**BUCKLAND FILLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**
**Meeting Minutes**
**Zoom**
Thursday 14th January 2021, 7.30pm
Present, Cllr A Pett (Chair) Cllr T Bond (Vic Chair) Cllr A Nethacott, Cllr J Salter, County Cllr A Saywell. S Woollacott (Clerk)

**1. Apologies,** Cllr D Balsdon

Started the meeting with Cllr A Saywell report as he was attending 2 other zoom parish meetings after this one. **7.1 Report from Councillor A Saywell. -** Can I start by wishing you all a Happy New Year, and to thank everyone in Buckland Filleigh for everything you are doing to keep the community safe during this difficult time.

**Coronavirus**

- **Stats – As of 14th January DCC area of Devon now up to 15,142 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.**
- **Since the 8th January that is a weekly increase of 1,786 infections.**
- **By way of comparison… in Torridge there were 83 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon 111 in the last 7 days, West Devon 73 in the last 7 days.**
- **There are now over 20,000 tests a week being carried out in the County.**
- **Locally, we have done incredibly well to keep our local infection rates as low as we have. Torridge has one of the lowest infection rate per 100,000 in England (121.6), along with North Devon and West Devon, and Devon as a whole has the one of the lowest rates in Upper Tier Authorities in England (222.6 per 100,000). At present Devon is actually the lowest Upper Tier authority, bar North Lincolnshire, but things can change quickly.**

However… cases are still rising. In the November lockdown we saw cases continue to rise for about 10 days after the commencement of the lockdown. So if those trends are replicated for the January lockdown, we would anticipate seeing the impact of that in the figures next week.

Cases in Devon are highest in the working age population and elderly (75yrs +), with elderly cases, sadly, mainly attributable to care home outbreaks. In Torridge cases are very much in the working age bracket, and we are seeing increases in cases and outbreaks in workplace settings and subsequently households.

So while the situation is not as bad here as other areas of the country, the situation remains extremely serious. Please stay at home, and only leave home if you absolutely have to. When you do go out, don't forget to socially distance, wear a face covering in indoor public spaces and wash your hands regularly.

We don't have definitive proof yet but it is extremely likely that the new variant of coronavirus is here, and this strain is much more infectious than previous strains – where there have been outbreaks, in a workplace or care home, the number of infections has been much higher.

Community Testing

DCC will start rolling out Community Testing for coronavirus at the end of this month. Community testing will help to find individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms and need to isolate and who may inadvertently be spreading the virus. A positive or negative result will not remove the need to follow existing COVID measures socially and in the workplace.

Rapid lateral flow tests will be used, which will provide a result within thirty minutes. This will not be a substitute for the national coronavirus testing – if you are symptomatic, people should book a free NHS test via the GOV.UK website or by calling 119.

The first site is planned to open near the end of January, beginning in Exeter, with other sites planned to become available across the County in February and March.
The Director of Public Health has outlined that the when fully up and running the aim will be to get mobiles testing sites deployed if there is a large outbreak in a specific setting (e.g. workplace) or community.

COVID Vaccinations

On the more positive side… the good news is that residents of Torrington Rural aged 80+ and residents and staff of care homes have started to receive their vaccinations. County wide, 1000s of people have received their first vaccination dose.

Main points for vaccine rollout:

- We now have vaccination hubs up and running at all four acute hospitals in Devon -these are vaccinating hospital staff and over 80's inpatients about to go home and outpatients
- 16 Primary Care Network vaccination sites up and running with 4 more coming on stream end of this week
- Mass Vaccination sites in Plymouth and Exeter to be opening before the end of January
- Vaccination of care home staff and residents has started prioritising largest care homes in the first instance (50+ residents)
- Locally, there have been vaccination sites at Holsworthy, Okehampton and Barnstaple. This has been due to the complexities of storing the Pfizer vaccine. Now that the Oxford vaccine has arrived, I know from talking to the head of one of Torrington's GP Practices that they are looking at rolling this out more locally so people do not have to travel long distances.

Priority for Phase 1 according to JCVI priority list is: Care home residents, over 80's and frontline health and care staff.
Thousands have been vaccinated already with each Primary Care Network having received at least one batch of vaccines (975 vaccines per batch); we received the Oxford vaccine last week and we have the workforce in place to undertake the vaccine programme. It is, however, a huge logistical exercise, very much dependent upon the speed and rate of vaccine supplies. Please though wait for the NHS to contact you when it is your turn.

Covid-19 Prompt Action Grant

DCC's COVID-19 grants have opened again for the third lockdown. The guidance is slightly amended and can be found on this link along with the online application form.
https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/

The biggest difference to the first two waves is that DCC are working in partnership with Devon Community Foundation to fund food projects. So any project that is for food provision needs to apply here http://devoncf.com/apply/community-food-programme-2/

Libraries and Recycling Centres

- **Devon's libraries are now temporarily closed for the new lockdown.**
- **Household Waste and Recycling Centres remain open for essential use only.**

Can I again thank you for all you are doing to stay safe and to keep our communities safe during this difficult time. Hope is on the horizon with the vaccine… but we must not let our guard down or become complacent. Please follow the rules. DCC will do all that it can, as it has done during the first and second lockdown, to support the people of Devon during this

difficult time and to protect the old, the young, and the vulnerable. We will recover from this pandemic and the lockdown. But in the meantime, please stay at home and stay safe.

Highways

First part of the Buckland Filleigh Dip project – the road patching – has been completed.

I am aware there have been some issues with the work, and Darryl Jagger from Highways has reported the following:

- Skanska have missed a small patch around a gully.
- There have been some issues with the joints of the patching but it is within tolerances.
- The ponding outside the dip – this is not new as it has been there before and the design was to alter the levels of the road slightly to get it tip over and go down the hill it has worked in getting it to flow down the hill but it has to reach a point where there's a pond in the road before it will do it. Officers have been out on site and carried out some levels and the patch has a high point in it (which Highways did not ask for) which is keeping the water back to create the pond before it will flow over the top of it. The Officers are looking to get this addressed in the March/April closure.
- BT cover near to the "pond" also has water flowing out of it so Highways will ask BT to try and resolve that as well.

In the long term, Highways will look to surface dress the road, funding permitting.

DCC Budget

DCC's Budget is due to increase by just under £37million thanks to some additional Government funding. Specific details remain TBC and I will update the Parish Council next month.

Locality Budget

Please note if you have any projects in mind, funding for these will need to be allocated by the end of February.

Cllr A Saywell left the meeting.

**2. Declarations of interest**
**a) Councillors are reminded of the need to keep their Register of Members' Interests forms up to date.** No updates
**b) To declare interests in matters on the agenda.** None.

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

**4. Approve Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020.** All parish councillors agree the minutes were correct.

**5. Matters raised at the last meeting for inclusion in the agenda,**
**5.1 installing a bench on the road from The Glebe to Parsons Cottage using the £1000 bequeathed to the Parish Council.**- Due to Lockdown 3 Clerk has not met with the landowner yet. Hope to before the March Parish Council meeting.

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

**7. Reports**
**7.2 Report from Councillor Wiseman** No Report.

**8. Finance**
**8.1. Bank Account Balance,** £10,735.96 no payments in since the last meeting and all chq written have been cashed.
**8.2. Chq for Clerk's Laptop** Chq £814.97 to Clerk for the new laptop, £135.83 is VAT which will be claimed back. Net cost £679.14,
**8.3 Chq for Clerk's Training course.** Chq £90, VAT is £15 which will be claimed back.
**8.4 Chq for North Devon records office grant last one of the three years.** £50 chq.
**8.5 Grant request from Citizens Advice,** The last time the parish council granted funds to Citizens Advice was Nov 2018, £400. £500 was suggested as the bank balance is healthy and Citizen Advice is very well used and a great organisation. All Councillors agreed on £500.
Cllr A Nethacottt and Cllr T Bond will sign chqs when passing the clerk's home.

**9. Set budget and Parish Precept 2021/2022,** Prior to the meeting the clerk sent out a budget and the precept calculator for the Parish Councillors to read through. The precept is currently £3011. The Parish Councillors were happy with the budget, Due to national Minimum wage increase and inflation the Councillor have decided to increase the precept to £3,065. An increase of £54. Which is an annual increase on a Band D property of £2.

**10. Website,** Clerk and Cllr T Bond need to update the website. Parish Council has asked the Clerk to research the cost of having a website run by a company.

**11. Review Clerk's Contract,** Clerk contract needs updating and a job description added. Clerk to update the contract and write a job description for the Parish Council to check and agree at the March meeting.

**12. Review of Planning Applications in Buckland Filleigh and adjoining parishes,** None

**13. Footpaths and Roads**
**13.1 The Dip, Road Closure,Patching work,** Cllr A Saywell covered all the updates in his report.
**13.2 Footpath P3 application,** Tracy Baldson has checked the footpaths for the Parish Council.The Parish Council would like the Clerk to get a quote for fixing the bridge and to update the dog gate on the stile. Clerk to apply for P3 funding for this work.
**13.3 Grit delivery.** The grit has been delivered. Cllr T Bond has been out with the grit spreader which isn't working very well. The spreader is not able to break up the grit to spread it. Either the grit is too wet or the spreader isn't strong enough.Councillors suggested having a look at the spreader to see if it can be modified.

**14. Correspondences email to councillors prior to the meeting.**
Updates from DCC and Cllr Andrew Saywell about Covid and Lockdown,

**15. Matters for inclusion in the next meeting,** Cllr Balsdon has internet access problems on a Thursday evening. Cllr Balsdon needs to attend the next meeting. The March meeting will be on Wednesday 17th March. Cllr Nethacott will not be able to attend the March meeting. Items for the agreed, The Bench, Website, Clerk's Contract.

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