

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th AUGUST 2018 AT 7:30 AT
PARISH CHURCH SCHOOL ROOM**

Members Present: Mrs Barbara Babb, Mrs Marie Douglas, Mr Andrew Hewitt, Mr Jim Lowe, and Mr Trevor Mills.

Also in attendance 3 members of the public

Parish Clerk: Mr P Blossie

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

746. Apologies for Absence David Watson, Elisa Hurley, Rosemary Sanders, George Heywood and Cllr Barry Parsons.

747. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th July 2018 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2018 were agreed and signed.

748. Declarations of Interest None

749. Public Participation Chris Kaminski spoke in favour of providing a water supply at Blackhorse Fields Allotments. Margaret Lloyd explained that the Fit as a Fiddle Club had come to the end of its agreed period under the management of TorrAge but that they were willing to continue to the end of the year. However, there were only about 8 regular attendees and usually less than that attending each week and it was not financially viable. They would prefer to meet in the Church School Room which would be available every week. They currently miss one session a month at the Methodist Church due to other bookings. Attendees currently pay £3.00 per week towards the cost, which is £30 for the organiser plus the hall hire fee.

750. Clerk's Report

- a. **Correspondence:** There had been 33 items of correspondence since the last meeting. The Clerk highlighted: i) a notification about the 'Beacons of Light' ceremony on 11th November 2018. There was some confusion about whether the parish had registered to light a beacon and it was generally thought that this might not fit in with all the other events that were being planned. It was agreed to ask Janet Few to attend the next meeting. ii) an update from Cllr Parsons about Holsworthy Hospital, iii) a letter of thanks from the Community Shop for the grant approved last month, and iv) two planning decisions regarding Oakwood (1/0439/2017/FUL) – refused, and Innkeeper's Cottage (1/0508/2018/CPE) – granted permission. v) Notification of an enforcement appeal for brooders huts at Beech Tree Farm, vi) a letter from David Siddall giving permission to remove a structure from his allotment plot and asking for assistance, and vii) confirmation from Slee Blackwell that a cheque had been received as a deposit towards the previous landowners' solicitor's fees and that therefore work would be starting on the revision of the school field covenant shortly.
- b. **Request for litter bins in the village:** A parishioner had posted a request of the Facebook page for litter bins in the village. The Chair had obtained a list of all the bins in the village and had been told that it would cost £300 for each extra plastic bin or £600 for metal ones. It was not felt that the expense was

worthwhile at this time or that a litter pick would be successful, but it was agreed that an article would be written for Village Scene and the website.

751. Fields and Allotments

- a. Water Supply at Blackhorse Fields: The Clerk had contacted all the allotment holders about the potential for a standpipe at the allotments. Only 9 responses had been received to date: 4 in favour of a supply and 5 against, with 8 failing to respond. Both of those in favour had said that they were willing to accept a small increase in the rent to cover the standing charge and would be happy to pay either for their deemed usage of water or for 1/15 of the total water used. Those against had said that they had coped until now without a water supply. Some already captured water themselves in butts. One suggested that the Parish Council should consider supplying water butts. **Andrew Hewitt will investigate the cost of installing a single standpipe close to the current supply between plots 1 and 2. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed more fully at the next Fields and Allotments Sub-Committee on 6th November 2018.**
- b. Works to Community and School Fields, Progress Report (Trevor Mills)
 - I. Jim Lowe thanked Trevor Mills, Andrew Hewitt and all the helpers for their hard work on the fencing and gates. Trevor said that all the posts were now in and only the wiring was left to do. Work would start again in early September and **he will be putting a request in Village Scene for more helpers.**
 - II. It was reported that hedge clippings had been thrown into the hedge behind 11 Orleigh Close and these were now slipping into a neighbouring property. **The Clerk will write to the owner asking for them to be removed.**
 - III. **Jim Lowe will ask a contractor to kill off the dock along the banks.**
- c. Future Maintenance of the Amenity Field and Surrounding Paths: **It was agreed that Trevor Mills and Andrew Hewitt will put together a works programme in time to be considered in the budget review in December 2018.**
- d. School Field Rental Agreement and Proposed Amendment to Covenant: Cllr Barry Parsons had visited the school and had discussed the matter with the Head of Children's Services. They had agreed that they would provide funds to cover the Parish Council's legal costs and that the County Council's Solicitor would act on behalf of the school. This has yet to be confirmed in writing by the County Council officers, but it is hoped that the matter will now proceed in a timely manner.

752. Village Hall Update, Marie Douglas: Marie reported that there will be a Barn Dance in September. Work to the car park had been completed and the new Badminton Club was now operating and proving to be very successful. Jim Lowe asked if the Community Website's webmaster could be included in any emails about future events.

753. 3rd Age Activities:

- a. Jim Lowe reported that the 4 o'clock Club had been a useful experiment but had only attracted any significant numbers when there was a speaker – usually about local services, such as waste recycling. It had been hoped that the group might develop into a regular luncheon club but in the absence of anyone willing to take a lead, or sufficient volunteers, this was not possible. Any decision about the future of the group was deferred until Elisa Hurley was present.
- b. The Fit as a Fiddle club was discussed at some length. **It was agreed that it needed to become a self-supporting club that could be supported by the Parish Council with grants if necessary. It was agreed that the Council would meet the cost of hiring the Church School Room for 14 weekly sessions up to Christmas 2018 at a total cost of £140.**

754. Providing more space on parish notice-boards for public notices: Elisa Hurley asked for more space to be provided for public notices. It was noted that there is already quite a few notice-boards in the parish and it was agreed that no more needed at the moment. However, Jim Lowe suggested that a large blackboard to advertise local events, like those used in Frithelstock and Chawton. Jim also suggested that

the bottom part of the Parish Council notice-board by the village green could be modified to cover in the bottom part. **He will talk to Richard Dorset about this.**

755. Trees at Glebe Fields and adjacent property: Some branches had been cut out but it was not obvious what had been done. The one tree on another resident's private land had not been touched. Andrew Hewitt repeated that he thought the trees needed to come down. **Jim Lowe suggested that the Parish Council should write to the District Councillor, for which Andrew Hewitt will provide photographs, with a copy being sent to the adjacent landowner.**

756. Feedback from Visit to Thornhillhead Moor, 31st July: Trevor Mills reported that Andrew Heywood had pointed out the work that they had been doing, such as cutting back an overgrown stream which the cattle could now use. Some fencing will need to be renewed in due course but probably not for a couple of years. There had recently been two arson attacks.

757. Flashing Speed Signs and Wireless Monitoring Systems Cllr Barry Parsons had taken the matter to the Head of Highways but, so far, there had been no further progress.

758. Parish Plan, Progress Report (Steering Group Representatives): Andrew Hewitt reported that the Steering Group had met on the previous evening. A draft list of issues had been prepared by Alan Sutton and there will be another meeting to discuss it further. Marie explained that they will be using a pilot group to test the questionnaire. Jim Lowe noted that neither 'employment' or 'affordable housing' had been included. Andrew Hewitt said that he will ask Lesley Smith at the DALC for help with a housing survey.

759. Torridge Community Governance Review: Proposal to Combine Bulkworthy with Buckland Brewer: The Monitoring Officer had contacted the Clerk recently to say that the Community Governance Review had now suggested that Bulkworthy, which currently has no Parish Council or Annual Parish Meeting, should be combined with Buckland Brewer. He had told the Clerk that residents felt that there are too few of them to create an effective parish council and there is no-one willing to chair a Parish Meeting. Although the merger would considerably enlarge the geographical area of the parish, there are only a few dozen properties and only 59 electors on this year's electoral roll. The Monitoring Officer has asked for the Parish Council's views on the suggestion. **It was agreed unanimously that Bulkworthy would be welcomed to join Buckland Brewer and that the new name should be 'Buckland Brewer and Bulkworthy Parish Council'.** The new arrangement would require approval by the Community Governance Review Board and would take effect from May 2019. The Elections Officer will advise whether the increase in electorate warranted any increase in the number of councillors.

760. Consultation: Proposed Merger of Devon and Cornwall Police with Dorset Police: Following a brief discussion **it was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council was in favour of the proposed merger.**

761. Consultation: Gambling Act: No comment.

762. Consultation: Library Services in Rural and Isolated Communities: It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council needs to advertise the service as much as possible and that **an article should be written for the Village Scene and website.**

763. Consultation: Licensing Policy: No comment.

764. North Devon Record Office; Funding Request: **It was agreed unanimously to continue to support the Record Office with an annual grant of £200.**

765. Members' Reports:

Barbara Babb talked about resurfacing the road around the village green. **The Clerk noted that Monkleigh Village Hall car park has recently been resurfaced and he will enquire about the cost of that work.**

Andrew Hewitt had attended a HATOC meeting where it had been reported that parking on double-yellow lines was “not a problem” because it was not being reported to the police. There will be a major upgrade to the Westward Ho! Roundabout paid for from monies for the link road improvements.

Jim Lowe A. noted that the entrance to Northwood Lane is often blocked by residents’ cars. He will order a sign from Phil Slocome. B. Reported that the Village Hall had agreed to the installation of a defibrillator. The Clerk will order one from the same supplier that was used before and will ask Julia Landolfi if she can run another training course. C. He said that the Council needed to consider whether more salt was needed for the winter but that the decision should be deferred until George Heywood was present. D. It was agreed that he should purchase a wreath for the memorial service, and E. He had advertised in Village Scene for applications for grants.

766.Planning

- a. Decision: 1/0537/2018/FUL, The Hayloft, Extension to north elevation, creation of porch to the south elevation, installation of roof lights to the west elevation and erection of new garage – Granted Permission

767. Accounts

- a. Data Protection Fee – Direct Debit Mandate: The annual fee for Data Protection is now £40. The Clerk asked for approval for this to be paid by direct debit in future, **which was agreed unanimously**. The mandate form was signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

- b. Receipts and Payments

- I. Bank balances as at 31st July 2018 (£46,413.10):

1. Parish Council Current Account was £8,567.67
 2. Thornhillhead Moor Account was £3,702.34
 3. Savings Account was £34,143.09

- II. Fund balances as at 31st July 2018 (£46,413.10):

1. General Account - £22,710.76
 2. Thornhill Head Account - £23,702.34

- III. Payments due (£2,471.44 + VAT)

The following list of payments was approved:

1. Parish Clerk’s salary, expenses and associated PAYE (July 2018): £448.93, including PAYE - £83.50
 2. M Fry, Village Green Maintenance - £28.00
 3. Buckland Brewer Village Hall, 3rd Age Events - £27.00
 4. Methodist Church, Hall Hire re 3rd Age Classes - £148.00
 5. Mrs J Y Delaunay, 4 O’clock Club - £25.00
 6. T Mills re Gates and Fences - £1,794.51 + VAT

- IV. Receipts (£75.00)

1. Allotment deposit for shed - £75.00

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:10 pm

Dates of Future Meetings:

Parish Council – Wednesday 12th September 2018, 7:30pm, Parish Church School Room

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**