

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 by video and audio conference

Those Present

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)
Dave Bowen (DB)
Chris Jacob (CJ)
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.

1. Apologies

Ron Galling, David Wayne, Penny Mear

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 16th September 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th September 2020 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) Buckerell on Alert – a report had been received from David Wayne that 8 responders were currently available, with 4 being actively engaged in support at the current time.
- b) The correspondence with Gittisham Parish Council about a possible joint meeting was noted. Both parties had agreed that this seemed like a sensible idea.
- c) After some discussion it was decided not to seek membership of the CPRE.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest to be recorded.

5. Report from the Devon Association of Local Councils AGM

Clare had attended the remote DALC AGM on behalf of the Parish Council. She reported it to have been run very efficiently. There were two items to

report back –

- 1) There will be a new training programme which Clare encourages ALL councillors to make use of.
- 2) DALC fees will increase next year by 2.9%.

6. Public questions

- a) Wendy Wayne had asked if the daffodil bulbs in the roadside bank along the road up from Knabben could be renewed, as the current ones are coming up blind. It was **AGREED** that this would be actioned in the spring in co-ordination with delayed strimming of the bank by the village maintenance man at that time. Clare will liaise with Wendy. CS
- b) An email had been received from Mrs Pring at Westcroft concerning the longstanding problem of water run off from the field opposite across the highway. This continues to be a flood problem on the road, with the risk of ice once temperatures drop. After discussion Susie kindly agreed to pursue this through East Devon District Council. The clerk will let Susie have the relevant details. SB
IT

7. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £8281.89 at 26th October 2020

- a) Payments approved -

Clerk – salary quarter ended September 2020	£115.05	
Ian Tucker – Zoom subscription October 2020	£14.39	
Steve Triner – Part payment (12 hours) for painting telephone box (Paid as previously approved)	£229.00	IT
Paint kit for telephone box (Paid as previously approved)	£154.80	
Steve Triner – Quarterly charge for village maintenance	£90.25	

All of the above were proposed, seconded and **AGREED** unanimously.

8. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

DCC Social care

As we go in to winter and a second COVID-19 lockdown DCC Social care teams have been planning and preparing for dealing with the fallout of the second wave, armed with a lot more knowledge and understanding than in the spring of 2020 and the first lockdown, with a focus on vulnerable people and unpaid carers

Designated Care Home

This Department of Health and Social Care has written to all local authorities setting out requirements to designate care settings for COVID-19 positive people who are not quite well enough to return straight home from an acute hospital. These settings will be inspected by the CQC for assurance of infection control measures. Whilst the settings could be existing care homes, the beds would need to be on separate wings or floors in order to avoid the risk of infecting other residents, and would require a separate staff group to support these residents.

No care home will be required to accept someone with a positive test result, and we are in the process of agreeing with local NHS providers how we can ensure we have suitable accommodation available to meet this need.

Supporting carers

Unpaid carers across Devon do an incredible amount work and this has only increased during the COVID-19 period, with recent research suggesting that nearly two-thirds of unpaid carers have not been able to take any breaks at all in the last six months. In response to this, alongside NHS Devon CCG we have made grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 available to care providers, personal assistants, and carers themselves who can develop and provide innovative opportunities that will give other carers a break, during COVID-19. See <https://www.devonnewscentre.info/new-funds-available-to-help-carers-take-a-break/> for how to apply

Waste and recycling

The regulations and guidance for the second lockdown have been tweaked a little to widen what is and isn't classified as being to open and operate. I have received enquiries from members of the public about the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's), where I can reassure you that DCC sites will **not** be closing.. There may be occasions where there are staff shortages and some temporary closure may be necessary but DCC will put out media communications about any situation that arises due to staff sickness/isolation

COVID-19 funding for individuals, organisations and business

DCC Devon County Council allocated £192,100 from Government grants and an additional DEFRA one using EDDC to set up a hardship fund (with qualifying criteria) and process applications during the COVID-19 crisis. This fund is still very much open for business and applications and further details can be found at <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/benefits-and-council-tax/financial-hardship-fund-information>

Street lighting in urban and applicable rural settings

Devon County Council has recently announced that all of its 79,000 streetlights will be converted to LED lights within the next two years – reducing carbon emissions by 75%.

It comes as part of a working partnership with SSE Contracting who will be carrying out maintenance of streetlights in Devon and Torbay over the next ten years – with the aim of the contract being carbon neutral by 2030.

The company will be building on the work it has undertaken for the County Council for more than 25 years, which has already seen around 34,000 street lights converted to low energy LED technology since 2015, as well as the replacement of more than 5,400 street lighting columns. It will also look to improve the county's Central Management System to remotely monitor and operate lighting more flexibly and efficiently and will eventually allow us to cease night scouting saving further costs.

This street lighting contract is extremely important as DCC continues to reduce carbon emissions. Street lights account for a significant amount of the Council's carbon emissions and the conversion to LEDs alone will reduce carbon emissions by more than 15,000 tonnes each year, the equivalent of taking 8,000 cars off the roads of Devon.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter

Please find attached the latest DCC [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy newsletter](#) is now, giving an update to the ongoing work and activities as part of Devon's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Lead Local Flood Authority role over the last 6 months.

In addition to the above report which had been previously circulated Phil also drew attention to the following -

- a) Sutton Barton recycling centre has been declared not fit for purpose, and will be replaced.
- b) There are unlikely to be any changes to the legal status of East Devon District Council until 2023.
- c) Following a question from Geoff about the blocked gullies at Avenhayes Phil agreed to pursue the matter with Mike Brown from Devon Highways.

PT

9. Councillor Susie Bond – Report

As we are well into the **second lockdown**, the Council is prepared to keep the most vital services running throughout the next month (or possibly longer). Waste and recycling services will carry on as normal. LED leisure facilities will have to close, but parks, gardens and public toilets, where Covid-secure, will stay open.

The **Community Support Hotline** at EDDC has been re-opened to support those in difficulty during lockdown, as well as supporting local community groups who are working hard to care for those in their areas.

Otherwise, now that EDDC has pulled out of the **Greater Exeter Strategic Plan** (GESP), work is underway to review the **Local Plan**. The first step will be a 'call for sites'. The administration is hoping to find sufficient smaller sites to fulfil the housing requirement.

10. Planning

It was noted that all of the current applications are awaiting decision, and that the application for the Workshops (20/1636/FUL) had been revised, and the date for comments extended until 16th November. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would include a comment on the planning portal that having reviewed the amended application, the Council felt that the original comments still apply. In addition councillors wished to express concern about vehicular access to the site, and perceived difficulties with space for lorries turning around on the site.

IT

11. Roads Report

The possible extension of the 30mph speed limit, and the blue warning sign for lorries, are still being tackled by Phil. He is awaiting a response from a colleague at DCC, and is also meeting with the Highways manager on 18th November, when the subject will be raised.

PT

12. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) Geoff had spoken to the landowner about the tree in the field next to Buckerell House. Apparently it is sound at the base, and no further action is required at this time.
- b) Chris noted the untidy weeds that had grown on the roadside outside Buckerell House. Historically DCC sprayed verges with sodium chlorate to kill weeds, but this no longer happens. No immediate solution to the problem was identified.

13. Village Maintenance

- a) The painting of the telephone box was nearly complete.
- b) Clare had received an informal quote of £90 (approx.) for pressure washing the War Memorial. It was **AGREED** that this should be delayed until the spring.

CS

14. Matters for next meeting

- a) Extension of 30mph speed limit and blue sign at A373
- b) Setting of Precept for 21-22
- c) Flooding of road outside Westcroft
- d) Protocol for managing planning applications as a Council. (The proposal is that details are circulated by email as at present, but if there is disagreement on any aspect then a single item meeting of the Council is called)
- e) It was proposed by Chris, seconded by Clare and **AGREED** unanimously that the Zoom subscription be continued for the time being.

IT

15. Dates of Future Meetings

Agreed dates for future meetings as follows:

13th January 2021 (To be by video conference)