

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at
Doug's Shed Splatthayes

Those Present

John Slater – Chair (JS)
Helen Howard - Vice Chair (HH)
Geoff Wright (GW)
Nicola Janus-Harris (NJ)
Jo Knight (JK)
Jane Halse (JH)
Cllr Philip Twiss – Devon County Council (PT)
Cllr Alasdair Bruce - East Devon District Council (AB)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Nicola and from Cllr Bruce.

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 20th March 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 were unanimously agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Election of Officers

a) Chair – Helen took the chair and John Slater was asked if he would stand again as chair. He indicated acceptance and Geoff proposed that he be re-elected, and Jo seconded. This was **RESOLVED** unanimously. John re-took chairmanship of the meeting.

b) Vice Chair – Jo proposed and Geoff seconded that Helen be re-elected as vice chair, and this was **RESOLVED** unanimously.

4. Co-option of councillor

John introduced Jane Halse and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Jane would be co-opted onto the Parish Council. She will complete the Register of Interests form and Acceptance of Office form and return them to the Clerk.

JH

5. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) Road flooding on road to Weston past Westcroft.

Phil reported a new address for the landowner which had not been filed with the land registry. He will write and see if this longstanding issue can be moved forward using County Council powers if necessary.

6. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public questions

John Rogers asked what could be done to assist residents when SW Water suddenly closes the road at Weston for emergency repairs. He had spoken to the workmen there and the mains are in a poor state suggesting that this will be an on-going issue. Phil explained that the utilities are entitled to close roads in an emergency, but other repairs would be preceded by a Traffic Order in advance. He drew attention to the website, <https://one.network> which displays current and planned works, closures and diversions.

There was discussion about the delay in reporting urgent issues of any kind to the village, and it was agreed that Jo would investigate the possibility of a WhatsApp broadcast group to send out alert messages. **JK**

8. Certificate of Exemption 2023-24

The Certificate of Exemption from external audit was unanimously **APPROVED** and signed by Chair and Clerk. It is now copied to the external auditor by the Clerk. **IT**

9 Annual Accounts and Internal Audit Report 2023-24

The annual accounts and the internal audit report were unanimously **APPROVED**. Copies will be posted to the Parish Council website. **IT**

10. Annual Governance Statement 2023-24

The annual governance statement was unanimously **APPROVED** and will be copied to the Parish Council website. **IT**

11. Accounting Statements 2023-24

The accounting statements were unanimously **APPROVED** and will be copied to the Parish Council website. **IT**

11. a) Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £8303.72 (Current) and £6060.03 (Savings) at 8th May 2024

Payments approved -

Ian Tucker – Clerk’s payment Jan-March 2024	£207.12
Doug Cowan – Venue hire May 2024	£30
Ian Tucker – Gift of wine for auditor	£9
Peter Gent – Strimming and emptying dog bin	£133.75
DALC annual fee – previously approved by email	£116.25
Ian Tucker – annual website renewal (WordPress)	£43.20
Annual Insurance Premium Renewal (Community First)	£128.08

b) Receipt of Precept

The first of two part payments of the requested precept from EDDC for the sum of £2762.50 was noted. (Payment is made in April and September).

c) Receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy

The receipt of £2779.46 Community Infrastructure Levy in relation to Owl Cottage at Treaslake was noted.

d) Charitable donations

After discussion it was **AGREED** to make donations of £100 each to the following three charities – TRIP, Open Arms and Hospiscare.

IT

12. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

Phil had not been able to submit a report prior to the meeting but guaranteed to forward one in due course. This will be posted to the Parish Council website.

PT
IT

In addition to the report Phil reported that Devon County Council had been able to balance it’s books, and that his number one priority for the next 12 months would be highways.

13. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report

Alasdair had circulated his report prior to the meeting, and this will be posted to the Parish Council website.

IT

14. Councillor Portfolios

Portfolios were **AGREED** as follows –

Planning – John Slater

Finance – Jo Knight

Footpaths - Nicola Janus-Harris

Ditches and drains - Geoff Wright and Helen Hodgson

Potholes - Jane Halse

15.Planning

There were no new applications to consider but the Consultee Comments for the following were noted -

- a) 24/0024/FUL – Barn adjacent to Tape Lane (Now approved)
- b) 24/0534/FUL – Sunningdale

Alasdair had been asked for an update on Sunningdale from Planning but no response had been received as yet.

AB

16. Roads Report

Phil was thanked for the speedy procurement and installation of the new grit bin at the foot of the hill adjacent to Avenhayes which had been met out of his locality budget.

12. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) War Memorial surfacing – Helen is chasing Kennford for a response.
- b) Road sweeping – It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would employ a contractor for x1 day hopefully in September to clear roadways and ditches. Geoff will make the arrangements after hedges have been cut.

HH

GW

It was also **AGREED** that the Clerk would contact Phil and ask him to escalate the cutting of hedgerows on the road to Fenny Bridges to County Council, and use the powers available to them. The road is becoming overgrown, narrower and more dangerous.

**IT
PT**

13. Moving to gov.uk website domain

Ian reported that the Cabinet Office were encouraging government departments and organisations to move to gov.uk domains. However, any change currently would seem to indicate increased cost and complexity. Accessibility of the website had been questioned, but the Parish Council is not aware of residents having any problems with accessing the website. It was **AGREED** to put this matter on hold for the time being.

14. Doug's Shed

It was noted that we await the sale of the property to be able to know which options should be pursued to try and protect the community interest in the Shed.

15. Matters for next meeting

- a) War Memorial project
- b) Defibrillator project

HH

16. Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 17th July 2024 7pm Dougs Shed

Then –

18th September
20th November
15th January