

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th January 2026
at Doug's Shed Splatthayes

Those Present

John Slater – Chair (JS)
Jane Halse (JH)
Jo Knight (JK)
Geoff Wright (GW)
Andy Curnow (AC)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Nicola Janus-Harris (NJ), Cllr Alasdair Bruce EDDC (AB)

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 19th November 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2025 were unanimously agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda)

It was noted that the figure of £23 per hour to be paid for general work around the village had been finalised after the Parish Council meeting in November 2025 once comparisons had been made with similar gardening / handyman posts. This meeting confirmed that as the rate of remuneration to be paid to the village handyman for his duties on behalf of the Parish Council.

4. Declarations of interest

John declared a pecuniary interest in the payment to his wife for upkeep of the planters around the War Memorial (Item 6a).

5. Public questions

There were no public questions.

6. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £2432.31 (Current) and £3803.70 (Savings) at 1st January 2026 was noted.

- a) The following payments were approved unanimously -

Doug Cowan - Venue hire	£30
Ian Tucker – Clerk’s quarterly pay October - December	£71.42
Peter Gent – Cleaning and strimming around signposts	£103.50
Clare Slater – Plants and soil (War Memorial)	£73.95

- b) John suggested that the precept might be increased in line with inflation, and invited comment from councillors. After discussion it was agreed that it should remain at the same level as currently (£5525) for another year. Ian will submit the requirement to EDDC.

IT

7. Councillor Richard Jefferies – Report

No report received.

8. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report

No report received.

9.Planning

- a) 25/2335/FUL Court Barn – Following a short discussion it was agreed that the Council had no objections to this application.
- b) Apparent inconsistencies with Highways comments on planning applications were discussed. John explained that the reason is that in the case of Glebe Farm the Permitted Development Rights allowing the conversion of farm buildings to residential is not a full planning application. These are known as prior approval applications and are not judged on the same basis as planning applications as permission has been granted by legislation.
- c) John updated the meeting on the two enforcement actions that have been referred to planning. The first, Curscombe Lane and dumped vehicles in a field is still being investigated by Enforcement. The second, Sunningdale, has been served with an enforcement notice related to the removal of a raised terrace which would be coming into effect on 31st January 2026.
- d) The proposal for a 20mph limit in the village was discussed. It was felt that there is little general support for such a move, and that no action is necessary at this time. The matter will be kept under review.
- e) Geoff had investigated the presence of pipework from which water is being discharged at the Orchard Farm track and on the hill by

Avenhayes. This had proved inconclusive, and it was proposed that a site visit take place with South West Water to try and identify the source of the outflows. Ian will find a contact at SWW and suggest such a site visit (copying in Cllr Richard Jeffries at DCC and Tom Cox at Devon Highways). Geoff will contact the residents at Greencroft to let them know about this.

IT

GW

It was noted that Andrew Wright had kindly cleared the concrete gully on the hill down to Avenhayes to ensure the correct channelling of water.

A member of the public pointed out that a “step” had appeared in the road which required fixing as it represents a hazard as essentially that part of the highway had collapsed. Highways have already inspected this stretch of road and indicated that they are not in a position to carry out any works here at present.

- f) The East Devon Local Plan is currently out for further consultation. John had reviewed it and concluded that there were no changes affecting Buckerell and that there seemed to be no need for any further comment. This was agreed.

10. Roads Report

- a) The increase in the number of potholes was noted. Constant reporting of these by road users needs to be maintained.

11. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

- a) Geoff suggested that there is no requirement for any ditch clearance to be paid for by the Parish Council this year. That was agreed .
- b) The flooding at the road by the sewage works where Vine Water goes under the road was discussed. This is at the boundary of Buckerell Parish. Geoff suggested a site visit with SWW and the Clerk will attempt to arrange this.

IT

12. Matters for next meeting

- a) Site visits with SWW
- b) Clerk's Pay Review

13. Date of next Meeting

18th March 2026 (Dougs Shed)