

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 by video 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 was 1 member of the public present (audio only).

1. Apologies

Ron Galling, Penny Mear

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held Wednesday 11th November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 were **AGREED** unanimously as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Declarations of interest

- a) Clare noted that she had claimed reimbursement for soil and flowers for the planters at the War Memorial.
- b) Dave and Geoff explained that they know the applicant for the planning application at Sunningdale (Item 10).

4. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) The letter to Cllr Hart on the subject of communications with Devon Highways had been previously circulated to councillors. The contents were noted and a response is awaited.
- b) The positive comments submitted in response to the consultation on the creation of a new woodland in the Parish were noted.
- c) The signposting of a resident to the EDDC website page on control of dogs was noted.

5. Setting the Parish Precept 2021-22

Papers relating to the setting of the Parish Precept had been circulated to

councillors prior to the meeting. Following a short discussion it was **AGREED** unanimously that the precept should remain at £3170 for the next financial year. The Clerk will submit the return to EDDC. IT

6. Public questions

- a) A question had been submitted by a resident concerning the poor state of the footpath between Buckerell and the old A30. It is so muddy just before it opens out into the lower field that walkers are impeded. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would contact the DCC Rights of Way Officer to see what might be done about the situation. Ian would also let the resident know what is being done. IT
- b) Penny Mear wished to let Council know that the Church will now be closed for services and private prayer until further notice.

7. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £7409.40 at 31st December 2020

Payments **APPROVED** -

Clerk – quarterly pay October – December 2020	£103.59	
(Proposed by Clare and seconded by Chris)		
Ian Tucker – Zoom renewals for November and December 2020 and January 2021	£43.17	IT
(Proposed by Geoff and seconded by Clare)		
Clare Slater = Plants and soil for planters at War Memorial	£33.96	
(Proposed by Chris and seconded by Geoff)		

It was also Proposed by Clare and seconded by Chris that the Zoom renewal payments for January and February 2021 also be **APPROVED**.

8. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

Happy New Year where I hope this will be a marked improvement of the last one. We are clearly in the eye of the storm right now but I feel very

optimistic about 2021 as a whole year.

The first week or so into January usually has little to report but 2021 is different with this report inevitably focusing on the Covid crisis, where I look forward to a return to more usual matters sooner than later.

Covid-19

Infection rates in the UK have been growing rapidly, as have hospitalisations and sadly deaths. Over the last week alone (or most recent week for which data is available), positive tests have increased by 30%, hospital admissions by 35% and deaths by 45%. A number of hospitals, particularly, but not exclusively in London and the South-East, are reporting Covid-19 patients accounting for more than 50% of occupancy, Intensive Care Unit occupancy in some effectively over 100%, deaths rising and staff on their knees. To describe the scenes, we are seeing as distressing is for me is a gross understatement.

The statistics for Devon are much better (less than half England's average for infections and a quarter of those in London) and, positively, while the more infectious 'new variant' virus is present the last statistics for Exeter report that it remained at a relatively low 5% or so of infections. The infection rate has been growing rapidly, however, and current statistics do not fully reflect the Christmas holiday break.

The numbers of patients admitted in to the R,D & E for Covid-19 patients to date are good, relative to areas of high infection. In the run up to Christmas the numbers across Wonford, our community hospitals and the Nightingale hospital reduced to around 100 patients and has remained at this level, but we should not take false assurance from this, given that prevalence of disease in our communities is most likely to result in increased admissions going forward.

Currently there are around 5% of local NHS most valuable resource i.e. the staff who are either unwell, self-isolating or shielding as a consequence of Covid-19, in addition to our normal sickness rates; 'up-country' this is worse still. This clearly puts added pressure on other colleagues who are able to attend.

The 'get out of Jail' card from the pandemic is a vaccination. The National position is 3 vaccines approved, 2 currently available, including the easy to store/transport AZ/Oxford vaccine), but clearly we are dependent on the delivery of these vaccines in volume. In Devon and across organisations (hospitals, GP practices, care providers, Universities, Local Government, businesses etc) within the county a huge effort has been made to ensure we have the staff and infrastructure needed to administer the vaccines we receive safely and expeditiously.

COVID19 fund

The DCC Covid fund re-opened on Monday the 11th of January to provide

flexible resources to organisations working with communities who are clinically extremely vulnerable or disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the social and economic consequences of this current national lockdown.

Applications can be submitted from 11 January 2021 until 5 March 2021 (please note that the end date could be amended due to the available funding being used up or lockdown restrictions being further extended).

Please visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/> for further details and how to start the application process.

Applications will need to include details of how much funding will be required and how you have assessed the need for that amount.

Grants will typically be between £300 and £700, although where there is evidence that a project is exceptional, we may enter into discussions with applicants and offer higher awards.

Traffic flows

It is encouraging that people seem to be adhering to the Tier and lockdown restrictions but arguably not as much as they might be with some interesting statistics on movements below, with a very clear message about the importance of your journey and is it really necessary still very important.

The first few days of Lockdown 3 are around -30% when compared with the equivalent days in the previous year.

Morning Peak Hour flows (7am to 9am) during these days are similar, at around -28%.

As a reminder:-

24hr weekday flows during Lockdown1 (23rd Mar to 10th May 2020) were around -70%

24hr weekday flows during Lockdown2 (5th Nov to 1st Dec 2020) were around -25%

24hr weekday flows after Lockdown2 (early Dec 2020) were around -11%

Therefore the initial Lockdown3 days have reduced flows from -11% before Christmas to -30% now but still more can be done where people who can work from Home should be working from Home.

Key dates over festive period and initial Lockdown3 days

Date	Comment	24hr flow compared with previous year
Christmas Eve	Tier3 restrictions	+1%
Christmas Day	Limited socialising restrictions	-11%
New Year's Eve	Tier3 restrictions	-11%
New Year's Day	Tier3 restrictions	-32%
Mon 4 th Jan	“Normal” Tier 3 working day	-20%
Tue 5 th Jan	Day 1 of Lockdown3	-28%
Wed 6 th Jan	Day 2 of Lockdown3	-33%
Thu 7 th Jan	Day 3 of Lockdown3	-32%

Lockdown Parking arrangements

DCC Parking Officers have assessed the situation and propose that enforcement will continue although we will continue to consider if relaxation of any restrictions is required. The priority will be arterial routes and ensuring safe movement of traffic to ensure access to amenities and emergency vehicles as well as enabling access to health care and vaccination sites. Highways teams are working closely with public health colleagues to support the roll out of vaccinations and the team are being updated as centres are identified.

Whilst it anticipated that central commercial areas may be less busy, it is understood that many non-essential shops are now in a position to offer “click and collect” services and the requirement to manage parking remains.

In terms of volunteer support for people requiring help with brief visits in areas with restricted parking , a simple collection drop off of provisions at the doorstep with social distancing applied. Therefore these would be accommodated in normal provisions for loading and unloading. Displaying something in their windows to identify their activity would be helpful.

As we experienced in earlier lockdowns there may be increased parking in residential permit areas where residents are now working from home, if they do not have access to residents parking permits the team will again offer temporary virtual residents permits to assist. For health care professionals, it

is felt that current Health & Care Worker Permits or the national NHS Worker Exemption Permit will provide sufficient support.

The enforcement team are mindful that there may be new 'challenges' from members of public on-street who may feel that enforcement should be suspended. Staff are instructed to carry out dynamic risk assessments for each site visited and empowered to leave a location if there is a threat or if social distancing cannot be maintained. They also have body worn video and lone worker alert devices for their safety.

Phil also mentioned about avian flu and the need to keep birds inside. Chris commented that chickens had been seen on the road leading out of the village.

9. Councillor Susie Bond – Report

Government consultation on housing numbers proposed 1614 houses per year for East Devon, but the Government has bowed to pressure and said that East Devon should find 928 houses. This is a tremendous relief, albeit that it will be difficult to find even that number.

Tier 4: Full information on EDDC services is available here:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/news/2021/01/east-devon-district-council-services-coronavirus-restrictions-update/>

but EDDC is asking for understanding if/when recycling and refuse collection are missed or are late.

"The council's recycling and waste service will continue as normal, but due to high Christmas catch up tonnages and staff isolating due to the virus, services are being affected. If your recycling has not been collected, please leave your containers out for one or two days as we attempt to catch up. After this please take them back in and place any extra out in carrier bags on your next collection day.

If your refuse has been missed please report this to us online and we will collect it as soon as possible.

Devon County Council has confirmed that household recycling centres will remain open during the new lockdown period. Reuse shops at the recycling centres are closed.

As residents may do more shopping online as non-essential shops have closed, the council is expecting to collect more cardboard from the kerbside. As always, the crews will collect as much as they can but may have to leave some materials if very large quantities are put out. Please store your card and put it out gradually over the next collection days.

Households are reminded that if they have coronavirus, their recycling and

waste needs to be handled carefully before being put out for collection to help prevent further spread of the virus."

Susie also confirmed that she is following up with EDDC the problem with the field drainage across the road along from Westcroft.

There was also discussion about a problem that was thought to have been previously resolved – vehicles abandoned in a field in Curscombe Lane. Clare reported vehicles still being there. SB

10. Planning

- a) 20/1808/FUL (Owl Cottage Treaslake)

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would state on the planning portal that the original comments of the Council still stand.

- b) 20/2605/LBC (Old Rectory)

It was noted that Councillors had agreed by email that there was no objection to the proposed changes.

- c) 21/0039/FUL (Sunningdale)

Some concerns were raised by this application and it was **AGREED** that the best way forward would be to arrange a site visit to discuss with the applicants. The Clerk will contact them. IT

- d) The protocol for dealing with applications outside meeting dates was deferred to the next meeting.

IT

11. Roads Report

- a) The blocked culvert at Avenhayes has been reported to Highways Devon, and Phil will follow this up with Cllr John Hart when he meets him next week. Dave asked Phil to make it clear to Cllr Hart that there is currently surface water across all three of the roads that lead into and out of Buckerell.

PT

- b) Geoff had spotted a ditch on the roadway between Ancroft and Treaslake that appeared to have been filled in. He agreed to meet with Ian to determine the exact location so that it could be reported.

GW
IT

- c) The potholes reported by Dave were noted, and Dave commented that the roads in Buckerell are important not just for traffic, but for walkers and cyclists as well. It was **AGREED** that information should be shared with the village about how to report potholes as individuals on the Highways website. The Clerk will action this.

IT

- d) It was noted that the DCC Highways Maintenance Community

Enhancement Fund is open for bids, and it was **AGREED** that the clerk should explore further the possibility of getting a grant for doing some work on the roads ourselves. IT

Phil commented that it would help any application if the Parish Council signed up for the Road Warden scheme operated by DCC. Ian will approach Steve to see if this is something that he may be interested in. IT

12. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

Geoff pointed out the useful diagram provided by Highways Devon relating to responsibilities for roadside verges, etc. It was **AGREED** to circulate this diagram around the village using the Bugle, the website and the email system. IT

13. Village Maintenance

a) Painting of telephone box – Councillors suggested that it would be better to wait until better weather before applying the topcoat, rather than risk spoiling the work already done. Clerk to contact Steve. IT

b) Pressure washing of War Memorial – It was **AGREED** that 3 quotes would be obtained for work to be undertaken in spring. IT

14. Matters for next meeting

- a) Speed limits in the village
- b) Planning protocol
- c) Response from Cllr Hart

15. Dates of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7pm (Video conference)