

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th May 2021

A remote meeting using video-conferencing

Those Present

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)
Helen Howard (HH)
Sandra Money (SM)
Kindy Mann (KM)
Cllr Susie Bond - East Devon District Council (SB)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Phil Twiss and from one member of the public – Penny Mear.

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 17th March 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th March 2021 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting. Helen asked that her surname be shown as Howard.

3. Co-option of Councillor

Clare **PROPOSED** that Kindy Mann be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. **IT**
This was **SECONDED** by Sandra and **APPROVED** unanimously. The Register of Interests form had been completed and will be forwarded to East Devon Democratic Services.

4. Election of officers

- a) Helen **PROPOSED** that Clare remain in post as Chair for another term. This was **SECONDED** by Sandra and **APPROVED** unanimously.
- b) Clare **PROPOSED** that Geoff remain in post as vice-chair for another term. This was **SECONDED** by Helen and **APPROVED** unanimously.

5. Matters arising (not on agenda)

There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

6. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Public questions

There were no questions from the public either in person or by correspondence.

8. To approve the Certificate of Exemption

Helen **PROPOSED** that the Certificate of Exemption from external audit be approved. This was **SECONDED** by Geoff and **APPROVED** unanimously. **CS**
Clare will sign and return to the clerk to forward to the external auditor.

9. To receive and approve the annual accounts and internal audit report 2020/21

It was agreed that the clerk will check with the BCA treasurer to see if financial support for the production of the Buckerell Bugle is actually required at present due to the pandemic. **IT**

Clare then **PROPOSED** that the annual accounts for 2020/21 be approved. This was **SECONDED** by Geoff and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Clare **PROPOSED** that the internal audit report for 2020/21 be approved. This was **SECONDED** by Geoff and **APPROVED** unanimously.

10. To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

Clare **PROPOSED** that the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 be approved. This was **SECONDED** by Geoff and **APPROVED** unanimously. **CS**
Clare will sign and return to the clerk who will forward to the external auditor.

11. To receive and approve the Accounting Statements 202/21

Clare **PROPOSED** that the Accounting Statements be accepted and approved. This was **SECONDED** by Geoff and **APPROVED** unanimously. **CS**
Clare will sign and return to the clerk for forwarding to the external auditor.

12. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £8564.65 at 26th April 2021

a) The following payments were **APPROVED** unanimously -

Clerk's payment for quarter Jan – March 2021	£222.38
DALC membership renewal	£62.11
Clerk – Annual renewal of WordPress website hosting fee	£36
Clerk – Zoom renewal fee for April and May 2021	£28.78
Steve Triner – 7 hours painting phone box	£134

b) It was **AGREED** unanimously that charitable donations of £100 would be made to -

Hospicecare
TRIP
Honiton Food Bank

13. Councillor Philip Twiss – Report

Phil had sent apologies due to Council elections and there was therefore no report.

14. Councillor Susie Bond – Report

Local Plan review. Monthly meetings of Strategic Planning Committee have been scheduled for each month with the intention to have a draft plan put before the committee at their December meeting. This will then go out to consultation in January 2022. At their most recent meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee decided that developers can come to a special meeting of SPC in November to promote their sites. These would be only strategic sites and officers would remove the ones which are immediately unacceptable. The developers will be given a time-limited slot to present their sites. SPC members and ward members must be mindful that they don't prejudice their position for any future planning application.

This is the link to the March SPC agenda with a timeline for progress of the Local Plan

(<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s11803/1.Local%20Plan%20cmte%20work%20programme%20for%202021%20ver%2003.pdf>)

For information:

Zoom meetings. At the moment, the Government and High Court have

indicated that meetings must return to normal immediately after 7 May, i.e. Zoom meetings will not be allowed. However, there is still hope that Government will find time to legislate to continue Zoom meetings at least until the summer. Meanwhile, EDDC is working on how to hold its Annual meeting, currently scheduled for 26 May, given the requirements for social distancing. There is no appetite among councillors to meet up, particularly for a meeting which is often highly fractious! However, it's a legal requirement that Annual Council is held before the end of May.

Otherwise, the possibility of hybrid meetings is being explored to keep numbers to a minimum in the Council chamber if that's the route we have to follow.

Clare asked Susie how other councils manage commenting on planning applications between council meetings. Susie said that one option would be to request an extension to the deadline set by EDDC planning, and another would be to call an extraordinary council meeting.

Susie left the video-conference at this point to attend other meetings.

15. Councillor portfolios 2021

The following portfolios were agreed –

Police advocacy – Sandra
Planning – Clare
Ditches / Drains – Geoff
Highways – Kindy
Footpaths / Hedgerows – Helen

Ian will arrange to handover the police advocacy role to Sandra.

IT

16.Planning

There was a discussion about publicising contentious applications, and having extra meetings where necessary. It was agreed that Clare will devise a protocol to be followed.

CS

17. Roads Report

Clare informed the council of the background to this item, and a discussion followed. The letters of concern from residents at Hillside were noted. The previous negative response from Devon County Council was also noted. It was agreed that any previous emails on this subject would be circulated to councillors for information.

**CS
IT**

In the short term it was **AGREED** that Kindy would look into signs warning of children, animals, etc. Geoff indicated that he would be happy to put any

KM

such sign up.

In the longer term it was suggested by Sandra that a village petition might be a good way forward.

18. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

No report.

19. Cleaning of War Memorial

Clare pointed out that the War Memorial was last cleaned in 2017 and needed attention. Helen will ask Ian Howard if he could assist with this. Other councillors were willing to assist. **HH**

The bench behind the Memorial could also do with some varnish, and Helen and Sandra agreed to investigate. **HH
SM**

20. Village Maintenance

Steve has just done a bit of pruning around the village so far, but has been working on the telephone box. He estimates it taking around another 6 hours work to complete. Councillors commented on how good it looks.

21. Code of Conduct

Clare has a copy of a Code of Conduct and will pass it to Ian with a view to adopting it for Buckerell Parish Council. **CS**

22. Matters for next meeting

- a) War Memorial and bench
- b) 30 mph speed limit
- c) Draft planning protocol

23. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th July (Doug's Shed)