

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th March 2025 at
Doug's Shed Splatthayes

Those Present

John Slater – Chair (JS)
Helen Howard - Vice Chair (HH)
Jane Halse (JH)
Nicola Janus-Harris (NJ)
Cllr Philip Twiss – Devon County Council (PT)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There was 1 member of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Alasdair Bruce (AB), Jo Knight (JK) and Geoff Wright (GW).

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 15th January 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda)

- a) John noted that the blue advisory sign on the A373 junction had been completed and wished to thank Phil for his help with this.
- b) The white lining at Buckerell Cross in the village centre has also been completed, and Phil was also thanked for his help in funding this from his Locality budget.
- c) Jane was thanked for reporting the bent “bend” sign which had been knocked over by a hedge cutter. The sign has now been put back in place.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public questions

- a) John Rogers asked if the Parish Council were invited to comment on planning matters in neighbouring parishes such as the new residential development planned for Feniton. He felt that Buckerell could be adversely affected by increased traffic movements through the village. John (JS) explained that we were not generally asked to

comment on developments outside the parish unless it was on the boundary, but the Parish Council was being consulted on the new Local Plan. He went on to explain the challenge that the District Council Local Plan faced is meeting the housing requirements in the areas of the district outside the AONBs and locating the new homes in the most sustainable locations. It was noted that most development is being directed to the main towns and major new settlements close to Exeter in the western side of the district. However, it was inevitable that some development would be directed to smaller settlements such as Feniton that had existing infrastructure such as a school, railway stations etc.

- b) John Rogers also asked if the Parish Council held any maps or plans of underground services. The answer was that there are no comprehensive maps of services other than any held by individual utility companies.

6. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £1816.72 (current a/c) and £2733.6 (savings a/c) at 24th February 2025.

Payments approved unanimously -

Peter Gent – Village maintenance work	£135.00
Doug Cowan – Hire of venue	£30.00
BCA - Contribution to Bugle printing costs	£78.00
EDDC – Dog bin collections January to March 2025	£44.06
Traffic cones (6) – to reimburse Ian Tucker	£39.99

7. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

Phil had circulated his latest report to councillors, and this will now be placed on the Parish Council website.

Phil also mentioned the current political upheaval locally caused by a) Mayoral issues around Devon, Torbay and Cornwall and b) the proposed move to Unitary Authorities. John reported that he had taken part in an online session run by DALC discussing local government reorganisation and had submitted some comments on the aspirations of the Parish Council which is not to seek additional powers or responsibilities arising from the reorganisation.

In advance of the County Council elections in May John (JS) thanked Phil for his significant contribution to the work of the Parish Council since he had been in office.

8. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report

Alasdair had submitted his latest report which had been circulated to councillors and will now be placed on the Parish Council website.

9. Planning

- a) East Devon Local Plan consultation – It was agreed that John (JS) will prepare for other councillor approval some comments to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that the plan was not proposing any housing allocations in Buckerell but would stress that additional housing must be accompanied by enhanced infrastructure provision to cater for increases in population such as medical facilities and school places. JS
- b) 25/0265/FUL and 25/0266/LBC – Love Cottage replacement windows. There was discussion about the use of plastic windows in listed buildings. It was agreed that John (JS) would circulate some proposed comments for councillors to see before submission.

10. Roads Report

- a) Spring on road down to Avenhayes – it was noted that Tom Cox (Neighbourhood Highways Officer) is aware and is taking steps to manage the excess water on the hill by clearing the gullies and channels.
- b) John (JS) proposed that the Parish Council buy some traffic cones for use when needed principally for the area around the war memorial. This was agreed unanimously. The cones need to be marked BPC and will be stored in the churchyard. *(Post meeting note – the actual cost of the cones was £39.99. Ian to be reimbursed).* IT

11. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

Hire of contractor for work on roads and ditches (including Crosshills) – this work has now been completed, and Geoff was thanked for his efforts in overseeing it all. It was noted that the flooding across the road close to the Weston boundary had already stopped. Ian was asked to let Tom Cox (NHO) know that the road drainage gullies which were uncovered by the work now need a jet wash. IT

12. Village Matters

- a) The Parish Council had been asked by the BCA (Buckerell Community Association) to make a contribution of half of the Bugle printing costs. This amounts to £78 *(not £156 as shown in the agenda – apologies)*. This was unanimously agreed.
- b) The dates for the first aid training will now be sometime in May depending

on available dates for the venue. It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the hire of the hall. Approximately 20 people had expressed interest in the training.

HH

c) The noticeboard is still being refurbished and the invoice is awaited but it was noted that the wall behind the noticeboard had been repointed.

13. Matters for next meeting

a) Annual accounts and AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return).

b) Chairman's report

14. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting (the Annual Meeting) will take place on 21st May and will be preceded by the Parish Meeting.