

MINUTES OF BUCKLAND BREWER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2017 AT 8.00 P.M. AT BUCKLAND BREWER VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors present: Mr Jim Lowe (Chair), Mr George Heywood, Mr David Watson, Mr Andrew Hewitt, Mrs Barbara Babb, Mrs Marie Douglas, Mrs Elisa Hurley and Mrs Rosemary Sanders

Guest Speakers: Mr David Clinch (STITCH and SOHS) and Mr Richard Haste (Waste and Recycling Manager, Torridge Council)

Also in attendance: 11 members of the public

Minutes: Mr Patrick Blossie

Apologies: Mr Trevor Mills

1) Introduction and Review of the year by Chair of Parish Council: Jim Lowe welcomed all to the meeting and offered his thanks to Trevor Mills and Barara Babb, who had been the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council during the last year. He introduced two new parish councillors, Rosemary Sanders and Elisa Hurley and thanked Rosie Beer and Shirley Tilley who had resigned during the year. Shirley, in particular, had been an active councillor for many years and her contribution had been greatly appreciated. He also introduced the two guest speakers and explained that Tim Burke, the Chair of the NEW CCG had been invited but had declined to attend.

Looking back over the past 12 months, Jim highlighted the opening of the new Buckland Brewer Village Hall thanks to the hard work of the Trustees and the wider community. This development also includes a new community sports field, work on which will be completed in the next 12 months. Thanks to a 3-month campaign and support from numerous organisations and local donors, the parish now has an Air Ambulance night flying facility. This is believed to be only the second such facility in a rural parish in the county. Jim reminded the meeting that the Parish has 22 acres of land that is let out to agricultural users. Blackhorse Fields has come back into agricultural use and South Church Park, next to the playing field, is about to be re-let. The Parish Council intends to seek permission to redirect the footpath across this field. A second gate is going to be installed into the allotments from the playing field car park. A new bus timetable has been agreed and, following a lot of pressure on the County, a modern new bus is now being used. There are not enough funds at Devon County at the moment to reinstate the Friday service. A new community website has been developed this year, which was to be demonstrated later in the meeting. Income from the wind turbine at Bowden Farm, the renegotiation of the lease of the telecommunications mast at Thornhillhead and other sources of income now provide more funds to the Parish than the precept, which remained unchanged for the current year. In addition to completing work on the new sports field, the Parish Council also has plans to replace the seats on the village green, refurbish Vicar's Walk and consider the possibility of re-tarmacing the road round the village green.

Jim explained that Cllr Barry Parsons, who was re-elected at the recent County Council elections, is now our County representative, and is already proving to an active and supportive member.

He appealed for people to come along to Parish Council meetings where they can contribute during the public participation sessions.

2) Guest Speaker David Clinch: David explained the background of the STITCH (Save the Irreplaceable Torrington Cottage Hospital) and SOHS (Save Our Hospital Services) campaigns and how the CCGs 'Care Closer to Home' scheme and budget cuts were impacting on services and bed places. Some evidence

supporting the STITCH campaign had been submitted to the Secretary of State last November in the hope of having services at Torrington re-instated, but he was not very hopeful that this would happen.

SOHS had been started following the risk to a specific range of services at North Devon District Hospital (acute, neo-natal, paediatrics and stroke services). He highlighted the dangers to the public of forcing them to travel long distances. A number of doctors had supported the campaign and numerous meetings and demonstrations have taken place and he invited the people present to join the campaign. He highlighted the high cost of salaries of the 13 members of the CCG (over £1 million including pension costs) and how some of these people had conflicts of interest, especially the current Chair of the CCG, whose consultancy company has earned over £300,000 in fees for offering advice. He said that there was up to £3 million in management salaries across the various layers of health trusts, much of which could be better used on better health care. He believed that there was a predetermined agenda for cuts in North Devon. NDDH is one of the most remote hospitals in the country, second only to Cumbria. He explained that a video had been prepared showing the alternative journey for potential patient from Lynmouth to Exeter, which would take them past NDDH. This can be viewed on YouTube. The journey took an hour and 42 minutes and this was on a day with no hold-ups or heavy traffic.

He urged people to think carefully about the threatened impact on local hospital services when casting their vote in the general election.

In a question and answer session he was asked where the information about salary levels had come from and explained that it was available in public documents. When asked what the local MPs opinions were of the campaigns, he said that Geoffrey Cox had said he was in support but that he was part of the government that was putting through the cuts and causing the problem. One person said that medicine is an enduring and expanding industry that benefits everyone and that more money than ever was being put into the NHS but that NDDH must stay and needs to be paid for. David agreed and hoped that people would not be losing their jobs. He said that using agency staff was a necessity but that in-house agencies could be run more cheaply and efficiently.

David provided a number of leaflets for people to take away.

3) Guest Speaker, Richard Haste Richard is the Waste and Recycling Manger for Torridge Council. He explained the proposed changes to the services that would be implemented from June 2018 (subject to a new depot being ready).

He is required to meet a new target of 50% recycled waste by 2020 and to reduce the quantity of waste going to landfill. At the same time, he also has to reduce costs and improve the quality of the service.

He explained how the current service works; how recyclable waste gets separate within the van and that garden and food waste is only available to 60% of residents at the moment.

From June 2018 there will be:

- Weekly recycling collections, including additional plastics (but not black, polystyrene or cling film)
- Weekly food waste. Everyone will get a kerbside caddy and an indoor caddy. (Food waste currently constitutes 23% of black bag waste)
- Fortnightly black bag collections
- Options for chargeable garden waste at £35 per year, using a green wheelie bin

He said that residents have always been happy with the waste service. His staff have learnt what works and what doesn't. There is still some fine tuning of the new service to do. He explained how in=cab technology will enable staff to know which houses have paid for garden waste collections.

Richard brought with him some samples of the new style recycling boxes and had leaflets available for people to take.

4) Community Website The Parish Clerk explained that a new community website had been developed and demonstrated some of its features. With no broadband in the new hall, this was limited to some screen shots of a few of the website pages, but he gave a flavour of what it contained. He offered his thanks to Jane Lowe who had done much of the work in adding content to the site. The website has a number of features, including:

- Parish Council information, including agendas, minutes and accounts
- Local news
- Events calendar
- Local activities and groups
- Links to local public services, including reporting problems like potholes and flooding
- Links to local businesses and services
- Worship
- Contact pages for both community activities and Parish Council matters

The website address is www.bucklandbrewer.org.uk

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chair Date