

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 18th May 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 were 4 members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Sandra Money (Councillor) and Penny Mear (Member of public).

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held Wednesday 16th March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Election of Officers

- a) Clare was unanimously re-elected as chair.
- b) Geoff asked to step down as vice chair, and Helen was unanimously elected as vice chair.

Clare thanked Geoff for his work as vice chair.

4. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) Mr Bowen asked for an update on the request for a blue sign to try and stop heavy and/or articulated lorries using the route from Beats Close to Buckerell, and then having problems negotiating the junction in the centre of the village (Avonhayes Cottage). There had been a further two incidents of this kind.

Phil Twiss explained that although Highways had expressed reservations about the effectiveness of such signs, they were looking into the possibility of placing one at the junction with the A373. Mr Twiss is attending a meeting with Highways next week to try and

PT

expedite the matter and has offered to pay for the sign out of his budget.

b) Several residents had raised concerns about noise from a business being conducted along Curscombe Lane. Alasdair had been passed details and would report back. **AB**

5. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Public questions

a) The junction at Weston Cross was again raised as being of concern with vehicles parking on the corner. Phil will speak to his opposite number in DCC with responsibility for Awliscombe and Weston to assess what might be done. **PT**

b) A new stile had been built at the footpath which joins the road opposite Glebe Farnhouse, and it was noted that there is no provision for dogs. In view of uncertainty about this being a requirement the Clerk will contact the Rights of Way officer. **IT**

7. AGAR Certificate of Exemption

The meeting **agreed** unanimously that Buckerell Parish Council meets the criteria to be certified as exempt from the requirement for external audit. A copy of the Certificate will be sent to the external auditor and posted on the Parish Council website. **IT**

8. Annual accounts and Internal Audit

The meeting unanimously **approved** the annual accounts and noted the internal audit kindly conducted by Roy Williams. Copies will be posted on the Parish Council website. **IT**

9. Annual Governance Statement

The meeting unanimously **approved** the Annual Governance Statement. A copy will be posted on the Parish Council website. **IT**

10. Accounting Statements

The meeting unanimously **approved** the Accounting Statements for the years 2021/2022. A copy will be posted on the Parish Council website. **IT**

11 Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £8254.03 at 21st April 2022

a) **Payments approved -**

Ian Tucker – Clerk's pay Jan – March 2022	£113.47
Devon Association of Local Councils Membership Renewal	£63.31
Ian Tucker – Wordpress website annual renewal	£36
Steve Triner – Village Maintenance – Quarterly Charge	£95.25
Annual Insurance Renewal	£163.26
Doug Cowan – Venue Hire	£20.00
Platinum Jubilee Financial Support for community event	£230 for pig plus up to £70 venue hire

All the above payments were **AGREED** unanimously.

12. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

Phil confirmed again his meeting next week to address the issues raised at item 4 of the agenda, and the need for a blue sign at the A373. PT

He also addressed the issue at item 19 relating to the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit to the north of the village. He noted that he had obtained approval in principle to this change in December 2021, and he will now be attempting to get this matter completed and will take it to HATOC if necessary (Highway and Traffic Orders Committee at DCC). PT

Helen asked about the planned resurfacing of Cabbage Lane. Phil confirmed that it is still in the programme of works but talked of the mounting cost pressures on all businesses, including the Council.

13. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report

Alasdair submitted the following report –

"Full council met last week to discuss the issue of returning to in person meetings. Regrettably, the vote was for council to remain meeting via zoom. The EDA believe that this is the way forward irrelevant of COVID numbers, with carbon

savings and better use of officer time and childcare savings among the arguments presented to support this proposal. The Conservative group voted for a return to meeting in person. I agree with this because, whilst recognising some the advantages of Zoom, I believe the democracy is best served by public debate in a physical forum. Council meeting are a formal affair which is not achieved by sitting in front of a computer screen with a cup of coffee and all the distractions of home life. There is also the issue of connectivity. If for whatever reason my signal goes down during a debate I would be unable to influence the debate nor cast my vote. This denies me the right to discharge my duty as a Cllr for which I was elected to do, and for which I receive an allowance to offset extra expense. So, unless something dramatic occurs East Devon District Council meetings will now remain on zoom until October! I would really appreciate the parish committee's thoughts on this, to enable me to add it to my comments when this subject is next visited.

Enforcement action by EDDC is, I understand, now underway regarding the Deer Park gym, which opened without planning permission, after the recent application was rejected. The applicant may appeal but would need to show demonstrative reasons to overturn this decision.

Not directly related to Buckerell, but commuters from the village may notice the "beautification" of our local railway stations after funding was secured by our county cllr and local groups. Monies will be spent on planting schemes to encourage pollinators and increase biodiversity, and I have been asked with my beekeeping hat on to advise some of them on what plants to choose.

Jubilee Oak signs are being rolled out following the successful tree planting scheme headed up by the chair of EDDC."

14. Portfolios

It was **agreed** that roles should remain the same for the time being as Jo Knight has agreed to be co-opted to the Parish Council at the next meeting. Ian will send her the paperwork and the guide before the meeting.

IT

15. Ukraine Crisis

Councillors noted the donation to the DEC of £500, and after discussion **agreed** to wait and see what happens before considering further support. To be discussed again at the July meeting of the Parish Council.

16. Climate Concerns

Deferred to the July meeting of the Parish Council.

17. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Financial support for a community party had already been agreed in principle by the Parish Council. After discussion it was **agreed** that the

Council would pay for the pig at the Hog Roast on Sunday 5th June, and would also make a contribution of up to £70 towards venue hire on that day. IT

18. Planning

22/0700/LBC Butlers Cottage (repairs) – It was **agreed** that councillors had no objections to this application. The Clerk will inform Planning at EDDC. IT

21/2720/FUL – Combehayes. Current position noted.

22/0934/CPE – Badger Cottage Treaslake – It was **agreed** that Buckerell Parish Council has no information to support or contradict the application. However the internal doors to the main house were noted. IT

Sunningdale – The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer expressing concerns about the project being compliant. IT

Deer Park Farm Gym – Alasdair is taking this forward with Planning.

19. Roads Report

Roads issues had been covered at item 12 of the agenda, and Phil is taking the matter forward.

20. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) A Jubilee Memorial tree had been planted outside the Old Rectory, and it was unanimously **agreed** that Helen would arrange for a suitable plaque to be supplied by a local trader at a cost of £75. HH
- b) Helen would also follow up the bulk supply of trees for individuals to plant in Autumn. HH
- c) The District Council had not as yet supplied a plaque to go with the memorial oak tree in the churchyard. The Clerk will chase this. IT
- d) Helen noted reports from villagers that dog faeces were not being properly picked up and disposed of near the War memorial and along Cabbage Lane. It was **agreed** that Helen would explore signage to encourage good management of dogs around the village. Clare will liaise with EDDC Street Scene team about whether the existing bins can be used for dog waste, or whether two new bins specifically for dog waste are needed. HH
- e) Ian will contact Jurassic Fibre about the blue rope left hanging from the trees at Sowton Farm. CS

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21. Village Pump

It was noted that there is not actually a pump under the outer box, so it cannot be restored. Councillors still thought that an interpretation panel showing the original inscription would be valid. Helen will obtain a quote. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the EDDC Conservation Officer over plans for maintaining the protective wooden shell at the location.

HH
IT

15. Matters for next meeting

- a) Co-option of new councillor
- b) Portfolios
- c) Climate Concerns
- d) Ukraine support

16. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is 20th July 2022.