

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2017 AT 7:30 AT
BUCKLAND BREWER SCHOOL**

Members Present: Mrs Barbara Babb, Mrs Marie Douglas, Mr Andrew Hewitt, Mr George Heywood, Mrs Elisa Hurley, Mr Trevor Mills, Mrs Rosemary Sanders, and Mr David Watson.

Also in attendance PCSO John McGovern

Parish Clerk: Patrick Blossie

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

In the absence of Cllr. Jim Lowe, the Vice-Chair, Trevor Mills chaired the meeting

484. Apologies for Absence: Jim Lowe, Cllr. Barry Parsons (DCC) and Cllr Alison Boyle

485. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th May 2017: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2017 were agreed and signed.

486. Declarations of Interest None

487. Public Participation: PCSO John McGovern gave a report. There had been only 1 crime since his last visit, involving an attack on a calf by a loose dog. The calf had died and the dog had been shot at the scene. It had not been micro-chipped and work is ongoing to try to identify the owner. He also reported that a number of speed checks had taken place in the village in recent months. The overall average speed recorded was about 22 mph but this included a few higher recordings, including one of 34 mph. That particular driver was a local resident and had been spoken to. **John will prepare an article for Village Scene.** Barbara Babb asked whether anything could be done about the Post Office that was continuing to park on the village green at a point where the road narrows. John explained that there were no parking restrictions at that point and that it would be difficult to prove obstruction. **He advised writing to the main Post Office to escalate the complaint.**

488. Clerk's Report:

- a. **Correspondence:** The Clerk had distributed 35 items of correspondence since the last meeting. He highlighted i) an invitation to enter the Devon 'Our Outdoors' Competition. Members confirmed an earlier decision not to enter. ii) an invitation to the Armed Forces Flag Raising Event on 19th June. iii) A County Councillor Update sent by Cllr Barry Parson, and also from Cllr Parsons iv) a DCC Highways webpage link. Iv) Notification from TDC about this year's TAP Fund. It is now possible for individual parishes to apply for funds for some minor highways works. This year's grant is worth £749 to Buckland Brewer and members were asked to consider a suitable project.

489. Fields and Allotments

- a. **Works to Sports & Amenity and School Fields:** Trevor reported that they were still trying to kill off the weeds and that the problem of the number of stones on the amenity field was

worse than previously thought. This work will probably be completed in August/September, after which both fields will be reseeded.

- b. **School Field Rental Agreement:** The Clerk had chased up the consultants working on this document. They are awaiting feedback from Devon County Council. It was agreed that it was not necessary to finalise the transfer until after the field had been fenced.
- c. **Lease for South Church Park:** The Clerk has asked Bob Hicks for an update. Andrew Hewitt reported that Bob had forgotten about the lease but that he was now progressing it and that it should be completed fairly soon. **It was agreed that the lease should include a clause stating the Parish Council's intention to divert the footpath at sometime in the future.**
- d. **Allotments:**
 - i. **New Gate:** The hedge form had been emailed to Andrew Hewitt to complete the details. Andrew showed photographs of where he proposes to place the gate, which will lead off from the playing field, a few feet beyond the gap leading into the car park.

490. North Devon Link Road: Public Consultation: The Clerk supplied copies of the consultation document for members to consider prior to the next meeting.

491. Members' Reports

Cllr. Barry Parsons: had supplied a written report which will be attached at Appendix 1.

Barbara Babb had been approached by two allotment holders complaining that the path is getting very narrow where the allotments are encroaching. It was agreed that this would be picked up in the allotment inspection on 9th September 2017.

Marie Douglas reported incidents of children playing on the village hall car park, trying to get under the fencing and riding on small motorbikes on the pavement. Andrew Hewitt will ask PCSO John McGivern to include something in his Village Scene article.

Andrew Hewitt talked about the number of people he sees driving through the village using their mobile phones.

George Heywood asked whether the Village Shop had yet submitted a set of accounts. David Watson will pass on the Parish Council's concerns to the shop committee.

Elisa Hurley reported on a Transform Ageing Workshop that she had attended. It is a research project looking into how communities would like to see services for older people delivered in the future. Initially, it appears that there will be greater reliance on social enterprise and technology. Sadly, there seems to be less emphasis on care or empathy and a lack of understanding about older people's needs or technical skills. More services are expected to be privatised. Elisa will be attending a Bideford Living and Ageing Event on 6th July.

492. Planning:

- a. **Consideration of potential housing sites (SHLAA sites) to deliver accommodation for travellers:** No sites were identified
- b. **Horras Farm: Pre planning application enquiry** Kerryanne Foreman had submitted details of a potential application for a change of use from agricultural to equine at Horras Farm. As this was not yet an application that the Council had been consulted on, it felt able to give only general advice. However, it was felt that there were no issues apparent from Kerryanne's submission that would could any concern. Matters that the applicant might want to consider are the proximity of other residential properties and any potential smells from the proposed dung heap.

493. Accounts

i. Receipts and Payments

- a. Bank balances as at 31st May 2017 (£38,326.06):
 - i. Parish Council Current Account was £7,425.36
 - ii. Thornhillhead Moor Account was £2,805.04
 - iii. Savings Account was £28,095.66
- b. Fund balances as at 31st May 2017 (£38,326.06):
 - i. General Account - £21,521.02
 - ii. Thornhill Head Account - £16,805.04
- c. Payments due (£1,780.02 + VAT)

The following list of payments was approved:

 - i. Parish Clerk's salary, expenses and associated PAYE (May 2017): £376.27, including PAYE - £68.40
 - ii. Trevor Mills, Grass Seed - £647.50
 - iii. Tom's Woodland Care, Spraying fields - £232.50
 - iv. Clystnet Ltd, Website Development - £385.00 + VAT
 - v. M Fry, Village Green Maintenance - £54.00
 - vi. E.on, Electricity, Landing Site - £6.75 + VAT
 - vii. SLCC, Annual subscription - £78.00
- d. Receipts (£2,896.93)
 - i. VAT Reimbursement - £2,705.93
 - ii. Openreach, Wayleaves - £191.00

Members approved a transfer of £292.00 from the Thornhillhead Moor account to the General account in respect of the VAT reimbursement.

- ii. A direct debit mandate for the regular monthly E.on electricity payment was signed.
- iii. It was agreed that the older benches on the village green should be replaced with two new benches in the same style as the one recently purchased. Andrew Hewitt will measure up to ensure that two 6' benches will fit in.

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

Date of Next Meeting:

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

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**

Holsworthy Rural Parish & Town Notes: June 2017

From Councillor Barry Parson

I am delighted to be returned as your County Councillor for Holsworthy Rural for the 3rd consecutive period and thank everyone for the enormous support given to me not only in this election but during my entire tenure. I feel hugely privileged and honoured to represent you again and will continue to do my utmost in representing our Ward to the best of my ability. Council Leader, John Hart, has invited me to continue in my role as Cabinet Member with a remit now comprising, “Organisational Development and Digital Transformation” for the County Council.

Holsworthy Rural, as a consequence of the Boundary Changes for Devon now has more parishes (30 in total) than any other ward in the County; indeed, more people, and the greatest geographical coverage. Many have already respected that it is going to be even more difficult to get around the patch but I will, certainly, do my best to see you as often as I can and look forward to us continuing to work together for the benefit of our communities. I’d like, too, to say a very special welcome to the new parishes of Holsworthy Rural with whom I have already met and look forward to working alongside.

The Conservatives won **42 of the 60 seats** on the new authority with **Labour and the Liberal Democrats winning 7 seats apiece**, and **3 Independents** and a **Green** being elected. There was an overall turnout of **40.2 per cent** of the 601,797 eligible voters. The biggest majority in the County was that of Holsworthy Rural!

John Hart said: “I am very humbled that the people of Devon have placed their trust in us ...We’ve had to make some **tough decisions over the past eight years** and I believe we will have more tough decisions to make in the future. But I am **confident we have made Devon County Council a more efficient, effective and business-like organisation and we can now move from austerity to opportunity.**”

Furthermore, “We must **work more closely together** with our partners – **particularly in health** – to provide better social care for our elderly and vulnerable ... and we will continue to **tell the Government when they’ve got it wrong** and when we believe that **Devon is not getting its fair share** of the national cake in key areas like schools and infrastructure.”

As we move forward I wanted to share a few specific details with you in regard to current matters related to Devon County Council and in the light of some significant challenges faced since 2009. They read:

- Annual turnover £1.284 billion; net Revenue budget £489m and Council Tax Requirement £358m.
- Dedicated School Grant £477.365m.
- Adult Health and Care £216.493m.
- Children’s Services £118,131m.
- Communities, Public Health. Environment and Prosperity £35,203m.
- Corporate Services £33,352m.
- Highways, Infrastructure, Development and Waste £56.406m.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy requires for 17/18 to 20/21 **a reduction of £87m on top of £244m taken out of budget to date.**
- Organisation downsized staff from 8284 to 4378 less 47%
- Salaries down from £157.8m to £108.216m.

The above figures show a high correlation between our ‘Tough Choices’ consultations over recent years which is where our communities emphasized very clearly the priorities held.

There is a new Head of Highways at Devon County Council, Meg Booth. There is, too, a new Highways Contractor now in place – Skanska – which commenced operations at the start of April 2017. I have already sat down with Meg Booth stating my priorities for this area of service, and ensured that Meg is fully aware of the difficulties faced in being one of the most rural and remote wards in the County. I also have a meeting with Skanska senior officers on 20 June 2017, along with other County Councillors for Torrington.

Many are fully acquainted with my views regarding recent actions and issues within the Health Service, and, in particular those related to Holsworthy Hospital. Please be assured, this matter continues to have the highest of priority for me and those working alongside.