

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL 2021 AT 7:30pm
(MEETING HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM)

Members Present: Mrs Barbara Babb, Miss Rosie Beer, Mr George Heywood, Mr Jim Lowe, Mr Trevor Mills and Mr David Watson

Also in attendance: Cllr Phil Pennington (Torridge Council), Andrew Heywood (Robert Hicks & Co.), Lewis Clarke (North Devon Journal)

Parish Clerk: Mr P Blosse

KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type Decisions are shown in bold red type
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352. Apologies for Absence Cllr Barry Parsons (purdah), Andrew Hewitt, Richard Hooper

353. Declarations of Interest George Heywood re items 367 b (planning application, erection of 3 bungalows adjacent to Tenement Park, and 367 d (planning application, erection of 3 bungalows, land south west of Buckland Brewer)

354. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th March 2021: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2021 were agreed and will be signed by the Chair in due course.

355. Public Participation None

356. Andrew Heywood, Hicks & Co. – The Future Management of Thornhillhead Moor
Andrew said that the fencing was in better condition than he had thought. Some railings and wire needed replacing opposite the Coles entrance plus a few other odd pieces. The cost for fencing would be about £1,500. Extensive scrub and gorse clearance was needed as this had not been done for a few years, at a cost of about £5,000. The usual annual topping would cost about £800. The total cost of these works amounts to between £7,000 and £8,000. The Clerk reported that he had just received an invoice from Hicks & Co. for 3 years worth of management fees amounting to £3,500 and that the council would be liable for graziers rights in the current financial year of nearly £4,000. Jim Lowe asked if we were doing enough to meet the requirements of the agreement. Andrew believed that everything was being done that Natural England had asked for following their inspections. It was noted that Andrew had applied for an annual extension to the existing contract, which would roll on annually until such time as a new agreement could be applied for. This would continue to generate an income of £8,800 per year. George Heywood said that it was important to protect the SSSI area. Andrew assured members that this was being done. It was noted that, if there were no HLS agreement in the future, the Parish Council would not be obliged to continue to pay

graziers rights. Following some discussion and a review of the expected costs and income for the coming year, it was agreed in principle that £10,000 should be transferred from the Thornhillhead Moor account to the General Account, subject to receipt of a written report from the Parish Clerk. David Watson said that the Parish Council ought to do more to advertise the existence of the moor and the Parish Council's involvement. The Chair thanked Andrew Heywood for his advice.

Councillor Rosie Beer joined the meeting at this point.

357. Clerk's Report

- a. Correspondence There had been 78 items of correspondence forwarded by email since the last meeting. The Clerk highlighted the following items:
 - i. Devon Wildlife Trust: North Devon Natural Solutions Project - noted
- b. End of Remote Meetings Legislation The legislation permitting remote council meetings will expire on 6th May 2021 and will not be extended. Therefore, all future meetings must be held 'face-to-face'. Arrangements are in place to use the newly refurbished chapel, but it does not have a phone line or broadband. It is hoped that this will be ready by 12th May but, if not, the council will have to meet there without it as the church schoolroom is too small to permit social distancing. **It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for 12th May, which will be both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council's Annual Meeting, will proceed with or without a broadband service, and that, if the technology is available in time, alternative access via Zoom would be provided for members of the public.** The Clerk was given authority to purchase any equipment necessary, such as 360° microphone. David Watson suggested that the Parish Council should open a You Tube channel to broadcast the meeting and to stream it on Facebook Live. **Jim Lowe suggested that the Clerk should write to Geoffrey Cox, MP and George Heywood suggested also writing to the CEO of Openreach.**
- c. Review of Covid-19 Risk Assessment Members reviewed the Covid-19 Risk Assessment and agreed that it was sufficiently robust to meet the current guidelines. The Clerk will ensure that suitable hand gels, sprays and wipes are supplied, and that guidance will be provided for visitors. If necessary, the Chair will exercise the right to exclude members of the public if numbers exceed either government guidelines in place at the time or the capacity of the available space.
- d. Litter Picking and the Telephone Box An offer had been received from someone who wishes to remain anonymous to undertake the refurbishment of the phone box, to paint it yellow and to install a mini-library. As one or two people are already using the litter equipment (now held by Richard Hooper) and that few others are likely to use of the phone box as a litter picking station, **it was agreed that the offer should be accepted. The Clerk will make arrangements for the work to be carried out, including the re-siting of the defibrillator as previously agreed.** It was noted

that one person in particular, Tracy Cowling, was collecting many bags of litter and also arranging for fly-tipped rubbish to be reported and collected. Although not the only person doing this, her outstanding efforts had not gone unnoticed and was widely advertised on the community Facebook page. The Clerk was asked to offer her the Parish Council's thanks and to let her know that the Council will provide her, and anyone else who would like to help, any PPE, bags, litter pickers etc that they need.

358. Consultation – DCC (Traffic Regulations & On-Street Parking Places) Amendment Order (re limiting care worker permits to a maximum of 3 hours parking) Members noted that on-street parking in restricted areas for care workers will be limited to 3 hours in future.

359. Community Orchard – progress Report Trevor Mills reported that we had been too late to obtain a supply of trees for planting this spring. He will be able to order a supply in May, for planting in the early Autumn.

360. South Church Park

a. Footpath redirection Nothing to report

b. Gateway and drainage works Trevor reported that this was in hand. The fencing will be done in May, followed immediately by the gateway and drainage works. It was agreed that there was sufficient remaining in the budget for these works to provide a new gate for Higher Turnaway.

361. Climate Emergency Network, Meeting 7th April 2021 The Clerk had attended this meeting. There had been about 70 participants, mostly from town and parish councils. It had been a useful exercise in establishing a network that could share experiences and prevent duplication work and research. A useful online tool was demonstrated that showed each parishes 'carbon footprint'. It showed that about 60% of all our emissions are related to agriculture, more than all other sources including housing and transport. Therefore, if the parish is to make any progress in reducing carbon emissions it will need to do so with the help and support of the farming community. Perhaps surprisingly, Buckland Brewers total carbon emissions are 150% of the average for Torridge and over three times higher than the national average. A second meeting will be held in June 2021.

362. Marking of car parking spaces on the village green Richard Hooper had provided a detailed layout of what was provided but this had not yet been provided to Devon Highways. The resident living in the house on the village green had objected to the suggestion to paint white lines as they felt it was unnecessary urbanisation of the village for little gain. It had been suggested that painting just the corners of the spaces or using green paint would look less conspicuous. **It was agreed to proceed with the work as originally planned.**

363. Thornhillhead Mast: Proposed Communications Installation for Cellnex
Nothing further to report.

364. School Field Rental Agreement and Proposed Licence to Gain Access The Parish Council's solicitor had again requested a map showing the access points to accompany the licence. This had been referred to the Village Hall Trustees and Jo Miles (Village Hall Secretary) was in touch with the solicitor. We had also received a comprehensive list of pre-contract enquiries which the Clerk would need assistance in responding to. **He, the Chair and Vice-Chair would meet to complete the document.**

365. Feedback from DALC Monthly Meeting – David Watson David had provided a copy of the minutes of last DALC meeting and an extract from a report on Land Management. It was being proposed that all new planning applications should give regard to the responsibility for common spaces, looking at the use of s106 agreements and ensuring that everyone involved knew who would be responsible for future maintenance. Policy documents for this and economic issues were being prepared. There had also been discussion about local work hubs and David suggested that the Parish Council should start considering the proposed development of small industrial units at Blackhorse Fields. Jim Lowe said that nothing had happened about this sort of project since the Covid lockdowns but the return to face to face meetings might enable the council to get back to them. Lastly, David said that the committee had discussed ways to encourage people to become parish councillors.

366. Members Reports:

Cllr. Phil Pennington (Torridge Council) Torridge Council was concentrating on getting their sports facilities opened again. Torridge Pool is due to open on Monday 19th April and the gym is already open. This is the last 12 months of the 1610 contract so the process of appointing the next contractor is under way. Phil mentioned the upcoming County elections and that Barry Parsons is not standing again for the Holsworthy Division. He remarked that the Monkleigh and Putford ward that he represents deals with 4 different county representatives. He suggested that Devon might adopt a unitary authority structure at some time in the future. David Watson asked about the proposed creation of a joint housing partnership with North Devon Council. Phil said that this was still a possibility and discussions were under way to create a ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account. Phil said that, since the Covid-19 lockdowns, there had been an 8% increase in house prices but that wages had stood still. The stamp market 'holiday' had helped to fuel the market. The result was that it was even more difficult for young, local people to get on to the housing ladder.

Barbara Babb again asked about the flooding issue outside the community shop. **The Clerk said that, as we were now in a new financial year, the Highways Manager might be able to find some budget for the work.**

George Heywood said that, in his role as Snow Warden, he needed to have a decent line of communication with Devon Highways. **The Clerk will investigate this.** George also reported that the tree stump at Bowden Cross is now in a dangerous condition and ought to be removed. **The Clerk will contact the Church Commissioners agents.** George reported that the road conditions were still poor in various places and asked for future field tenancy agreements to make it clear when hedge cutting is permitted.

Trevor Mills reported rubbish dumped in Glen Road and at Orleigh Farm which had been reported to Torridge Council and was being dealt with. Phil Pennington said that some fines had been issued in such cases and advised reporting any fly-tipping to Janet Williams at Torridge Council.

Jim Lowe left the meeting at this point to attend another meeting.

Frits Takken reported that someone representing Airband had been surveying near his property as they had plans to install the next generation of fibre broadband. He also said that he often spotted people inspecting the communication mast. The Clerk asked him to continue to keep an eye on the mast and especially to report any additional equipment being fitted.

David Watson said that there would soon be an influx of visitors to the south-west and that many people were moving into the area from more urban places. **He suggested that the Country Code should be advertised on the website and in Village Scene. Trevor said that the NFU might have suitable posters.**

George Heywood left the meeting at this point.

367. Planning

- a. Application: 1/0338/2021/FUL: Thorne Farm, Proposed garden pavilion and kitchen (Proposed Dome Tent accommodation with self-contained kitchen facilities (Amended Description)) – **Supported unanimously**
- b. Application: 1/0353/2021/FUL: Land Adjacent To Tenement Park, Erection of 3 bungalows David Watson said that this development was outside the designated settlement area and he was also disappointed that it was too small to include any social housing. Trevor Mills felt that the parish did not need more large, expensive bungalows. He also noted that the positioning left a space that would become a natural infill site that, at a future date, might be approved with little or no consultation. Rosie Beer pointed out that, although larger houses were not affordable for younger, local people, the movement of the housing market usually released smaller, cheaper houses that were more affordable. Phil Pennington explained an example of a similar development of 5 properties in Bradworthy that had been turned down and was going to appeal. He suggested that he might call-in this application as he saw it as a key one, but that, at this stage, he did not know whether he would be supporting it or not. **It was proposed by David Watson and seconded by Trevor Mills that the parish council should object to the application on the grounds that it was i) outside the settlement area, ii) a responsibility to contribute towards social housing was being avoided and iii) the style of houses proposed was not compatible with the expectation of the Buckland Brewer Settlement Plan. The proposal was carried by 3 votes to 2.**
- c. Application: 1/0377/2021/FUL, East Hele, Proposed roof over existing silage stores – **Supported unanimously**

- d. Decision: 1/0074/2021/FUL, Land South West of Buckland Brewer, Erection of no.3 Bungalows (Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 1/0286/2020/FUL) - Plot 2 only – Granted permission
- e. Decision: 1/0096/2021/FUL, East Hele, Proposed roof over existing silage stores – Granted permission
- f. Decision: 1/1060/2021/FUL, 12 Hillpark, Retrospective approval for the erection of a conservatory to the rear of a dwelling – Granted permission
- g. Application: 1/1065/2020/FUL (Amendment), Land at Cleave, Erection of two timber cabins for holiday accommodation as part of a farm diversification scheme (Affecting a Public Right of Way) – **Supported unanimously**

368. Accounts:

- a. Receipts and Payments to date 2020/21
 - i) Cash book balances as at 31st March 2021 (£64,857.72):
 - (1) Parish Council Current Account was £9,559.83
 - (2) Thornhillhead Moor Account was £7,992.55
 - (3) Savings Account was £47,305.34
 - ii) Fund balances as at 31st March 2021 (£64,857.72):
 - (1) General Account - £28,865.17
 - (2) Thornhill Head Account - £35,992.55
 - iii) Payments due (£8,169.73 + VAT)
 - (1) P G Blosse, February salary - £720.80 (including £96.00 PAYE and £216.00 for post redirection)
 - (2) E.on, Electricity - £15.39 + VAT
 - (3) J Lowe, Padlock and chain - £5.00 + VAT
 - (4) J Lowe, printer cartridge - £24.54 + VAT
 - (5) Refund of allotment deposit- £100.00
 - (6) Torridge Volunteer Cars, Covid-19 Transport Scheme - £21.90
 - (7) MAT Electrics, Night Landing Light Service - £89.95 + VAT
 - (8) Graziers Rights - £3,692.15
 - (9) Hicks & Co., Thornhillhead Moor Management Fee - £3,500.00 + VAT

The payment schedule was proposed by Barbara Babb seconded by Trevor Mills and approved unanimously.

iv) Receipts (£411.50)

- (1) Field rents - £181.50
 - (2) Allotment rent - £230.00
- b. Online Banking Following a discussion of the pros and cons of online banking it was **agreed unanimously that it would be easier for both the Clerk and councillors to adopt online banking for future transactions.** Rosie Beer offered to be one of the two regular online signatories. **The Clerk will complete the application.**

- c. Bank mandate All but David Watson had supplied the necessary mandate information and supplied their documentation to Barclays Bank. **The Clerk will email the details to David Watson again.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:55pm

Dates of Future Meetings:

Fields and Allotments Sub-Committee, Thursday 22nd April 2021 (Remotely-via Zoom, 7:30pm)

Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 12th May 2021 (Buckland Brewer Methodist Chapel, 7:00pm)

Parish Council, Wednesday 12th May 2021 (Buckland Brewer Methodist Chapel, 7:30pm, or immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**