

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at Doug's Shed Splatthayes

Those Present

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)
Helen Howard (HH)
Sandra Money (SM)
Cllr Philip Twiss – Devon County Council (PT)
Cllr Alasdair Bruce - East Devon District Council (AB)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There was 1 member of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Helen Howard (Cllr) and Penny Mear (Member of public).

2. Agreeing of the Minutes of the Meeting Held Wednesday 29th September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th September 2021 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) The Clerk had reported the flooding across the road outside Splatthayes (Item 8 of minutes of last meeting) and the response from Highways had been to the effect that the lane up to Jenirens Farm is a private road. Clerk will forward to Cllr Bruce with further detail. IT
AB
- b) Geoff had not yet had opportunity to speak to the farmer about flooding on Cabbage Lane.
- c) Clerk had reported Footpath 15 as muddy before the field and needing a boardwalk, but no response has been received as yet.
- d) The Clerk's login problems to the EDDC planning portal persist. Any consultee comments have to be passed to the planning team for them to update the record(s).

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public questions

- a) Wendy Wayne had offered to plant up the verge by Cabbage Lane with daffodil bulbs if the Council could cover the cost of the bulbs. It was **AGREED** unanimously that this offer should be accepted up to a limit of £30 for the bulbs. Clare will let Wendy know. CS
- b) Penny Mear had reported the almost complete obscuration of the white SLOW sign in the road just before the single track section by Martha Mockford. The clerk will report this to Highways. IT
- c) A tree surgeon working at Sunningdale had noted the diseased/dying overhanging branch of the tree at the goyle, and warned that it would fall at some stage. The clerk will report this to Highways. IT

6. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £8167.65 at 1st November 2021

- a) Payments **approved** unanimously -

Clare Slater – new remembrance wreath	£19.25	
Clerk – Pay July to September 2021	£134.07	
Doug Cowan – Hire of the venue for November	£20	
Clerk – purchase of 4 drawer filing cabinet	£153.09	IT
Clerk – purchase of A4 suspension files	£37.08	
Steve Triner – Village maintenance quarterly charge	£90.25	
Steve Triner – Village maintenance strimmer cord and fuel	£11.99	
DALC – Planning application training for Clare	£36	

7. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

Roads

Adverse weather conditions have taken their toll on Devon Highways in recent and locally the Feniton & Honiton Division is no exception ranging from serious flooding to road surface damage etc. That said I am glad that resurfacing work has been completed on the road to Hembury Fort Hill improving the previous poor surface and will continue to resolve outstanding issue discussed back at my summer site meeting with members of the Buckerell PC.

I recently met with the Head of DCC Highways Meg Booth to discuss more efficient ways of working, including updating the 'Doing What Matters' programme with Parish and Town Councils.

The Highways teams at DCC are stretched to the limit with finite financial and human resources; with the cost of raw materials rising exponentially it is clear that there will be even more efforts to make sure tax payers get best value for the council tax money. I am shortly sitting down with DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer Mike Brown to discuss priorities for 2022/23 as part of the Councils Budget setting in February.

Buses

As members may aware DCC have produced an updated bus strategy (see attached) where a trigger of 500 people living in a rural community will generate at least 4 services serving, which in the case of Feniton will enable a service to intermediate points not served by the train.

Devon vaccination update

- Almost 9 in 10 over-16s are fully vaccinated.
- Figures produced by the Office for National Statistics show that between January and September this year unvaccinated people were 32 times more likely to die with Covid-19 than those who have had two doses.
- Health and social care workers are being reminded to advise their employer when they have had their booster and flu vaccination
- Between 8 December 2020 and 31 October 2021 **952,146** first doses have been given in Devon while **885,305** second doses have been given; a total of **1,837,871** first and second doses.
- Appointments can be booked via the National Booking System at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Booster vaccinations for health and social care workers, (and those who are over 50 have been available from the 8th of November.)

- There is a national target for 90% of health care workers to have received

their booster vaccine by the end of November.

- All health and social care staff are being encouraged to inform their employer or HR department if they have received their booster elsewhere or via the national booking system to support the collation of data.
- Any frontline health and social care worker who had their second COVID vaccination at least 182 days ago can now attend the Greendale vaccination site in Exeter without an appointment and receive a booster jab. Sessions are open any time 8.30am-7pm, seven days a week.
- Appointments are available through the National Booking System <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination> or by ringing 119.

First oral antiviral approved for COVID-19

- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the antiviral Lagevrio (molnupiravir) for use within the NHS, stating that it is safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at increased risk of developing severe disease. This is another powerful tool in combatting the virus.
- This follows a rigorous review of its safety, quality and effectiveness by the UK regulator and the government's independent expert scientific advisory body, the Commission on Human Medicines, making it the first oral antiviral for the treatment of COVID-19 to be approved.

Green makeover for County Council Buildings

DCC has unveiled plans to give several of its key buildings a low-carbon, Green makeover have been unveiled with the £3.3 million 'retrofit' scheme which covers buildings in Exeter, Barnstaple, Tavistock and Honiton, and will cut carbon emissions and reduce energy use.

The buildings' insulation will be improved and solar panels and air source heat pumps will be installed along with mechanical ventilation that recovers heat and LED lighting.

The work will be undertaken at Great Moor House in Exeter, Taw View in Barnstaple, Abbey Rise in Tavistock and St Michael's in Honiton (if the Cabinet gives the go ahead on Wednesday the 10th of November).

Work has already started on a fifth building, Lucombe House at County Hall in Exeter, as part of a planned refurbishment.

DCC has received £2.1 million funding from the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and will also contribute £1.1 million.

In addition to the above Phil noted the placing of 6 police officers at Sidmouth with specialist roles. As a trial there will now be a newsletter from the police, and Phil will forward the trial copies to Buckerell.

PT

There was a discussion about Highways and what councillors might do for themselves. Ian will send Phil a copy of his report to the Parish Council about the Road Warden scheme and the Highways Maintenance Fund.

IT

8. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report

District council is still hosting meetings via zoom , and Blackdown House remains a virtual ‘Mary Celeste’. This is not a satisfactory situation for the proper functioning of our council. I fully appreciate the concerns expressed by a number of Cllrs over COVID, but with a large number of town and parish councils meeting face to face in our district, the District council finds itself at odds with the general picture. I remain hopeful that the situation will be resolved in January.

Perhaps the biggest bit of news for the ward since the last meeting, is the announcement that funding has now been secured for the final phases of the flood defence system in Feniton. This followed on from a site meeting with an EDDC officer and members of the Parish committee. This progress has been given a substantial push not least due to the EA being in a position to stump up the money as EDDC do not have any. We now await a date from Network Rail as to when they will close the main line to allow the culvert to be placed through the embankment, although there is a feeling that this could be in the early part of 2022.

Although not directly related to Buckerell, many of you will understand the reason for including this item here. At a recent meeting at Gittisham, a resident gave an impassioned description of his flooding experience recently, I met up with him later to see if District could offer anything to help. I was able to provide some practical tips based on my own experience and assured him that I would continue to ensure that County made sure the drains were kept clear. Without a wholesale dismantling of our drainage system, the most practical steps we can take is to ensure the system we have works to its maximum at all times. I have proposed to Cllr Twiss that a major change is needed within the Highways section at County, which he concurs with. We need to shift from a reactive system to one which either pre-empts heavy rainfall events (after all we now have one of the most powerful weather predicting computers in the world just down the road), or uses another method to ensure that the drainage system works at 100% most of the time. I have serious reservations as to whether any of the above will be achieved, but it is clear the current system does not serve the needs of our communities.

I welcome the news from central government that over £500 million is to be allocated to encourage developers to favour brown field sites. This is not a new initiative by any means and successive governments have tried to get these sites developed ahead of greenfield locations, something we would all wish to see. However, the right form of incentive needs to be in place for

any developer to look at these old sites before they will take on what can be problematic issues, for example contaminated land.

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

a) The proposal for a street party was noted, and Ian was asked to take the idea to the BCA meeting next week as a collaborative project. IT

b) Clare had invited suggestions from residents for areas where trees might be planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and mitigate climate change. Several suggestions had been put forward, and it was **AGREED** that Clare or Helen would head a sub-committee to take this project forward. Clare will speak to Helen. CS

10. Review of portfolios and recruitment of councillor(s)

a) It was agreed that Clare would take on Roads as well as Planning for the short term until a new councillor is found. CS

b) There were several suggestions of people who might be approached as potential councillors. Clare will get an item into the Buckerell Bugle next week asking for volunteers, and nearer the January meeting Ian will follow up with an email to the village. CS
IT

11. Planning

- a) 21/2553/FUL – Consultee comments had been submitted
- b) 21/2720/FUL – Councillors had no objection to the application
- c) 21/2731/FUL – Councillors had no objection to the application
- d) 21/2756/VAR – Councillors had no objection to the application

The Clerk will ask the EDDC planning team to update the records accordingly. IT

12. Roads Report

a) W211464422 blocked drain at Treaslake. Highways reported visiting the site on 17th November and finding no blockage or surface water.

b) W211464425 blocked drain at Splatts Cottage by telephone box. Highways had visited and reported no blockage. Probably resolved by the patching of the road.

c) W211464423 The flooding along the road at Avenhayes had been reported but no response has been received as yet.

13. Discussion on policy on climate

The outcomes from the informal climate meeting were noted. Clare reported having already started using peat free compost for the planters around the war memorial.

Sandra volunteered to prepare a questionnaire for distribution to residents about climate issues.

SM

All councillors were encouraged to find out what other town and parish councils are doing in response to climate concerns and COP 26.

ALL

14. Invitation to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

The council had been asked to support this private members bill. After discussion councillors agreed that this is an important issue, but felt unable to support a bill which could put the government in the invidious position of having to try and meet targets over which it had no direct control.

15. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

a) Geoff will make enquiries about getting a contractor to do some hedging/ditching work for the Council.

GW

13. Village Maintenance

Councillors noted that strimming work had been completed. Steve has just 1½ hours left from his 19 hours for the year.

15. Matters for next meeting

- a) Queen's Platinum celebrations
- b) Climate issues

16. Date of next Meeting

January 19th 2022