

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST 2016 AT 7:30 AT
BUCKLAND BREWER SCHOOL**

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

Also in attendance 4 members of the public, Cllr. Robin Julian and Cllr. Alison Boyle

Parish Clerk: Patrick Blossie

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

314. **Apologies for Absence** George Heywood and Rosie Beer

315. **Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 13th July 2016:** The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2016 were confirmed and signed.

316. **Declarations of Interest** None

317. **Public Participation** Enid Booth presented the Parish Council with a donation of £740.00 towards the Air Ambulance Fund, which had been raised from donations by 10 parishioners. Some donors had asked to remain anonymous and Enid asked for their details to be kept known only to herself and the Parish Clerk. The Clerk undertook to keep Enid informed of any other monies that were added to the fund. The Council thanked Enid for taking on the role of coordinating the Air Ambulance Fund on behalf of the parish.

318. **Clerk's Report:**

- a. **Correspondence:** The Clerk had distributed 43 items of correspondence by email since the last meeting. He highlighted i) information from Torridge Council about the Community Grant Scheme and the Active Villages projects, ii) a letter from Buckland Brewer School about the allocation of parking places in the new village hall car park, which the Clerk had advised should be dealt with by the Village Hall Committee, iii) a public meeting about NHS cuts at Great Torrington Bowling Club on 20th August, iv) information from Torridge Council about contact details and dispensation rules, v) the Plans Committee Code of Conduct, and vi) details of the Devon Minerals Plan consultation.
- b. **Website Development:** The Clerk had also distributed an outline of the heads of agreement for a new website developer and asked **members to consider these and let him have any comments by the end of August.**
- c. **Refuse at Hillpark:** Members asked whether any progress had been made on this issue. It was believed that the road had now been adopted by the County Council. **The Clerk was asked to contact Richard Haste at Torridge Council again.**

319. **Community Hall Update:** Stephen Harding said that the site had been cleared ready for work to start. The Planning Department had now issued a Deed of Variation to the s106 agreement but it was unclear precisely what it was for or what it would achieve. It was agreed that Stephen Harding, Pat Blossie and Jim Lowe would meet with the Planners as soon as possible to clarify the issue. Stephen also

explained that spoil and topsoil from the site would be used to level the amenity field and leave it ready for reseeding prior to use as a recreation field. It was hoped that the new community hall would be completed by May 2017. A suitable ceremony will be arranged. Trevor Mills said that the fence across the school field had been taken down and the field had been sprayed. That field will now be left until the site work has been completed, when it will be reseeded. The amenity field will be sprayed shortly.

320. Air Ambulance Night Time Flying Fund: In addition to the £740.00 presented by Enid Booth, a further donation of £100 had been received and a grant of £425 had been approved by Councillor Julian from Devon County funds. Including the £1,000 offered by the Parish Council, the confirmed contributions now amounted to £2,625. An application for £1,000 had been submitted to the Bridge Fund. The Clerk had also submitted an application for a grant from the Community Grants Scheme which needed to be approved by the District Councillor. However, Councillor Hicks had said that he had already allocated funds to the new village hall and said that he would need more information about the scheme. The Clerk had advised him to attend the next public meeting. Jim Lowe expressed his disappointment that Cllr Hicks was unsupportive. Trevor Mills said that he would talk to the councillor about it. Jim Lowe said that there would be another public meeting on 15th August when it was hoped further funds would be raised, and a Cream Tea has been organised for 29th August

321. Village Green Maintenance: The Clerk had accepted a quotation from MF Garden Services at a cost of £189 per year (£13.50 per cut). This includes strimming and applying weedkiller on the paths and around the war memorial. He has offered to start work on the green on Saturday 13th August. Stephen Harding said that the Gardening Club had sown some seeds and the Council offered their thanks to him and the other members of the club.

322. Fields and Allotments:

- a. **Blackhorse Fields Tenancy** There had been no contact from Bob Hicks yet.
- b. **Fencing of Blackhorse Fields** Trevor Mills said that the fence posts had arrived this work and that he and Andrew Hewitt will be doing the work in their spare time.
- c. **Works to Amenity Field** The Clerk had been contacted by a local farmer who was interested in making an offer for the grass from the field if it were available. This had already been cut once and was due to be sprayed shortly.
- d. **Vacant Allotments** A tenant had asked to take on a second plot. There are currently three vacant but the terms and conditions state that only one plot should be let to each resident at any one time. It was agreed that, since there is no-one else currently wanting any of the plots, it should be let but that the terms and conditions should be amended to give the Council the right to terminate the lease if another resident, who does not already have a plot, would like it. It was agreed that such a restriction must allow the tenant to get the benefit of any crops from the current growing season. **The Clerk will draft a suitable clause which he will distribute by email for members' comments.**
- e. **Brian Chappel's Field:** David Watson asked what was happening about this field. The Clerk explained that Brian's tenancy would cease in September 2016. He will be required to reseed the area where he had hay bales stacked, otherwise no action is necessary until his tenancy has ended.

323. Thornhillhead Moor Mast: There had been no feedback from Bob Hicks yet. Trevor Mills will contact him for a progress report.

324. Members' Reports

Andrew Hewitt talked about the work of the Community Safety Partnership within the Torridge Area.

Jim Lowe i) asked whether there had been any feedback from other Councils about contributing TAP Fund or any other monies to the Air Ambulance Fund. The Clerk explained that most of the Councils had not met to

discuss it yet. He should have more feedback by the next meeting. ii) Jim also explained that his list of contacts was now completed and ready to be published.

Trevor Mills said that the Village Hall Committee had asked when their annual grant would be paid. It was agreed that the Village Hall should submit its annual accounts, as other groups are asked to do and that the grant could then be paid at the next meeting. Other grant applications will be considered at the October meeting. He will ensure that an advert is included in Village Scene and the Clerk will publicize it on the website and email the regular grant claimants.

Shirley Tilley i) said that a road closure had been requested for 3rd December 2016 between 8:00am and 5:00pm for the Christmas Market. ii) The Post Office van had been issued with a new internet cable which seemed to be working and payments were now being processed more quickly. Iii) Shirley also said that a Cream Tea was being held to raise funds for the new Community Hall on 21st August between 4:00 and 6:00pm.

Alison Boyle i) said that a new Advisory Board was being established for the Bideford Area (like those for Torrington and Holsworthy). It would meet twice a year with at least one meeting concentrating on rural issues. ii) She said that Parkham Parish Council might be interested in contributing to the Air Ambulance Fund. Iii) Alison explained more about the Community Safety Partnership that was being driven by Citizens Advice. She said that a large number of people suffer stress and anxiety and this group will offer support in these areas.

Robin Julian i) said that North Devon District Hospital is a special case and that he was actively supporting the campaign to retain the hospital and its services. There will be a public meeting on 20th August at Torrington Hospital. ii) e also talked about the devolution plans, which appeared to be stumbling at the moment over the issue of whether there should be a mayor. There was a discussion about the merits of unitary authorities, which had been attempted in Exeter without success. Iii) The new Police Crime Commissioner is trying to work with local communities and is employing more special constables and PCSOs. She is also looking ways to work co-operatively with the Devon and Somerset Fire Service and is promoting improved first aid training for PCs so that they can deal with more call-outs. Iv) Robin confirmed that the DCC grant towards the Air Ambulance Fund had been approved. V) Robin reported that he had received no feedback from DCC Highways as yet about the PO van marking. Vi) Cllr Julian was asked if he'd had any news about the bus service. He was still chasing this issue.

325. **Planning**

- a. Application: 1/0110/2016/FUL – The Stable, Little Tythecott, Submerged double garage with home office and workshop and store above **Members opposed the application as it seemed that the applicant had not addressed any of the issues raised previously about the access, neighbour's wall and soakaway.**
- b. Application: 1/0706/2016/FUL – 6 Castle Meadow, Erection of single storey garden room, to be built on the rear (south elevation) Members noted that the drawings accompanying this application were very poor making it difficult to judge the impact of the scheme. They **supported the application subject to the Planning Department being satisfied that it did not affect neighbours' privacy.**
- c. Application: 1/0730/2016/FUL – Canna Park, Part demolition of store and erection of two storey extension **It was proposed by Jim Lowe, seconded by Barbara Babb and agreed unanimously to support the application.**

326. Accounts:

a. Receipts and Payments

i) Bank balances as at 29th July 2016:

- Parish Council Current Account was £10,409.20
- Thornhillhead Moor Account was £12,137.25
- Savings Account was £18,004.37

ii) Payments due (£359.77 +VAT)

- Parish Clerk's salary, expenses and associated PAYE (July 2016): £296.02, including £58.40 PAYE
- D & I Bridgeman & Son, fencing materials - £63.75 + VAT

- b. Financial Regulations:** As the member responsible for finance issues, Marie Douglas had been asked by the Clerk to look at a model version of Financial Regulations and to make any amendments she thought appropriate to Buckland Brewer Parish Council. Marie will report back on this issue later in the year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:35 pm.

Date of Next Meeting:

Parish Council: Thursday 25th August 2016 (Buckland Brewer School, 7:30pm) – Planning Items only

Parish Council: Wednesday 14th September 2016 (Buckland Brewer School, 7:30pm)

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**