

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2017 AT 7:30 AT
BUCKLAND BREWER SCHOOL**

Members Present: Mrs Barbara Babb, Mrs Marie Douglas, Mr George Heywood, Mr Jim Lowe, Mr Trevor Mills, and Mr David Watson.

Also in attendance 1 member of the public,

Parish Clerk: Patrick Blossie

KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type Decisions are shown in bold red type

439. **Apologies for Absence** Andrew Hewitt (attending NHS Acute Services Consultation Meeting on behalf of the Parish Council), Cllr. Robin Julian and Cllr. Alison Boyle

440. **Declarations of Interest** None

441. **Public Participation** Elisa Hurley talked about the poor broadband service in the village. Some members were using Airband (previously Wild West Net) and were experiencing different qualities of service. **The Clerk was asked to investigate the current state of broadband supply to the parish.**

442. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th February 2017:** The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2017 were agreed and signed.

443. **Clerk's Report:**

- a. **Correspondence:** The Clerk had distributed 30 items of correspondence since the last meeting. He highlighted i) an invitation to attend the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Trust Forum on 28th February, which Jim Lowe had offered to attend. Cllr Lowe had been asked to become a permanent Forum member and might be asked to become a Trust member, which he will consider at a later date. The meeting had centred mainly on discounts available to trust members. ii) An invitation to host the installation of an otter sculpture at a cost of £500, a Dartmoor National Park Initiative, was turned down. iii) **A request to continue TTVS membership at a cost of £25 per year was supported unanimously (proposed by Jim Lowe and seconded by Trevor Mills).** iv) Notification of the closure of Holsworthy Community Hospital had been received. It was agreed that **Jim Lowe would draft a letter on behalf of the Parish Council, objecting to the closure.** Jim Lowe also mentioned an email from Devon and Cornwall Police setting out proposed changes that would see large reduction on PCSOs, and a briefing paper prepared for Geoffrey Cox, MP, showing that businesses in the Torridge area would suffer considerably more than other Devon districts from the recent rating revaluation. v) A request had been received to submit applications for the Highway Community Enhancement Fund by the end of March 2017. Following a discussion, it was

agreed that the Parish Council had nowhere to store equipment and was not in favour of carrying out repairs itself, so would not claim any grant.

- b. Casual Vacancies: The two vacancies were being advertised until 31st March with a view to selecting co-optees at the April meeting. So far, only one application has been received.

444. Fields and Allotments

- a. Works to Sports & Amenity and School Fields: Trevor Mills had obtained two quotations for levelling the fields. Although three quotations were normally expected for works of this magnitude, **it was agreed that the work was of a specialist nature and that it would not be necessary to seek any further quotes. The price submitted by S.E.L. Clarke Ltd was accepted, in the sum of £1,020 + VAT.** Tom Lloyd will be asked to respray the fields with a view to them being ready for levelling and reseeding in early April. Barbara Babb said that residents in a property in Hillpark that backs on to the field would like some sycamore and elder trees taken down. **Trevor Mills will investigate.**
- b. Expressions of Interest re vacant field: There had been no applicants so far. Jim Lowe had been approached informally by someone who might consider putting bullocks in the field. It was agreed to continue to advertise the field for the time being and to consider the possibility of diverting the footpath if no-one was interested in taking it as it is.
- c. Allotments The Clerk has let one plot today (number 2). Number 10 is still vacant. An Allotment Holders' Meeting was held on 20th February and was attended by 3 allotment holders (representing 2 plots). Notes from the meeting had been distributed earlier. Four items were discussed: i) the possibility of a second gate into the allotments from the playing field car park, ii) whether permission could be given to keep bees, iii) the placement of sheds, and iv) communications with allotment holders. It was agreed that **the Clerk would write to all the allotment holders to gauge their opinions about the gate and bees, and that the residents of Castle Meadows would be copied in.**

445. Thornhillhead Moor Mast Jim Lowe had offered to contact Arqiva on the Clerk's behalf and had negotiated a possible settlement of £3,000 per year. Following a discussion, **it was proposed by Trevor Mills, seconded by Dave Watson and approved unanimously to accept the offer and to ask Arqiva to meet the legal costs.**

446. 2018 Boundary Review - South West Region: Latest Consultation This is the second round of consultation following the receipt of nearly 20,000 comments. It was decided to make no comment.

447. Stevenstone Hunt Meet, 5th April 2017: Permission has been sought to gather the Stevenstone Hunt at the Village Green again this year on 5th April. **This was agreed unanimously.**

448. TAP Fund 2016/17 The application was approved and payment has been received. **Cheques will be sent to Shebbear and Peters Marland Parish Councils.** The Clerk distributed a breakdown of the total receipts and payments relating to the Air Ambulance Fund and explained that a sum of £2,611.51 will be set aside as a reserve to meet the cost of future servicing, maintenance and electricity costs. **It was agreed that the Parish Council would enter into a service agreement with the installers, MAT Ltd,** and that signage to the Village Hall and Air Ambulance Landing Site should be provided. Jim Lowe will investigate the signage. There was a

discussion about whether astro-turf or some other surfacing should be provided but it was agreed that, for now, it would be grass-seeded along with the rest of the field.

449. Members' Reports

Barbara Babb said the Post Office van is still parking by the village green and obstructing traffic. They were thought to be still waiting for a new cable to be supplied. **Barbara will telephone them.**

Marie Douglas i) reported an incidence of fly tipping at Craneham Hill, ii) said that her Airband service had been appalling. It was agreed that an item would be put in Village Scene to try to find out if this was a widespread issue. Iii) She also reported that the road past Bromells field is nearly very badly broken up along both edges.

George Heywood i) reported that footpath styles on his land had been vandalised and the wire removed along the bottom, allowing some of his lambs to escape into people's gardens. He believed that it was done by dog-walkers making holes for their dogs to get through. The problem was also found with gates and styles between two farmers' fields. It was agreed that a letter of complaint would be sent to the DCC Footpaths Officer. ii) George is still in dispute with his solicitor over a bill for work that was done following a request to Land Registry about the covenant on the school field. The paperwork implies that the original request had come from the Parish Council but it had been confirmed by the Council's solicitor that it had originated from Pearce's solicitors. George passed a quantity of paperwork to the Clerk who will investigate and report back. Iii) A cheque made out to Fishleigh's of Galsworthy in June 2016 for storing salt had not been given to them by George and had now expired. A replacement was raised.

Jim Lowe i) Had received complaints about dog fouling in Ashtons Row. It was agreed that the Parish Council would erect a sign and an item will be put in Village Scene. Ii) Jim also reported the fly-tipping at Craneham Hill and said that he would contact PCSO John McGovern to investigate it, and Torridge Refuse Service to arrange for its removal. Iii) The Clerk apologised that he had not yet been able too arrange a dog bin for the entrance to the amenity field.

Trevor Mills i) had taken a calls about the Post Office van and the inability to get cash withdrawals or anything requiring internet access. **Trevor will phone them.** Ii) The Old Post Office site is flooding because the tarmacking work there now prevents it from soaking away. **The Clerk will contact the Planning Enforcement Officer.**

David Watson was concerned about visibility at the entrance to Hillpark and suggested erecting a mirror. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the entrance, although a little difficult, was no more obscure than most in Buckland Brewer and it was decided to take no further action.

450. Planning Application: 1/0053/2017/FUL – Beech Tree Farm, change of use from poultry pen to manufacturing pens – supported unanimously

451. Accounts

a. Receipts and Payments

i. Bank balances as at 28th February 2017:

- Parish Council Current Account was £7,148.74
- Thornhillhead Moor Account was £7,305.04
- Savings Account was £18,095.66

- ii) Payments due (£1,688.77 + VAT)
 - Parish Clerk's salary, expenses and associated PAYE (February 2017): £524.32 + VAT, including PAYE - £67.50
 - Eon, Air Ambulance Tower electricity - £9.45 + VAT
 - Peters Marland Parish Council, TAP Fund 2016/17 - £330
 - Shebbear Parish Council, TAP Fund 2016/17 - £825

- iii) Receipts
 - TDC: TAP Fund Grant, 2016/17- £3,931.00

- b. Financial Regulations The Clerk had distributed a draft set of Financial Regulations which members approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

Date of Next Meeting:

Parish Council: Wednesday 12th April 2017 (Buckland Brewer School, 7:30pm)

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**