

## BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 by video conference

### **Those Present**

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)  
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)  
Dave Bowen (DB)  
Chris Jacob (CJ)  
Cllr Susie Bond - East Devon District Council (SB)  
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were no members of public present.

### **1. Apologies**

Councillor Phil Twiss (Devon CC – PT), Ron Galling (Parish Councillor – RG), Penny Mear (Member of the public)

### **2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

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

- a) The Clerk reported paying for the upgraded version of the Zoom video conferencing application to ensure that the online meeting went smoothly, and without the interruptions that the 40 minute maximum duration of the free version would have caused. This decision was endorsed by Council.
- b) There was discussion about whether or not the annual appraisal for the Clerk could be deferred due to the pandemic. It was **AGREED** CS that Clare would prepare a short written appraisal.

### **4. Declarations of interest**

Clare declared her interest in having purchased a leaving gift for which she was claiming reimbursement.

### **5. Buckerell on Alert (Sub-committee)**

The sub-committee had nothing to report since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

## **6. Public questions**

There were no questions from the public. Clare had received thanks to the Parish Council from one resident for being instrumental in getting DCC to repair the footpath bridge over the River Otter.

## **7. Finance and Governance**

Balance at bank £8483.53 at 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

a) Payments approved -

Steve Triner - quarterly charge for village maintenance	£90.25
Steve Triner – additional work (4 hours)	£72.00
Clare Slater – gift for village maintenance retiree	£20.00
Ian Tucker – Payment for upgrade to Zoom premium	£14.39
Ian Tucker – revised national salary scale. Move to scale point 10.	£11.08 (per hour)

All the above payments were **AGREED** unanimously by Councillors. The decision to move the Clerk from Scale Point 9 to 10 was **Proposed** by David Bowen, **Seconded** by Geoff Wright, and **AGREED** unanimously.

## **8. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report**

The following is the report submitted by Councillor Twiss prior to the meeting of the Parish Council and circulated in advance to all Parish Councillors –

### **School Transport**

As we start a very unusual school term for our young people DCC Education Department has issued the attached letter to parents regarding travelling safely to school and home on dedicated and public shared transport, where I think it likely that there may be the odd teething problem in terms of capacity, but hope that any of these can be resolved quickly and easily, if needs be by increasing the number of vehicles to do this safely.

### **DCC Highways**

While not a road as such Footpath 15 from Buckerell Parish towards Gittisham Parish which passes over the River Otter by way of a footbridge is a good way to get out and about, and I have recently got the local DCC Ranger to make functional repairs on the bridge which had fallen in to

disrepair and was getting to the point of being dangerous.

I have talked to the Secretary of Honiton Show about the possibility of a permissive path from where Footpath 3 meets the River Otter, turning right towards The Otter Inn, which may in turn be a nice distraction on a walking loop from Buckerell to Buckerell via there and possibly The Heron kitchen and Farm shop! Unfortunately, they are unable to meet this request as detailed in the reply below, but there is always the old A30 to complete the route, albeit not so scenic!

*From: Marcelle OGrady <marcelle@honitonshow.co.uk>*

*Sent: 09 September 2020 13:22*

*To: Councillor Phil Twiss <phil.twiss@devon.gov.uk>*

*Subject: Re: Possible Permissive Path*

*Dear Phil*

*Many thanks for your email, following our meeting last Thursday where your possible idea of a permissive path was fully discussed I am afraid that due to Association letting the land for grazing of livestock we could not allow further access due to the risk of Neospora Caninum, an intestinal parasite of dogs which causes abortion in grazing animals. Unfortunately we have many problems with walkers and their dogs not keeping to the designated footpath on the showground, ignoring the many signs.*

*We are sorry that we cannot assist further at this time.*

*With kindest regards*

*Marcelle*

*Marcelle Connor*

*Secretary*

*Honiton & District Agricultural Association*

### **Doing What Matters**

I have now completed the 'Doing What Matters' review with Mike Brown, DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer for the Feniton and Honiton Division in terms of highways maintenance and drainage and as with the other parishes he should have been liaising with the clerk on this matter.

### **Broadband**

Nothing specific to report other than Gigaclear are busy completing further Fibre Broadband network building, with service delivery to parts of Buckerell in the near future and this despite COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Reporting of issues to DCC/EDDC**

Noting comments relating to item 25 of the Gittisham PC agenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> September and In order to maintain a more accurate trail of report and

response, as well as duplicating queries it would help enormously if issues which might be best described as of an 'operational nature' could firstly be raised via the clerk to the PC by E Mail to [csc@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:csc@eastdevon.gov.uk) for EDDC and [https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/?utm\\_source=Twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm\\_content=%2523wearedevon](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm_content=%2523wearedevon) for DCC

## **Hospital and healthcare**

As we move towards what appears towards a more usual position health care services returning towards pre COVID-19 levels, it is evident that the R, D & E NHS Trust is going have to go a long way to return to where it would want to be for elective, non-elective and clinical surgeries.

The overall position at the R,D & E NHS is far from straight forward in terms of referrals, elective surgery and clinic, allied with other major procedures and not brilliant when compared to 2019.

I have extracted the key areas of interest for you as attached from our Council of Governors performance update from the 7<sup>th</sup> of August for June, where this month's update is due shortly and have hopefully improved significantly from then.

Put simply COVID-19 and the impact on all sites in the R,D & E footprint has been huge, but because of many less cases in our area staff are now returning to their 'day jobs' in large numbers, which is having a month by month positive impact on the 'metrics' e.g. June had a 31% improvement of referrals over May, but that was still only just over 67% of cases handled in June 2019! Keeping the main site at Wonford fully operational and safe on non COVID-19 and COVID-19 work is a challenge in terms of clinical hygiene and safe staffing levels, with PPE working incredibly exhausting and adversely effecting efficiencies.

The Nightingale Hospital has currently been re-purposed to deal with the cancer referrals backlog, in advance of an anticipated winter spike in demand for a perfect winter storm pressure of flu, COVID-19 and some old people suffering from poor health, particularly during winter, where this is one of the Trusts major clinical priorities regarding early diagnosis and treatment. The Nuffield is currently contracted to do 8 clinics a day on hip replacements (Exeter world class in this field) where the backlog because of this procedure being halted in late March due to risk of post op infection massive and the Trust is working at optimum capacity taking many factors in to account, no least staffing levels.

In summary a case of clinical priorities where progress is being made in all areas, but clearly not quick enough in a system under huge pressure even before COVID-19, but where the big injections of cash and new staff recruitment is definitely helping. I hope out-patient appointments will be quicker to resolve than long term waiting on elective surgical procedures and the paragraph below gives me some cause for comfort, in particular the creation and now implementation of the outpatients hub and a massive

technological boost via an intelligent platform patient record system called 'MyCare', which is going live in early October which will improve matters dramatically and quickly (£50m cost and yes, tested and has been running for some time in Exeter and other U.K. Hospital sites which will give the R, D & E a huge advantage over todays position and other Hospital Trusts!!).

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

**Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.** While August is normally a quiet month, full Council met to discuss the Strategic Planning Committee's decision to withdraw from the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. On a personal level, this is a hugely disappointing move which is likely to leave us vulnerable to development in inappropriate areas.

GESP (2020–2040) was looking at allocating sites from 2031 (the end of our current local plan) and 2040. The new administration at East Devon District Council (a coalition of Independents, LibDems and Greens) had no faith in the process undertaken thus far, despite having been involved in plan formation. Working co-operatively with our immediate neighbours would have given us more clout in negotiating for grant funding for major infrastructure projects.

The plan now is to continue the work already ongoing to revise the Local Plan. Climate change, Covid and (not least) the Government White Paper on Planning due to be published this month will need to be taken into consideration. The Government proposals are to be discussed at a Strategic Planning Committee on 16 September, which will be a Zoom meeting with the usual period at the start of the meeting for public speaking.

The other three partners in the GESP process (Teignbridge DC, Exeter CC and Mid-Devon DC) have agreed to work together to reformulate the plan in a modified form, leaving East Devon very much on the sidelines.

The new administration proposes to revise the Local Plan to accommodate the growth envisaged by this Government under their mantra of 'Build, Build, Build!'. East Devon has a Government-imposed obligation to build approximately 900 houses a year and when it fails to do this, it cannot demonstrate a five-year land supply. At this point, developers are likely to win appeals for development in inappropriate places.

To accommodate the growth required up to 2040, East Devon will undoubtedly have to find a site for a new community of a size similar to Cranbrook. (The government white paper recommends 1600 new homes for East Devon).

**Graham Brown.** The new administration at EDDC has decided to launch an investigation into the influence of former Fenton ward councillor, Graham Brown, on the allocation of sites in the current Local Plan. [Graham Brown

resigned from EDDC in March 2013 and died last year.]

## **10. Planning**

- a) The planning application **20/1808/FUL Owl Cottage Treaslake** was discussed. Clare, Geoff and Chris had made a site visit, and reported this back to Council. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council had no objection to the application (subject only to the need to keep the roadway clear of lorries during construction work). The Clerk will submit this to the planning portal on the East Devon website. IT
- b) Nothing had been heard from East Devon District Council regarding either coaches at Curscombe Lane, or the building on the drive up to Deer Park Country House. It was noted, however, that the vehicles at Curscombe Lane had been removed from the site.

## **11. Roads Report**

- a) David requested that in the absence of the County Councillor the item on the agenda relating to the extension of the 30 mph speed limit be deferred to the next meeting. David has received letters from residents on the matter, and reminded Council how important it is not to lose sight of this important matter. Councillors were unanimous in expressing their support for the proposed changes. IT
- b) Similarly, it was agreed to defer the item on the agenda relating to a warning sign for long vehicles at the A373 junction.
- c) The meeting noted the quote received by the Parochial Church Council from South West Water to run a connection across the road at the War Memorial to the edge of the road where it meets the Parish Council land. More quotes are being obtained to carry on the supply of water from this point to the lych gate. Councillors expressed general support for the project, and there was discussion about exploring grants to help fund the work once more detail is known about costs, and whether or not the PCC will proceed.

There was also discussion about possible repairs to the Church Clock. It was noted that funds had been previously raised by the village for the clock, and that Councillors could only think about any financial support if any repairs would be guaranteed.

## **12. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains**

- a) The repair of the footbridge on Footpath 15 across the River Otter was noted.
- b) It was also noted that the Honiton Showground Committee had stated that they could not consider a permissive path across their land due to problems with dogs and sheep. It was pointed out by Councillors that the Parish boundary for Buckerell is half way across the River bridge, and that Buckerell Parish Council could only offer support to any proposed changes to the footpath beyond that point, which will be in the parish of Gittisham. Chris suggested that the Clerk write to Gittisham Parish Council to seek their support for plans to provide a safe footpath along the old A30.
- c) David reported an unsafe looking conifer tree in the field alongside Buckerell House. Geoff agreed to find out who owns the land.

IT

GW

## **13. Remembrance Day Service**

Clare will liaise with Penny Mear (Churchwarden) over the civic aspects of the outdoor ceremony in whatever form it might take this year.

## **14. Village Maintenance**

Councillors noted the work already carried out by Steve Triner and expressed their satisfaction. The telephone box is due to be painted soon.

## **15. Devon Association of Local Councils – AGM 7<sup>th</sup> October 10am**

CS

Clare volunteered to remotely attend this AGM and will report back.

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

- a) Nominations for another Councillor.

ALL

## **16. Dates of Future Meetings**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm (Venue to be confirmed)