

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT: May 2023

May 2023 draws my fourth year as Chair to a close, and I am pleased to present my report.

This has been a difficult year for everyone, as we emerge from the worst pandemic for 100 years, the Ukraine war and the consequential steepest rise in the cost of living for many years. The the cost of living obviously affects us all, including our public services. Mindful of this, and as the Parish Council's finances remain resilient, it was agreed not to increase the parish precept. Our annual costs include, village maintenance, planting of the tubs, insurance, Parish clerks wage, venue hire and the defibrillator scheme. We also maintain a Parish Council website, which is an excellent resource of up-to-date information. Annually, we also consider various one-off projects. We have recently commissioned the restoration of the Parish Pump, which was co-ordinated by Ian Tucker. The Parish Council are currently looking at the options for repairing the surface surrounding the War Memorial. Quotes so far are around £6000, which will significantly impact our budget. As always, we welcome your view on any projects.



At our bi monthly Parish Council meetings, we address any concerns raised by residents and welcome the attendance of the public. We are supported by County Councillor Phil Twiss and District Councillor Alasdair Bruce who attend. They are a great resource and allow the community of Buckerell to have a voice in local matters. Thank you both for your commitment. Councillor Twiss reported at our March meeting that our long -fought campaign to have the 30mph sign moved from Sunningdale to above Hillside, should reach fruition later this year. Monies from the DCC Locality budget has been set aside to

fund this. As consultees, the Parish Council are asked for comments on any planning matters that affect the Parish of Buckerell by East Devon District Council. We aim to give balanced, informed comments. In January we also submitted our views on the draft Local Plan which is currently on hold whilst the method of calculating housing numbers is being reviewed at a national level.

Occasionally outside bodies contact the Parish Council in order to pass on information. This happened earlier this year, when, as Chair, I was invited by Historic England and The Devon Archaeological Society to celebrate their recent purchase of Hembury Hillfort. It is comforting to know that this ancient Hillfort is in safe hands. It was indicated that there would be opportunities to help with the site in the future.

Last June at our Village Hog Roast, we all had an opportunity to celebrate together, Queen Elizabeth II 's Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council welcomed the opportunity to join forces with the Buckerell Community Association to help fund this event. It was a strange turn of events when our late Queens death at Balmoral was announced on Thursday 8th September 2022. Our Parish Council meeting was cancelled in line with the Government mourning protocol and we contributed to the book of condolences on behalf of the Parish Council.

A new Carolean era has dawned, with the Coronation of King Charles III. This, once again, gave the Buckerell Community a chance to get together and the Parish Council was again pleased to be able to help with funds for the Hog Roast. We also gave 34 children of the Parish a Coronation Mug. Thank you, Wendy Wayne, for your help with that initiative.

In closing, I wish to thank all my fellow Parish Councillors, who over the last 6 years have given up their time on behalf of the community, by serving on Buckerell Parish Council.

Best wishes

Clare Slater
Chair of Buckerell Parish Council