

## BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
at Doug's Shed Splatthayes

### **Those Present**

Clare Slater – Chair (CS)  
Geoff Wright – Vice Chair (GW)  
Helen Howard (HH)  
Sandra Money (SM)  
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were 2 members of the public present.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Phil Twiss and Cllr Alasdair Bruce.

### **2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

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

- a) FP15 had been reported but nothing further had been heard from Devon County Council. The Clerk will follow up. IT
- b) Clare had put an item in "The Bugle" about becoming a Councillor. The Clerk will send a village email on the subject. IT
- c) Some noise had been heard from a unit along Curscombe Lane. It was unclear whether or not this was in Buckerell Parish. The Clerk will check maps and let councillors know. IT

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

The only declaration of interest was from Clare to point out that she was being reimbursed for planting of the autumn tubs around the war memorial.

### **5. Public questions**

- a) A resident had observed some damage to the banks along Curscombe Lane caused by agricultural equipment. Apparently, the damage had been caused by a new contractor using a machine that was too large. This should not happen again, and Ian will let the resident know. IT

## **6. Finance and Governance**

Balance at bank £7624.92 at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022

### a) Payments **approved unanimously** -

Clare Slater – Planting autumn tubs	£21.82
Wendy Wayne – Daffodil bulbs for verges (Previously approved at November meeting)	£7.99
Ian Tucker = Clerk’s pay for quarter ended Dec 2021	£102.67
Doug Cowan – Hire of venue	£20.00

IT

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

Short and sweet this month following the Christmas recess at County Hall for the majority of departments, where everyone who is able to is now back at their posts, albeit in the ‘virtual world’, (unless their role legally requires face to face meetings or visits for those such as DCC Highways workers or social care staff). I’m hoping that the recommendations to Councillors and staff will change in the next couple of weeks as the threat of the Omicron variant recedes and we can return to attending meetings in person.

### Scrutiny of the draft budget

The Target figures for each of the main services at DCC go before a series of Scrutiny meetings by the three committees, and then on to Full Council on February 17<sup>th</sup> for debate and approval. This is going to be the toughest Budget DCC has had to set in living memory.

What has become very clear is that with massive demand pressures on Adult and Children’s services in particular, (for a variety of reasons, not least the impact of COVID-19 and its variations) the increase in Council tax is going to be 1.99% and an additional 1% for the social care precept and in order to ‘balance the books’. A very large amount of DCC reserves, around £23m will be put in for 2022/23, where legally DCC (and other Councils) must present a balanced budget.

I’m acutely aware that for many people at the moment literally every penny

counts, for well documented reasons, in what is effectively a 'perfect storm' currently. When Council tax bills land on door mats in late February the total amounts payable are going to see the Devon County Council part of the bill increase by around £45 for 2022/23 which doesn't sound a lot, but when added to the Fire and Police authority, District and Town/Parish Councils parts may be a tipping point for some people.

DCC legally has to provide a number of statutory services in terms of social care, children's services, education etc which are factored in to the budget, but there is little or nothing built in for discretionary services for DCC to fund within their areas of responsibility.

Whilst the Council is comparatively well off when compared to other Local Authorities, exponential levels of demand on services will make it impossible to sustain without increased funding and major reorganisation of Local Government to allow more decision making on use of resources outside of Westminster, and discussions on this are happening now.

### Locality Budget

A reminder that I have something called a Locality Budget available for use in your community, where typically I am able to support very small scale applications for items such as Council notice boards, footpath signs, tree planting etc. More details and how to apply can be found at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/locality-budgets/>

The process runs until 31<sup>st</sup> of March and from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April for the next financial year, so if you have any projects in mind you will need to put your thinking caps on quite soon!

### **8. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report**

Alasdair confirmed that he was liaising with EDDC planning enforcement, but that there was little else to report at present.

### **9. Setting the Parish Precept for 2022-23**

After discussion it was unanimously **agreed** to keep the precept at the same

level as previous years - £3170. The Clerk will complete the Appendix B notification of our requirement to go to EDDC. IT

## **10.Planning**

a) 21/3239/FUL – Sowton Farm (Change of use from holiday residence)  
It was **agreed** that the Parish Council has no objection and it will fall to EDDC planning to consider within their policy framework. The clerk will inform Planning. IT

b) 21/2553/FUL – Deer Park Units – Change of use to gym  
It was **agreed** that the amended plan does not alter the Parish Council's original objection. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Bruce and let planning have the comments previously circulated to Councillors. IT

## **11. Roads Report**

- a) Clare reported that she had completed the one.network training.
- b) Geoff noted an improvement in the water run off down the lane past Summerhayes Farm.

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

a) Clare will let the Clerk have photos of the state of FP15 to be followed up with a further report. CS  
IT

## **13. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

### **a) Tree plant sub-committee**

Helen promoted a discussion about how realistic the vision for using land in the village for tree planting was. Sandra pointed out that tree planting has the dual purpose of acknowledging the Queen's Jubilee and of positively contributing to climate control. After some discussion it was **agreed** that Clare and Helen would write to residents in the village who might be able to lend/lease/sell land to be used for tree planting. If nothing comes of this then Helen will acquire trees from a body such as The Woodland Trust to donate to residents for them to plant themselves. CS  
HH

### **b) Street party (Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>)**

The Clerk had asked the Buckerell Community Association for thoughts on celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. BCA had been keen to

get a marquee, but Ian reported the cost of hiring one for that weekend would be in the region of £1000. It was felt that this was too excessive. Various options were discussed, and it was **agreed** that the Clerk would apply for a road closure in front of the church on that Sunday (June 5<sup>th</sup>), and would ask for permission to use the field opposite the church for the celebrations that day. Councillors **agreed** in principle to some financial support for the event. **IT**

#### **14. Climate Issues and Actions**

Sandra had completed a draft letter which will be going out to the village in February.

#### **15. Village Maintenance**

Nothing to report at present.

#### **16. Matters for next meeting**

- a) Climate issues and actions
- b) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

#### **16. Date of next Meeting**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022