

## BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
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 – Devon County Council (PT)  
Cllr Suzie Bond - East Devon District Council (SB)  
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were no members of the public present.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Chris Jacob.

### **2. Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting Held 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting and signed accordingly.

### **3. Matters arising (not on agenda)**

- a) The Clerk had received a phone call from Miss Pring of Westcroft offering assistance with carrying out a Land Registry search for the current owner of the field opposite Westcroft. It was **AGREED** that this offer would be accepted and that the Clerk would let Mrs Pring have a cheque for £7 payable to the Land Registry. IT
- b) The Clerk had received an e-mail concerning a drain and flooding at West Marsh and Marsh Dairy. Geoff reported that he had already inspected the drain and culvert and cleared a large piece of plywood. This should improve the drainage, and Ian would email an update, and suggest that the drain be monitored in wet weather. IT

### **4. Correspondence**

#### **a) Response to Speed Limit proposal**

There was discussion about the response which had been received from Devon County Council (Neighbourhood Highway Manager). The feeling of

the meeting was that although frustrating, the matter would need to be shelved at the current time and reviewed in due course.

Dave is in communication with residents, and has invited them to put concerns about traffic speed in writing. He will collate these and hopefully be able to present them at the next meeting of the Parish Council. DB

**b) Vandalism to road signs**

Clare had written to Devon Highways about the road sign damage. They will make sure that the traffic signs are put back into place.

There was a discussion about the reporting process which was felt to be disappointing as it required a separate report for every incident, even though all connected. Dave also related problems with reporting a pothole outside Green Gables. This has now been repaired by Devon Highways.

Phil mentioned the “Get it right first time” trial being conducted in Okehampton, and looked forward to it being rolled out across the county.

It was **AGREED** that a small working group would re-site the village sign (and attempt to properly seat the dislodged drain cover opposite Broadlands). ALL

**c) Environmental Health Review of Public Space Protection Orders (Control of dogs)**

It was noted that this review had been previously circulated to Councillors for their individual attention.

**d) Request for any information on Cllr George White**

Some Councillors remembered Cllr White, formerly of Coganhayes and Whitehayes. The Clerk would respond to the request. IT

**5. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**6. Police Report – PCSO Darren England**

No report had been received.

**7. Public questions**

There were no public present and therefore no questions.

## **8. Finance and Governance**

Balance at bank £6710.92 at 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

a) Payments approved -

Parish Clerk pay for quarter Sept – Dec 2019	£66.06	IT
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## **9. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report**

A Good New and hopefully prosperous New Year to you all and please find below my first report of the new decade.

### **HMRC & other telephone Scams**

The issue of telephone scams is highlighted at this time of year with tax returns for many due by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. DCC staff have been picking up reports of scam calls where people impersonating HM Revenue and Customs staff and usually state that sum of money is owed to HMRC and requesting personal and Bank details.

Do not give any details of this type out to people over the phone and if in any doubt terminate the call and contact HMRC yourself and the advice is to treat calls of a similar nature requesting your confidential information in the same way.

### **Economy**

With the General election done and dusted and whatever your view of the outcome we clearly need to move on from a period of stagnation where much important 'day to day' legislation potentially has been sat on the back burner and this needs to be addressed.

The Chancellor has confirmed March 11<sup>th</sup> as the date for a tax-and-spend Budget designed to begin a promised "levelling up" of economic performance across the UK. It is understood that Sajid Javid will announce a shake-up of the way the Treasury allocates investment in an attempt to even up spending between the regions, with northern England and the Midlands expected to benefit.

While it is nice to slice up the National 'cake' a little more fairly, individually as County Councillors and collectively as Devon County Council we will be lobbying our M.P.'s throughout Devon and the wider South West at every opportunity to make sure that we get a more proportionate amount of it,

particularly in the areas of Adult social care and children's services.

A small fraction of the infrastructure money amount being mooted for other parts of England would fund a massive amount of pothole repairs, carriageway resurfacing, better funding for schools and our infrastructure needs for starters!

A railway passing loop to the west of Exeter enabling a half hourly service on the Exeter-Waterloo line would bring huge economic benefit to the wider Greater Exeter sub-region and reduce carbon emissions at the same time.

### **2020/21 budget**

While DCC waits to hear the delayed announcement on the financial settlement from Government for the next financial year, the DCC Cabinet recently agreed a draft budget which will include inflation busting increases on spending for vital services, where there will be a rise of 6.4 per cent in spending on children's services, adult care and roads across the County, meaning an extra £16 million for adult care, £9 million for children's services and £1.7million for Highways.

This means that the councils spending will rise by £31.8 million from £498 million in 2019/20 to nearly £530 million in 2020/21. Clearly with rising demand for all services there is no room for any complacency that this increase will solve all of the challenges faced by DCC and why more funding from central Government is needed and I am optimistic about this.

### **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service have published its recommendations on how its services should be delivered in the future, following a public consultation exercise last year.

The changes that the Service is recommending for approval by the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority thankfully have no local impact for us in terms of our fire stations with the key recommendations below have now been approved by them.

*a) Defer the decision to implement day crewing at Barnstaple, Exmouth and Paignton subject to a revised 24/7 crewing model being agreed with the Fire Brigades Union, including roving appliances, before the end of the 19/20 financial year.*

*b) Close Budleigh Salterton fire station and allow affected firefighters to respond from Exmouth fire station.*

*c) Relocate Topsham fire station to Service Headquarters*

*(Clyst St George) and relocate one of the fire engines to Middlemoor fire station (both fire engines to be relocated to Service Headquarters until an on-call crew can be established at Middlemoor).*

*d) Remove the third fire engines from Bridgwater, Taunton, Torquay and Yeovil.*

*e) Remove the second fire engines from Crediton, Lynton, Martock and Totnes.*

*f) Introduce variable fire engine availability dependent on risk.*

Phil also reported that the white lines at the Heathpark Homebase junction would be renewed to discourage drivers from cutting the corner.

A new bus stop will be created in Devonshire Road to serve the new estate at the Gittisham end. A new bus stop will also be placed at the Combe Garden Centre.

Phil reported that he would be actively promoting Buckerell and other communities along the A30 as Jurassic Fibre started rolling out fibre broadband.

## **10. Councillor Susie Bond – Report**

Susie encouraged residents to make use of the EDDC app.

East Devon District Council are currently discussing the budget figure for the coming year.

## **11. Setting of Precept 2020 - 21**

The budget figures for the setting of the precept were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that there should be no increase, and that the precept for Buckerell should remain at the current figure of £3170. This was proposed by Clare and seconded by Ron with unanimous agreement. Ian will get the paperwork to East Devon District Council.

IT

## **12. Planning**

There are no current consultations.

## **13. Roads Report**

a) Communication with Devon Highways.

Once again Highways had cleared the ditches along the road between Buckerell and Fenny Bridges without informing the Parish Council of their intentions. This has caused problems previously with duplication of effort and expense. Phil reported that the software which should enable better tracking of works is currently held up in beta testing. This will help with this issue once it is released.

b) Parking at Weston

Ron drew the attention of the meeting to the dangerously parked Land Rover at the junction in Weston. He pointed out that an accident was very likely at this spot.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Awliscombe Parish Council with a request that they explore the possibility of yellow lines on that corner with Cllr Ian Chubb (Devon County Council). This could then go to HAToC.

IT

#### 14. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

a) It was **AGREED** that the working group re-siting the village sign would also look at properly re-seating the drain cover opposite Broadlands. (See Item 4b above).

b) The drain outside Splatthayes had been rodded by Geoff Wright when it had recently caused problems in heavy rain. This had resolved the immediate problem, but ideally it needs a shroud to ensure the proper discharge of water.

#### 15. Village Maintenance

a) Clare is in communication with somebody who might agree to paint the phone box in the spring, and will report back in due course.

CS

b) Clare introduced a discussion about the type of surface that would best suit the area around the war memorial. Susie suggested that an informal discussion with the Conservation Officer from EDDC might be helpful. She would supply the name.

SB

Any work needs to be co-ordinated with other interested parties – the adjacent properties and the church. Dave will speak to Penny Mear to find out if it is still intended to connect the church to the water supply.

DB

## **16. Matters for next meeting**

- a) Letters from residents regarding speed limit (Item 4a)
- b) Parking at Weston (Item 13b)
- c) Painting of phone box (Item 15a)
- d) Resurfacing around war memorial (Item 15b)

## **17. Dates of Future Meetings**

Agreed dates for future meetings as follows:

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (Venue – Doug's Shed)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Venue – Doug's Shed)