currently in discussion with Voneus re a wireless transmitter based broadband service. Susie will pass on the details to Prue.

PP

15. Roads Report

Ron noted that there was nothing to report at present.

Wendy had written to Devon Highways about the “ICE” road sign. It had been agreed that the sign was pointless in it’s current position and would be removed. The hope was that the proposed work on the drain at that point would resolve problems.

16. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) Devon Highways will be working on the drain outside Avenhayes Cottage between 18th and 20th March. It is hoped that the problems with the drain will be resolved. To be monitored.
- b) The surface water on the road towards Weston had been made worse by the lack of a ditch at the bottom of the field opposite Westcroft. There had been problems in establishing ownership, but Phil pointed out that if the roadway was affected then it became a Highways problem. He undertook to report the problem to Highways.
- c) Ron pointed out the poor condition of Tape Lane (an unmetalled road) which had just about become impassable for traffic. This was due to untrimmed hedgerows, and rutted tracks. After discussion it was decided not to take any further action.

PT

17. Village Maintenance – Tender for Contract

It was agreed that an invitation to tender for the village maintenance contract should be displayed on the noticeboard, in the Bugle, by e-mail, and in the Parish Magazine.

IT

18. Defibrillator

Wendy reported that the PCC had decided to site the defibrillator at the North gate, behind the Parish noticeboard. A request had been made of the Archdeacon under the Faculty B list, and an answer was expected imminently. Once permission is received, then the work can go ahead. WW

Dates of Future Meetings

Agreed dates for future meetings as follows:

Weds 22nd May 2019 (Venue – Doug's Shed)

Weds 17th July 2019 (Venue – Doug's Shed)

Wednesday 18th September 2019 (Venue – Doug's Shed)

Wednesday 13th November 2019 (Venue – Doug's Shed)

Wednesday 15th January 2020 (Venue – Doug's Shed)

Wednesday 18th March 2020 (Venue – Doug's Shed)

Wednesday 13th May 2020 (Venue – Doug's Shed)