

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th March 2022
at Doug's Shed Splatthayes

Those Present

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)
Helen Howard (HH)
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 Sandra Money.

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 19th January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) The clerk had confirmed that the unit in Curscombe Lane was in Buckerell Parish, and had forwarded details to Parish Councillors. Alasdair asked if details could be forwarded on to him for background checks. IT
- b) There had been no response to the invitation to become a parish councillor, and Clare would follow this up by speaking to individuals who had shown some interest. CS
- c) Clare asked if the locality budget could be used to help renovate and restore the village pump adjacent to the church. After discussion it was agreed that this is a worthwhile project, and quotes should be obtained for works, including an interpretation panel of some kind. Once this has been done advice from the EDDC conservation officer can be sought, and an application be made to the locality budget. Clare will explore the County Heritage site to see if any photos of the pump can be found. Helen will look in the box which is stored in church for pictures or other background. CS
HH

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public questions

There were no questions from the public.

6. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £7324.03 at 1st March 2022

a) Payments approved (all unanimously) -

Steve Triner – Village maintenance – Quarterly charge previously approved.	£90.25
Fee for website domain name renewal – previously agreed by email due to urgency.	£43.16
Community Heartbeat – VETS Yr3 16/3/22 – 16/3/23 (Defibrillator response system)	£120.00
Doug Cowan – Payment for hire of venue (March Council)	£20.00
Support for Ukraine – One off donation to DEC	£500.00

7. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

A quite deliberate focus on events away from Devon in the first part of my report, which I think is entirely appropriate

Ukraine

As we all look on in horror at the awful events unfolding in Ukraine, I am sure that you will all join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to all those in our communities who are personally affected by the escalating tensions in Europe, brought about by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

I simply cannot imagine how terrifying and emotionally devastating the conflict must be for the people of Ukraine as hundreds of thousands flee their homes, families are torn apart, and civilians fight for their freedom and for their country.

Devon County Council stands alongside the people of Ukraine and our friends, Family and colleagues who have loved ones in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

The Council has pledged to work together to support Ukrainian refugees seeking sanctuary in the UK, and have each condemned Russia's actions.

Particular support will be given to families in Devon whose relatives in Ukraine are fleeing the conflict.

It has also taken steps to cut Russian links, such as through contracts for energy provision. Any few remaining investments within the Devon Pension Fund, linked to Russian assets, are being sold off quickly.

It is hard to know what we can do as individuals to help those people in the thick of the conflict and not everyone will want to make donations of food, clothes, toys etc. There are a number of charities appealing for donations towards their support for the people of Ukraine.

These include Save the Children <https://ukraine.savethechildren.net/> , The Red Cross <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal> and Unicef <https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/> .

The Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator have urged the public to 'give safely' to registered charities helping and supporting those affected by the invasion of Ukraine.

People looking to donate to causes working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, should make a few simple checks before giving:

- Check the charity's name and registration number at www.gov.uk/checkcharity
- Make sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information
- Be careful when responding to emails or clicking on links within them
- Contact or find out more online about the charity that you're seeking to donate to or work with to understand how they are spending their funds
- Look out for the Fundraising Badge on charity fundraising materials, this is the logo which shows that a charity has committed to fundraise in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice

Managing Big problems in small places

As we get wetter seasons both major and minor solutions need to be found to help all of our communities, most of which in Devon are rural in nature.

In the 2020 Budget, DEFRA announced a new programme of funding for innovative projects to help communities be more resilient to flooding and coastal change. The programme which is managed by the Environment Agency allocated £150 million to 25 partnership projects across England through a competitive process. DCC and our Partners have successfully been selected to develop a project which will increase flood resilience at a catchment level within communities in rapid response 'type' catchments where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial. This is an ambitious project which looks to achieve:

There needs to be a measurable reduction in potential flood damage and disruption in hard to help communities which will go beyond the properties

directly at risk and extend to community assets, businesses, local infrastructure and communities 'downstream'.

Improved and more informed planning decisions in Rapid Response 'type' Catchment areas including future climate impacts considerations

An increased knowledge of the state of resilience of communities or catchments in Devon in order to better inform future flood resilience projects, and collaboration between Risk Management Authorities. Devon County Council as the lead partner of the project is delivering its functions in its statutory role as a Lead Local Flood Authority. The DCC Cabinet has now approved the delivery following approval of the Outline Business Case (OBC) on March 9th 2022.

This project seeks to address several challenges and pre-existing barriers to delivering flood resilience in rapid response type catchments. These challenges and barriers are:

- The effects of climate change, where more intense rainfall events are a growing concern with increased risk of flooding.
- Lack of a single source of information on flood events and flood resilience.
- The current definition of a Rapid Response Catchment which does not pick up key Rapid Response Catchment communities, such as Modbury in July 2012.
- A large percentage of communities are relatively small in terms of property count and commercial businesses, compared to other more urban areas with larger cities. This combined with relatively high costs of delivering traditional flood defence schemes precludes value for money solutions.
- Community engagement in flood risk issues, with many still expecting authorities to act on their behalf.

The project objectives are: a) Empower local communities and stakeholders to participate in the development, delivery, monitoring, maintenance and ownership of flood resilience interventions by piloting a range of low-cost resilience actions including Nature Based Solutions.

b) Promote and support the installation of Property Flood Resilience measures in community assets and with small businesses so that they can recover quicker from flooding.

c) Enhance existing warning systems by developing local and tailored surface water flood warning tools so that communities are able to react in time.

d) Identify & develop alternative funding models for communities to fund and maintain flood resilience measures.

e) Develop new spatial planning tools and approaches which can support the delivery of flood resilience measures at a catchment scale in Rapid Response type Catchments. Also improve and embed flood resilience in planning and land use policies and decisions.

f) Define, quantify and share levels of community resilience and potential for resilience gain within a catchment through the development of Flood Resilience Hub on the web.

g) Deliver robust and replicable learning: Demonstrate how different actions work together at a catchment level; identify what level of protection can be afforded to a community; improve evidence on the costs and benefits of

innovative resilience actions including co benefits (biodiversity, carbon, socio-economic and health).

There are eighteen partners in this major project including National Parks, District Councils, DCC, The Environment Agency, South West water, and a host of other organisations, where Town and Parish Council will be a key part of the project

Mental Health - Beyond Covid

The ending of all COVID-19 restrictions is a big change for many people and may bring up strong feelings for you: fear, worry, confusion, relief, or a mixture of different emotions. You might be glad to see some restrictions going but worry it's too soon to end others, especially if you or your loved ones are more vulnerable to coronavirus. In fact, the end of all COVID-19 restrictions might be as hard for us as their introduction was almost two years ago.

Society has opened back up but you might not feel ready yet to get back to the things you once enjoyed, such as going to the cinema or pub, mixing in big groups or crowded spaces, or travelling by public transport. The end of restrictions might feel like extra pressure to join in, with the added worry that people no longer legally have to self-isolate if they have coronavirus.

These feelings are likely to pass with time as we get used to the "new normal" but it's important to do what we can to take care of our mental health. Just as it took us time to find ways to cope during lockdown, it will take time to find our way back and reconnect with life. Don't be hard on yourself if it's taking longer than you expected or if other people seem more confident or sociable than you.

There are lots of things that can help you to manage these feelings and make it easier to adjust. [The Mental Health Foundation](#) has lots of information about looking after your mental health as you adapt to the end of COVID-19 restrictions. [NHS Every Mind Matters](#) has tips for coping with anxiety about "getting back to normal".

If you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health crisis, you can [find an urgent local NHS mental health helpline](#) to call for 24-hour advice and support, or visit the [NHS Every Mind Matters urgent support](#) webpage.

Links

The Mental Health Foundation

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/end-of-covid-19-restrictions-tips-to-look-after-mental-health>

NHS, Every mind matters <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/coronavirus/tips-to-cope-with-anxiety-lockdown-lifting/>

Local NHS mental health helpline <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline>

Every mind matters urgent support <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/urgent-support/>

8. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report

I can't help feel somewhat surreal writing this report and wonder where we will all be, in this fast moving horrific chapter in our history, by the time the meeting is convened. However, I'm sure we will be able to play our part if we are called upon to help our fellow Europeans, as they look for sanctuary and support.

The rest of this report seems somewhat irrelevant in the light of this, but here we go.

The strategic planning meetings continue to go through the motions towards releasing the draft plan to the public. I have noted in the meetings I have attended, that the villages within my ward have been almost exclusively represented, with little input from other areas affected by this report. So I feel reasonably confident that our views have been well presented to the committee, and left them in no doubt over our concerns.

Glad to see the parish have taken up the offer of a jubilee oak tree from EDDC as part of the celebrations, although I suspect they may be somewhat muted given the current circumstances. However let's hope we can put on a good show for her majesty.

The council received hundreds of calls for assistance after the trio of storms that battered us last week

On Friday (19 February) there were 603 calls, followed by 434 on Saturday (20 February) and 376 on Sunday (21 February).

EDDC's Home Safeguard Team has been working hard over the last week to check up on vulnerable residents to offer assistance after power outages meant they were not able to make hot food and drink, over the weekend of the storm.

There have also been a steady flow of repair calls about other issues that were referred to other agencies like Devon County Council for fallen trees. It is good to report that more than 100 East Devon council homes are now more eco-friendly thanks to a special project that helped them upgrade their insulation, heating systems and much more.

East Devon District Council (EDDC) has been running a Green Homes Grant programme since 2020 – the Government scheme is designed to help councils fund the cost of reducing the carbon footprint and environmental impact of its housing.

The project has also allowed residents on low incomes to save energy significantly lower their utility bills.

EDDC has now installed a variety sustainable, eco-friendly technologies into the homes involved in this project - including air source heat pumps, solar panels, new radiators and pipework, upgraded insulation, smart controls, and intelligent hot water cylinders that harvest surplus energy generated by solar panels and store it as hot water.

Improvements to parking access to the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths should be nearing completion shortly. This fragile and highly valued ecological/geological area offers a rare chance to walk across a unique landscape, formed by pebbles from rivers that ran across a desert environment during the Triassic, some 240 million years ago. These now raised beds form heathland supporting specifically adapted plant and wildlife. The Dartford Warbler is one such species. As most visitors travel by car to get here it was important to work up a parking improvement plan that allowed access, whilst ensuring the preservation of this very important site.

9. Donation to Ukraine Appeal

After discussion it was AGREED that it would be appropriate to donate £500 on behalf of the village to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

10. Planning

- a) 22/0291/LBC – The Old Rectory – Replace ground floor window. There were no objections to this application and the clerk will inform planning. IT
- b) 21/2553/FUL – Deer Park – Appeal has yet to be discussed by planning.
- c) 21/0039/FUL – Sunningdale. Nothing had been heard from Planning, and the clerk will follow this up, and forward previous correspondence to Alasdair. IT

11. Plans for Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The celebrations will now be held at Doug's Shed following a cancellation for the weekend of 2-5 June. There are various events planned, and some financial support will be sought from the Parish Council once more details are known.

12. Roads Report

Helen asked if the work on Cabbage Lane is due to be carried out in the next financial year as previously indicated by DCC. PT

Geoff agreed to have a word with the farmer about hedges and ditches on the roadside out towards Fenny Bridges. GW

13. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) Devon Highways had responded to the report of the poor state of FP15. The landowner had agreed to reinstate the ditches.
- b) The oak tree gifted by EDDC (for Platinum Jubilee) will hopefully be planted in the churchyard. A faculty had been approved by the church authorities for this purpose. The tree will be planted by the team from EDDC, and it was agreed that there should be some kind of ceremony to mark the planting of the tree and increase local awareness of it.
- c) Helen had composed an excellent letter to 5 landowners in Buckerell about planting trees on their land. There had been one response, and Clare and Helen will follow this up.

CS
HH

14. Annual Pay Award to Clerks

After discussion it was AGREED unanimously that the hourly pay for the clerk should increase from “11.08 to £11.28 in line with Spine Point 10 of the Local Government pay scales.

15. Matters for next meeting

- a) Village pump restoration
- b) Climate concerns, and letter to villagers
- c) The crisis in Ukraine, and what longer term help might be offered by Buckerell Parish Council (such as a link with a village in Ukraine).

16. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting is on the 18th May 2022 at 7pm (Doug's Shed).