

## BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 by video conference

### **Those Present**

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)  
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)  
Dave Bowen (DB)  
Chris Jacob (CJ)  
Cllr Susie Bond - East Devon District Council (SB)  
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were no members of the public present.

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr. Phil Twiss (DCC); Ron Galling; Penny Mear

### **2. Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting Held Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

### **3. Matters arising (not on agenda)**

#### a) Charitable Payments made in June

Payments had been made to Freewheelers, Buckerell Church, Hospiscare, and to Buckerell Bugle. Thanks had been received from all the beneficiaries.

#### b) Request for funding from TRIP

TRIP had submitted a request for funding

This request was considered by Council and it was **AGREED** that no **IT** financial help could be offered to TRIP at this time. The Clerk will write and let them know.

### **4. Declarations of interest**

Clare mentioned that she had submitted invoices in respect of the flowers around the War Memorial.

## **5. BOA Update**

David reported no change since the last meeting in May. Should there be a second wave of the virus David felt confident that BOA is in a position to help, but would contact the Parish Council if anything happens.

## **6. Police Report**

The report from Darren England which had been circulated prior to the meeting was noted by Council.

## **7. Public Questions**

Penny Mear had asked if a Council representative would take a look at the poor state of the bank along the road forming the cutting down towards Avenhayes. Geoff Wright indicated that he would follow this up.

**GW**

## **8. Finance and Governance**

Balance at bank £7162.41 at 10th July 2020.£

a) Payments approved by unanimous vote -

Clare Slater – Flowers around War Memorial	£88.88	
Parish Clerk – Pay for quarter ended June 2020	£170	
Paint kit for telephone box (Library)	£155 approx	<b>IT</b>
16 hours labour to paint telephone box	£288 approx	
Ian Tucker – June payment for Zoom	£14.39	

There was discussion about whether or not the library in the telephone box was used. It was agreed that it is used. The discussion then went on to look at the cost of the paint and labour which were felt initially to be on the high side. It was **AGREED** that if we want the job done properly we must be prepared to pay for it. The telephone box is an asset of the Council and a village landmark. Keeping it in good order will hopefully promote keeping the area around it in good order as well.

It was **AGREED** that the Zoom subscription is no longer required, and that Council could make use of the free version if necessary in future. The Clerk will action this.

**IT**

## **9. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report**

Please find below my latest Division report which I hope you find useful. DCC is a massive Organisation and I try to give you a flavour of what the Council does, but if there is anything that I don't cover in these regular updates that you would like information about, please contact me between meetings and I will do my best to help you or your constituents.

You will notice that there is no section on the R, D & E this time which I'm glad to say as of today has no patients in the hospital being treated for COVID-19 and long may it be that way, whilst cautioning that there remains absolutely no room for complacency with precautions that are now almost routine in our day to day lives!

### **Schools**

DCC are not anticipating any further information from the government in relation to schools opening prior to September now. All our state funded schools are expecting virtually all pupils to return full time in September. The things to note are.

- The first day of term is not likely to be same for pupils in the school. This is so that schools can invite one year group at a time back to allow them to get used to the new arrangements for arrival, their groups/bubbles and timetable before the next year group arrive. All pupils are anticipated to back in all school by the end of the first 2 weeks.
- In order to make this as safe as possible every school has completed a risk assessment. For maintained schools this is a template which has been approved by DCC public health, legal/insurance, Health and safety and HR teams. It has been shared with Unions and their suggestions reflected in it. The template was also available for academies.
- There may be some pupils who have been shielding and where there is anxiety from the parents/pupils or school about their return. In these cases an individual risk assessment will be undertaken and medical sought if needed.
- In terms of the government statement about fines DCC will look to support rather than prosecute in the first instance. We are expecting more guidance around behaviour and attendance to follow.

The transport team are working hard to put in place all the usual transport arrangements, this is on the basis that we have been told social distancing will not be required on school transport (as the same children each day)

DCC are expecting guidance from the Department for Education shortly setting out exactly how this will work. Based on current guidance from the Department for Transport social distancing will remain on public transport and the transport team are currently looking into the request from

Government to provide additional contracted vehicles so that children who normally travel by public transport (either entitled to DCC transport or not) can also be assured of a place on a vehicle. The team are currently talking to schools and colleges and transport providers to see what is possible.

### **Economic recovery – COVID 19**

The Coronavirus pandemic has clearly had a massive effective right across our Society in many areas, not least the Economy. The attached Recovery Prospectus prepared by DCC sets out what the Council will do in the next two years in supporting our communities and economic activities that will improve our local economy which has suffered badly during recent months, not least Tourism, Retail, Construction and Agriculture.

### **Health & Social care**

#### **Testing**

- The government has announced that there will be a roll out of weekly testing of staff and testing of residents every 28 days in all of our many care homes without outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus. This includes bank, agency and visiting staff, such a social workers and Allied Health Professionals working in care homes. Care homes for the over 65s and for those with dementia will be prioritised and they can request retesting from DCC via a [digital portal](#) and we are working with all care homes across Devon to support this national programme

#### **Exeter NHS Nightingale**

- The Exeter Nightingale Hospital is now an officially functioning hospital. While it remains the case that the Nightingale Exeter isn't needed for COVID patients, the CT scanner will be used to help local GPs and hospitals provide people with safer and faster access to tests for a range of conditions, not just cancer. The hospital beds are specifically designed for people with COVID needs, and throughout this time the facility will remain ready to quickly revert to our primary purpose and receive patients with COVID, if the number of cases in the region rises significantly.

#### **Respite and Day services update**

- As the position across the country and in Devon improves, DCC has begun implementing plans to re-provide respite and day services for individuals and their carers. Our two respite centres with the required safe social distancing space will be ready to open for planned respite from 17 July at Greenfields, Barnstaple and Pine Park, Honiton. All risk assessments and infection control measures are in place, and staff are fully trained. COVID testing will be in place for service users and staff. In House day services will not be provided from buildings at the moment so discussions are underway with service users to agree how they would like to be supported in different ways. This may be on a 1:1 basis, supporting someone at home, enabling virtual day

activities or enabling people to link with a volunteer for example.

#### Continuing provider support

- DCC has made a significant financial investment in to our care provider markets, including the aspiration that providers pass on the investment to ensure their staff are paid at least £10 per hour. Many providers have already put that change into effect, but our market of home care providers is very diverse, and different providers will use the additional resources that we are making available to offer their workforce an improved package of terms and conditions in other ways. DCC continues to work closely with each provider to achieve the best outcome for care workers, and the people they support, delivering the best care we can for vulnerable people.

#### **Travelling on Public Transport**

DCC has received numerous questions about the wearing of face masks on public transport and who might be exempt, bearing in mind that the guidance for exemptions is quite non-specific

*Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings.*

As far as we can tell the government have made no announcement on how people can identify the fact that they are exempt from wearing a covering.

Some of the bigger transport companies made downloadable exemption cards for people to use. These are not official nor are they compulsory. (Whether an unofficial system like this might also be adopted by shops is unclear at the moment).

Hertfordshire Council have a downloadable card on their website, which is very helpful. The view with carrying one of these cards, or some form of proof, is that it could help to avoid conflict or embarrassment if confronted over the lack of face covering.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/face-covering-exemption.aspx>

The charity “hidden disabilities”, see <https://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/> had also created an exemption card that people can order for 55p.

In short, there are various options out there but most could be taken up and used by anybody. The best advice at present would seem to be carry some form of evidence that you have a medical condition or other reason to be exempt and it is unlikely (you would hope) to be robustly challenged without good reason.

## **10. Councillor Susie Bond – Report**

The site options for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan have now been made public and have been widely reported in the press and on social media.

The document is available here: <https://www.gesp.org.uk/consultation-phases/stage-two-policy-and-options/>. There are two sites of interest to Buckerell on the Draft Policy and Options Document: one at Feniton (page 180) and one east of Honiton (page 182).

Feniton is likely to have smaller scale development which would come through the Local Plan rather than GESP, which allocates land for 500 houses or more. The land east of Honiton is more likely to be an allocation under GESP. However, much will depend on the consultation exercise which is expected to be carried out in September, if it is agreed by Strategic Planning Committee on 23 July.

Otherwise, the Council is still embroiled in managing the Covid crisis and it will obviously take some time to get back to normal. Meetings will be held via Zoom for some considerable time.

Dave Bowen pointed out that the house building proposed in the Plan would be of little value without jobs to go with the housing.

## **11.Planning**

- a) Update on enforcement action at Curscombe Lane (20/F0230)

Clare reported that the abandoned coaches had now been removed.

- b) Update on enforcement action at boundary with Weston (20/F0236)

A barn or stable had been erected in a field along the drive up to the Country House, apparently without planning permission. EDDC planning had notified the Clerk that this was a matter requiring further investigation, and that they would let the Council know the outcome in due course.

- c) The consultation taking place on the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan was duly noted. (See [www.gesp.org.uk](http://www.gesp.org.uk)).

## **12. Roads Report**

- a) The feedback from the meeting with Mike Brown from DCC Highways was that not a lot had been achieved by the meeting. In particular the superfluous ICE sign has not yet been removed, nor has the drain at the crossroads in the centre of the village been cleared. There was a general feeling that there is a lack of action on these matters. It was **AGREED** to request a meeting with Phil Twiss to progress matters. It was also **AGREED** IT

to make a report on the DCC Highway problems website.

### **13. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains**

- a) DCC had been chased about making repairs to the footbridge over the River Otter leading to the showground (FP 15). Their response had been that the bridge had been inspected and parts ordered. These were ready but there was some doubt about the structural integrity of the bridge. If DCC deemed it to be unsafe then it would need to be closed. Further information is awaited.

### **14. Village Maintenance**

a) David Wayne was presented with a gift to mark his work as the village handyman. Councillors expressed their sincere thanks for his hard work.

b) There was a discussion about the offer by Steve Triner to take over the role. Ian agreed to share with councillors the tasks to be included in the 19 hours work per annum. It was initially felt that his proposed hourly rate was quite high, but having recognised that he would be using his own equipment, and providing his own insurance cover, it was unanimously **AGREED** that he should take on the role. This was **PROPOSED** by Dave and **SECONDED** by Geoff.

IT

### **15. Matters for next meeting**

- a) Surface around War Memorial

### **16. Dates of Future Meetings**

Agreed dates for future meetings as follows:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Doug's Shed – 7pm)