BUCKLAND FILLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Community Day Centre, West Heanton
Thursday 4th July 2024, 7.30pm

Present, Cllr Bond (Chair) Cllr Nethercott (Vice Chair) Cllr Salter, Cllr Balsdon, Cllr Davies.
Selina Woollacott (Clerk)

1. Apologies, County Cllr Saywell.

2. Declarations of interest, Councillorsto declare any interests in matters on the agenda. None.

3. Open Session for members of the public to speak.
3.1) Discussion of matters raised by members of the public. No members of the public present.

4. Reports
4.1) Report from County Councillor Saywell. The following was read out by the Clerk.

Apologies I cannot be with you this evening but please find an update report below.

Dragon Patching – The Galmington Road has now been dragon patched and the work seems to have been done to a good standard. The treatment is also holding despite the unseasonable weather conditions we've had over June and July.

Devolution – Unfortunately due to the calling of an early General Election there was not enough time to pass the statutory orders to legally create the Combined Authority/Devolution settlement. Nevertheless, the legislation and legal work is ready to go as soon as the new Parliament meets. As both main parties are committed to the devolution agenda, I would still expect a deal to be formally passed by Parliament though whether there are any further changes remains to be confirmed…

Council Restructures/Modernisation – Restructuring and streamlining of the Council continues behind the scenes. The Information Governance and Customer Complaints Team are being merged with the Legal Directorate which should create a more streamlined team and as there is quite a lot of synergy between governance, complaints and legal it, in my view, is a logical merger.

Family Hub Consultation – The Council is changing the way that young families are supported at Children's Centres, and is inviting those who use the services, as well as professionals and community groups, to help influence the changes. It follows a national move, announced by the Government last year, for Children's Centres to become Family Hubs, as part of its Start for Life Programme initiative.

In Devon that means extending the age range, from current services that deliver targeted support to 0 to 8 year-olds, to future services that provide universal as well as targeted and support to 0 to 19 year-olds, or up to 25 year-old young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

And it would mean a wider range of services than present, including support from local community groups, working together to help young families.

Having agreed at the end of last year to make the change in line with national thinking, Devon County Council is now inviting families, professionals and community groups to help shape what the new Family Hubs support network will look like in Devon.

Exactly which services will be integrated into a Family Hub will very much depend on the needs of local families. But the kind of services that families could access include early years services and education; Public Health Nursing and Midwifery services; activities delivered by local groups; drug, alcohol and domestic abuse support; mental health support and youth services.

This will likely lead to a change in how some of the current Children's Centre buildings are operated but I want to make it very clear that this is not about cutting or reducing services. Indeed for rural areas I see this as an advantage because if the services provided by the Family Hubs can be delivered through outreach services, that is better than making a family travel into Bideford to access the service from a building there.

Family Hubs are likely to be located in areas of greatest need, with outreach services extending from them into local communities. Much of the support families currently receive will still be available.

New Interchange Railway Station for Okehampton – The DCC Cabinet approved plans to build a new 'Interchange' station at Okehampton which will be located near the industrial estates on the road heading towards the A30. It should have 200 parking spaces and will be an easier station for people to get to and use than the existing historical station which has few parking spaces. The reopening of the Okehampton Line has been one of the most successful re-openings in the country and I hope this new station will make it an even more attractive option for local people to travel by rail to London, Bristol and beyond without having to go all the way down to either Exeter or Tiverton Parkway, or take lengthy connections from Barnstaple or Umberleigh.

That's it for this month, anything you need me to look into please let me know.

4.2) Report from District Councillor. No Report.
4.3) Report from PCSO Baker. No Report.

5. Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd May 2024.
6. Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 2nd May 2024.
7. Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 2nd May 2024.
The above minutes were sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. All Councillors agreed the minutes are an accurate record of each meeting. Cllr Bond signed the minutes.

8. Urgent matters raised by the Chairperson which are not included in the agenda. None.

9. Clerk's Report. Ruby Country Medical Group, Woodland, Dipper Mill.
Ruby Country Medical Group, from my understanding a meeting of Parish Councillors and Clerks went ahead on 27th June this was the follow up meeting to the one earlier in the year and talk about the results from the questionnaires. I did not attend but asked to be included in future correspondence. I have not seen any meeting notes yet. The Questionnaires, in my parishes people didn't seem to want to complete them.
Woodland. TDC Planning has set up a case, and an investigation will be undertaken to establish whether a breach of planning control has occurred. Complaints relating to alleged breaches of planning control are investigated fully and are often time consuming. The service aims to provide notification of a decision or update within 56 days (eight weeks).
Dipper Mill. Still waiting on Highways to finish their plans and reports. Once they have a meeting will be arranged.

10. Website. Cllr Bond has completed an upgrade on the website. Cllr Bond and the Clerk to arrange a time to make sure the Clerk can update the website from her laptop.

11. Parish Council Asset review. The Parish Council has a few assets. The laptop is in good working order and runs Windows 365. The notice boards at the village hall are in good order. Metal briefcase is in tack. The 2 filing cabinets in the Village Hall upstairs room are still in use and slowly being emptied both in good working order. Projector and Screen were in good working order when last used in 2016/17. Maybe a good idea to set them up and see if they are still in good working order. The bench on the road to Black Torrington is in good condition. Clerk to check that the projector and screen are working.

12. Finance
12.1) Bank Account Balance and update on accounts.
On the 5th June 2024 the bank account balance was £12,642.00
One outstanding cheque to be presented. £60
Cheques on the agenda total to £105.09
The account holds £1,067.22 of P3 money.
This leaves a useable balance of £11,409.69

12.2) Cheque £40 for ICO
12.3) Cheque £15.09 Toner, Stamps, A4 wallets.
12.4) replacement cheque £50 Village Hall to replace cheque 000263.The cheque was spoiled and the treasurer has sent me a photo of the cheque.
All Councillors agreed to the above payments. The cheques were signed.

13. Financial Regulation Policy. The policy was sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The policy was written by NALC and has been made available to all Clerks who are members of DALC. The policy has parts which can be amended to suit the size of Parish, the policy had guidelines to follow to make the amendments. I made the amendments before sending it to the Councillors. Buckland Filleigh Parish Council adopted the policy. Clerk and Cllr Bond signed the paper copy. A copy will be uploaded to the website at some point in the future.

14. Village Hall Roof. I asked the Village hall committee for more information on the roof as the Parish Council is thinking about granting funds to help pay for the work. The hall committee replied we have no idea for how much longer the roof will remain serviceable. A builder gave it an estimated life of 10 years back in 2014, although it remains watertight. We will endeavor to get a quotation for its replacement. Any financial support from the Parish Council would of course be most welcome. Once we have a ballpark figure for the work, I will let you know. Councillors are still wanting to grant funds and look forward to an update.

15. Planning.
15.1) Review of Planning Applications in Buckland Filleigh and adjoining parishes. None.
15.2) Planning Decisions. None.

16. Footpaths and Roads
16.1) Dragon Patching. Dragon patching has been happening on the Galmington road. Areas are being redone on the Heanton road.
16.2) Repairs on Footpaths. Clerk waiting to hear from the contractor on when the work will be completed on the bridge.

17. Correspondence email to Councillors prior to the meeting.
Notification of Road Closure – Work Ref: LM601KR10866700 on Road from Filleighmoore Gate to Hembury Gate, Sheepwash will take place between 25/09/2024 and 27/09/2024.

18. Matters for inclusion in the next meeting.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th September 2024 at 7.30pm
Cllr Balsdon asked if the vegetation on the Heartleigh Barton footpath had been cut back as he reported it to the Clerk. Clerk reported it to the local Footpath Warden and on the Public right of way site, she will check to see if the work has been completed.

Meeting Closed 8.07pm

Part 2. Clerk Appraisal. Appraisal was conducted by the Councillors who were present at the meeting. See Appraisal form for more information.

Selina Woollacott, Buckland Filleigh Parish Clerk.
Email: bucklandfilleighparishclerk@gmail.com Telephone: 01409 281280