

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL 2015 AT 8:00PM AT
BUCKLAND BREWER SCHOOL**

Members Present: Mrs Barbara Babb, Mr Andrew Hewitt, Mr Jim Lowe, Mr Trevor Mills, Miss Sally Nicholls, Mrs Kate Slocombe and Mr David Watson.

Also in attendance 2 members of the public and Cllr. Mike Stokes (Frithelstock Parish Council)

Parish Clerk: Patrick Blossie

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

1448 Apologies for Absence Sally Nicholls had apologised in advance that she might be late or unable to attend. Cllr Robin Julian (DCC) had another function to attend and Cllr Alison Boyle (TDC) was at another meeting.

1449 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 11th March 2015: The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2015 were confirmed and signed.

1450 Declarations of Interest: None.

1451 Public Participation: None.

1452 Presentation by Cllr Mike Stokes: Frithelstock Defibrillator Scheme: Cllr Stokes explained how funds had been raised for the scheme and the various options that had been considered. Frithelstock Rowing Club had previously raised about £1,000 for the Air Ambulance Fund and had decided that they could do the same for a village project. The rowers had decided on a scheme to install a defibrillator and through various sponsored events were able to contribute £1,000. Once the decision was made to install a defibrillator in the dis-used telephone box the funds and responsibility for the scheme were passed to the Parish Council. Grants were obtained from the Balsdon Trust and TAP Fund which provided about £1,800 for the project in total. Various buy or lease options were investigated and the Council decided to purchase a machine from Cardiac-Science Ltd who generously provided a temporary machine free of charge until the order could be fulfilled. The machine cost £920 + VAT and a further £400 was spent on installing a heated box in the telephone box. There are some ongoing running costs for replacement pads and batteries. The machine has been registered with South West Ambulance (which also uses the same machines) and there is a requirement to check the machine regularly and submit reports to SWA. This responsibility had recently been taken on by a couple of local residents. Cllr Stokes stressed that the machines are "idiot-proof" and do not necessarily require any special training as, once activated, the machines play recorded instructions and will not operate if they detect a heartbeat. However, training courses are available if required.

1453 Clerk's Report

(i) **Correspondence:** A summary of 19 items of general correspondence had been provided. All of these had been distributed by email prior to the meeting. The following item was specifically drawn to the Council's attention:

1. **BT: Adopt a Kiosk – Application submitted 03/04/15**
2. **Healthwatch Voices, Issue 8, Spring 2015**
3. **Devon Home Choice Training: Now 16th April 2015, Exeter**
4. **Clerks and Councils Direct, March 2015**
5. **Devon Senior Voice**

The Clerk explained that BT were advertising a campaign for Local Councils to buy their local telephone boxes for £1.00 and that, in the process of investigating whether Buckland Brewer's was available had submitted an application to buy it. As the box is still being used this might simply have registered as an interest until such time as the box is decommissioned but, as the box is shown as "available", this could be imminent.

(ii) Jim Lowe noted that the Clerk had registered the Parish Council on the Torridge Planning Portal so that plans could be downloaded and responses submitted more effectively. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange to obtain the necessary hardware and endeavour to obtain access to the school's broadband network.

1454 Village Bus Services: **i) Bradworthy Meeting** Jim Lowe reported that this meeting had been disappointing. There were no representatives from Parkham or Putford. Littleham were not interested in any scheme and Bradworthy were only interested in a bus link to Holsworthy.

ii) New Bus Operator A new bus operator was being appointed by DCC and would take over from 2nd May 2015. There was a fear that the service to Petroc would no longer carry non-student passengers. Kate Slocombe said that this could be likely due to insurance requirements.

iii) Response to DCC Consultation Process Jim Lowe had submitted the Council's opinion that additional day(s) of service might be achieved by terminating the local service in Bideford instead of Barnstaple.

There was a general discussion about the bus services. Kate Slocombe suggested that it might be possible to operate a shared mini-bus service with the schools and other users but it was generally felt that this would be both expensive and difficult to coordinate. Jane Lowe explained that she had volunteered to assist with the administration of the Torridge Volunteer Car Service and that 2 day's notice would be needed to use it. Although this would not meet everyone's needs, especially for journeys that needed to be planned at short notice, the scheme should be advertised widely in the village in Village Scene, through a leaflet drop and one the website and Facebook page.

1455 Tuckers Park/Ashtons Row Parking: i) Signage Andrew Hewitt has prepared a sign but has not been able to erect it because the new residents of Taw Cottage have a vehicle parked on the spot. **The Clerk will write to them to explain the problem and asking them to move.**

ii) Attitude of Westward Housing to Care Workers Parking Jim Lowe reported that a care worker had been fined £60 for parking in a resident's bay when visiting a resident in Tucker's Park. The Council was unanimous and believing that this was unacceptable. The resident is infirm and needs multiple visits every day. **Jim Lowe will write to DCC to clarify the position in relation to Highways and the Clerk will write to the Trustees of Westward Housing, whose parking contractor issued the fine, to ask them reconsider policy in order to allow care workers and similar services to park in those bays if they are attending Tuckers Park residents.**

1456 Galsworthy Wind Turbines A resident had contacted the Council to complain about flicker and noise from the Galsworthy turbines. Although there was some doubt whether the property in question had been

built when the application for the turbines was approved, or whether flicker would be a particular issue with these turbines, **it was agreed unanimously that the matter would be referred to Torridge Planning with a request to investigate the issues raised.**

1457 Babeleigh Barton Road: No further progress had been made.

1458 Thornhillhead Moor: (i) **Fly-Tipping:** Trevor Mills reported that there might still be some rubbish where Roy parks his large lorry otherwise it has been cleared. (ii) **Signage:** Highways have insufficient budget to provide a HALT sign. However, they have undertaken to repaint the white lines and a CATTLE sign has been erected at the top end of the moor. (iii) **Outstanding Contractor Payments:** Although Claire McIntosh had said that it would be possible to claim the outstanding payment from RPA and therefore pay the two contractors, no request for payment had yet been received by the Clerk. **Jim Lowe will contact Claire.**

1459 Hillpark Development Update: i) **Affordable Housing** Jim Lowe confirmed that these were now coming on stream and that there were now only 10 houses left to sell. ii) **Deed of Variation** The Deed of Variation to permit the developer to borrow against the affordable houses following the abandonment of the shared ownership scheme had been signed.

Jim Lowe reported that telephone lines and broadband had now been installed on the estate.

1460 S106 Land and Community Hall Monies Transfer Update:

The Clerk presented the conditions in the transfer document that had now been drawn up by the Parish Council's solicitor. It specifies that all the conditions of the s106 Agreement in relation to the land identified for the new Community Hall and associated parking and the monies relating to it (£325,000) would be transferred to the Village Hall Trustees. The transfer deed also requires the Village Hall Trustees to meet any legal and external fees directly related to the land and monies transfer. Since the Trustees will be accepting responsibility for the s106 terms it would be the Trustees responsibility to ensure that any uncommitted monies remaining after 10 years, together with accrued interest, were paid back to the developers. A covenant on the land would require it to be returned to the original owners for a nominal sum if it was not to be used for the purpose specified in the agreement. **It was proposed by Jim Lowe, seconded by Andrew Hewitt and agreed unanimously that the transfer deed would be approved without amendment.**

1461 Fields and Allotments: i) **Report of the Football Pitch Working Group:** Trevor and Sally had not yet come to any final conclusion about the future of the football pitch but it was felt that it would be a possibility to offer the entire field to June Gaydon at its full market rent with a clause permitting her to sub-let it for grass cutting or other acceptable purposes. **The Clerk will supply Trevor and Sally with an up to date list of field rents for comparison.**

The Clerk reported that the tenant of plot 7b had terminated today and that it would be offered to Jim Lucas & Lynn Bartram who asked to be added to the waiting list on 10th March 2015. A new application has been received from Gilly Hennessey who is expecting to move into Taw Cottage very soon. It was reported that Catherine Fry, who currently has two plots, had offered to give up one of these. Therefore, plot 3 will be offered to the Hennesseys.

1462 Vicars Walk: The work had been completed satisfactorily and a cheque had been prepared for the contractor.

1463 Members' Reports

Barbara Babb pointed out that the bus shelter needs a coat of wood preserver. **Andrew Hewitt volunteered to do this.** Barbara also reminded members that the Jubilee Fund had an unallocated balance of £154.27. **It was agreed that the item could be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.**

Jim Lowe pointed out that the village green required a cut. **Andrew Hewitt offered to do this when he next uses his mower.** Jim had also purchased some seed compost and poppy seeds for the green.

Trevor Mills reported that some pallets had been dumped in the first layby on the road down to the Glen. **The Clerk will report them to Torridge District Council.**

1464 Planning

- i) Applications: 1/0145/2015/AGR – Oakwood, Road North Of Hembury Cross, Agricultural storage building – Already refused. Sally Nicholls had investigated why this application had been refused before the consultation period was over. It had been shown that the applicants could not demonstrate that they were carrying out a farming business within the parameters required.
- ii) 1/0305/2015/REM – Land adj. Ross House, Reserved matters pursuant to 1/0302/201/OUT for design, parking provision, landscaping and scale. **It was agreed unanimously to reaffirm the previous comments opposing this application on the grounds that it was outside the proposed settlement boundary.**
- iii) Decision: 1/0050/2015/FUL, Jewells Cottage, Gorwood Road, Porch to front elevation – Granted Permission - Noted
- iv) North Devon and Torridge Local Plan: Consultation on amendments. Members were pleased to note that all of the amendments requested following the initial consultation had been accepted and included in the revised document.
- v) Planning Enforcement at Eckworthy: It was noted that a mobile home had been installed in a field at Eckworthy and that it was apparent that someone was attempting to take residence there. It was agreed unanimously to refer the matter to Torridge Planning Enforcement.

vi) Late Items: Decisions re Poultry Sheds at Silklands (1/0029/2015/FUL, 1/0030/2015/FUL and 1/0031/2015/FUL) - Granted Permission

1465 Accounts:

- i) Bank balances:
 - Parish Council Current Account was £8,536.85 as at 31st March 2015
 - Thornhillhead Moor Account was £11,414.70 as at 19th March 2015
- ii) Payments due (£1,349.54 + VAT)
 - Parish Clerk's salary, expenses and associated PAYE: £325.85
 - Stephen Leigh Brown – Works to Vicars Walk - £810.00
 - DALC – Annual Subscription - £153.69 + VAT
 - M Fry, Japanese Knotweed - £40.00
 - J Lowe – Expenses - £20.00
- iii) Receipts (£588.50)
 - Various field and allotment rents - £588.50
- iv) External Audit The Clerk had received the annual audit letter from Grant Thornton. The audit date has been set for 8th June 2015 and accounts will be ready for inspection between 8th May and 5th June.

Date of Next Meeting:

Parish Council: 13th May 2015 (Buckland Brewer School) (8:00pm)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:40 pm.

Chairman: **Date:**