

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th July 2019 at
Doug's Shed Splatthayes

Those Present

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)
Ron Galling (RG)
Dave Bowen (DB)
Cllr Philip Twiss – (Items 7d and 8) Devon County Council (PT)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were two members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Cllr Susie Bond – East Devon District Council (SB)

2. Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting Held 15th May 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting and signed accordingly.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) Request received from TRIP for more funding.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Clerk would write to inform the charity that the Parish Council makes donations just once in each financial year, and that TRIP would be considered in 2020. **Proposed** by Geoff and carried unanimously. IT

- b) Update on Gigaclear

This item was carried over from the May meeting, and it was agreed to ask Councillor Twiss to cover this in his report at item 8 on the agenda.

- c) Tarmac around War Memorial

This item was also carried over from the last meeting. It was agreed that it should be deferred once again until building works had been completed at the Old Rectory. Clare would speak to the owners to get some sense of timescales. CS

4. Declarations of interest

Clare pointed out that she had claimed expenses for the flowers at the War Memorial under item 7a.

5. Police Report – PCSO Darren England

No report had been received.

6. Public questions

There were no questions from the public.

7. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £9345.25 at 17th July 2019 (-£3697 Restricted a/c defibrillator) leaving a balance of £5648.25

a) Payments approved -

Doug Cowan. Meeting room hire x2 (July and clean-up)	£40.00	
Clerk – Pay from April to June 2019	£144.33	IT
Clare Slater – Flowers at War Memorial (Retrospectively)	£91.87	

All the above payments were approved and **AGREED**. **Proposed** by David and **seconded** by Ron.

b) The following resolution was **proposed** by Clare and **seconded** by Ron –

This Council (Buckerell Parish Council) **RESOLVES** that –

- i) A bank account be continued with HSBC Bank plc (the “Bank”) and the Bank is authorised to –
 - a) Pay all cheques and act on other instructions for payment signed on behalf of the Council by any two listed signatories whether any

of the Council is in debit or credit.

- b) Deliver any item held on behalf of the Council by the Bank in safe keeping against the written receipt or instructions of Ian Tucker (Parish Clerk) and
- c) Accept Ian Tucker (Parish Clerk) as fully empowered to act on behalf of the Council in any other transactions with the Bank
- d) Accept Ian Tucker (Parish Clerk) as fully empowered on behalf of the Council to enter into at any time(s) any agreement(s) for or relating to electronic and/or telephone banking services of any kind whatsoever ("Services") and to delegate (including the power to sub delegate) the operation of the Services as set out in the terms and conditions governing the Services and the Council acknowledges that the Bank shall be entitled to act upon all instructions received in respect of the Services until notified otherwise in writing by the Council.

ii) That the Council agrees that any debt incurred to the Bank under this authority shall in the absence of written agreement with the Bank to the contrary be repayable on demand.

iii) That the Parish Clerk (the "Proper Officer") is authorised to supply the Bank as and when necessary with lists of persons authorised to sign, give receipts and act on behalf of the Council, and that the Bank may rely upon such lists.

iv) That these resolutions be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until changed by a resolution of the Council and a copy, certified by the Chairman and the Proper Officer is received by the Bank.

That the Council accepts the account(s) and banking relationship with the Bank will be governed by and subject to the Business Banking Terms and Conditions (a copy of which has been provided) as amended from time to time together with any terms and conditions in respect of specific products and services requested by the Council from time to time.

The resolution was **proposed** by Clare and **seconded** by Ron then **AGREED** by a unanimous show of hands.

The Clerk will now take the paperwork to the local HSBC branch for their action in amending the current signatories.

IT

- c) Locality budget – review of spend

Ian reported that the new grit bin at Cabbage Lane had cost £248.39 with a notional cost of installation of £100.00 (the work was

completed by volunteers). The funding received from DCC was £343.40 to include purchase and installation. It was agreed to ask Martin Glaeser to confirm his quote of £55 for telephone box repair.

IT

d) Clerk's Pay

Clare had asked for this to be reviewed, and Ian left the meeting whilst discussion took place. Clare supplied the following note –

The Parish Clerk left the meeting for the duration of this item. Ian Tucker has been appointed as Parish Clerk since 1st April 2018 and his contract states that his salary should be reviewed on the anniversary of his appointment.

His initial pay grade had been set at National Association of Local Councils (nalc) SCP 18. The meeting was informed by the Chair that there had been two Pay awards since then 2018/19 and 2019/2020 which needed to be reflected in his salary.

The meeting also agreed that as relatively inexperienced Parish Council they rely heavily on his help and guidance. The Chair proposed that the Clerk responsibilities warranted moving him up 2 increments to spinal column point 20.

The first proposal to reflect the pay award was agreed unanimously. The second proposal to move the Parish Clerk's salary to nalc SCP 20 was also agreed unanimously (Currently £10.57 per hour).

These changes to be effective from 1st April 2019.

The meeting also agreed that the Parish Clerks annual appraisal should be arranged with the Chair and Vice Chair.

CS
GW

8. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

Traffic Speeds

A question I am asked on a frequent basis concerns speed of traffic in our town and village settings and I am sure that the comprehensive DCC Traffic Speed Task Group report (circulated separately by e-mail), together with its recommendations will be of interest to members of this Councils as well as residents, in particular the section about 20mph speed limits.

Schools funding

Devon schools funding per pupil remains lower than much of the rest of England and is not acceptable, where there should be a level playing field for all of our children. DCC is as you are aware a member of the fairer funding F40 group of councils where we constantly lobby for a fairer settlement

At its meeting on 10th June 2019, the Children's Scrutiny Committee, in considering a Report from the Head of Education and Learning (CS/19/17)

on Schools Funding in Devon 2019/20 noted that in 2019/20 the funding per pupil in Devon was £4,395 compared to the national average of £4,689, a difference of £294. This meant that across the authority this equated to £27 million less funding, based on the October 2018 school census.

The Committee therefore resolved that the Cabinet be asked to lobby the Department of Education over the need to increase funding for schools in Devon, highlighting in particular:-

- (a) the real term reduction in schools funding of 10% since 2009/10;*
- (b) that Devon gets £294 per pupil less than the national average;*
- (b) high needs pressures and including increased EHCP numbers;*
- (c) the inadequacy of Government capital maintenance funding to meet the current school building maintenance backlog; and*
- (d) the deferment of announcement of round 3 of the priority schools building programme.*

Recommendation

- (a) that the Children's Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their support and full recognition of the Schools Funding issues in Devon;*
- (b) that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools be asked to make representations to the Secretary of State for Education over the pressing need to increase funding for schools in Devon, highlighting in particular the issues raised by the Scrutiny Committee relating to the real term reduction in schools funding, the amounts received in Devon compared to the national average, the pressures of high needs and increasing EHCP numbers, the inadequate capital maintenance funding to deal with school building maintenance backlogs and the deferment of announcement of round 3 of the priority schools building programme.*

Health watch

As with other counties Devon Health watch is an independent 'critical friend' looking after the best interests of residents healthcare needs and I hope the attached 2019/20 annual report will be of interest to you in highlighting the important work that their volunteers undertake on your behalf. (The Healthwatch report was circulated separately by e-mail).

Phil also mentioned that his Locality Budget of £10k is now open for business.

Dave asked about Gigaclear snagging works, and Phil stated that all work is halted at the moment. Areas where the fibre is already in place, including

Buckerell, will eventually be finished, but there is no timescale for this at present. The Connecting Devon and Somerset website gives the latest information.

9. Councillor Susie Bond – Report (by e-mail)

One of the main priorities of the new administration is the Climate Change agenda and how EDDC can play its part in carbon reduction. A paper on climate change was taken to Cabinet on Wednesday 10 July.

We also have to address the £2.6 million deficit, given that there are no longer funds from Central Government to help provide local services. A report on this will be coming to Cabinet at the September meeting. Smarter ways of working are being looked at rather than cutting front-line services and making staff redundancies.

Finally, given that most of the councils within the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan group have changed their political make-up, the GESP process has been 'paused' while consensus is achieved on the way forward.

There were no questions arising.

10. Planning

- a) 19/11/78/LBC – The Old Rectory
Comments from Councillors had been made on the East Devon District Council planning database.

11. Roads Report

- a) Old Grit Bin – After discussion it was **agreed** to re-site the old grit bin on the hill along from Summerhayes .

GW

12. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) Weed spraying village verges

After discussion it was generally felt that this would not be well accepted by many in the village. No further action will be taken.

- b) There followed a discussion about the annual clean up which was inaugurated this year. David felt that it set a precedent for villagers not to take responsibility for their own frontages. Overall it was agreed that the very positive community aspects outweighed any

possible negative outcomes.

13. Village Maintenance

Ian reported that David Wayne had agreed to carry on his valuable work in maintaining the village, and would ask him for a report for the next meeting in September.

IT

14. Defibrillator Update

Clare set out the options for purchase of the defibrillator –

- a) An option which came in just under budget.
- b) A more expensive option with the latest model of machine which included a screen for demonstrating how to operate it, and a button for selecting either adult or child resuscitation.

The more expensive option would require some funds to be released by the Parish Council towards the project.

It was **proposed** by Clare and **seconded** by David that the Council be prepared to fund up to £600 towards the more expensive option and **agreed** CS unanimously. Clare will now pursue the purchase.

15. Matters for next meeting

- a) Co-opting of new councillors

Clare stated that there had been no interest in anybody becoming a councillor. However, as Mr Chris Jacob had been observing the meeting as a member of the public, he was asked if he might be interested. He said that his only reservation was about being new to the village, but agreed to be co-opted. This was **proposed** by Clare and **seconded** by David. Council **agreed** the co-option unanimously, and Chris was welcomed as a new Councillor.

- b) War Memorial – Tarmac repair

It was agreed to keep this on the agenda until the works at the Old Rectory have been completed.

16. Dates of Future Meetings

Agreed dates for future meetings as follows:

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)