BUCKLAND FILLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Buckland Filleigh Village Hall
Thursday 8th July 2021, 7.30pm

Present, Cllr A Pett (Chair) Cllr J Salter, Cllr A Nethacott, County Cllr A Saywell, PCSO M Baker. Selina Woollacott (Clerk)

1. Apologies, Cllr D Balsdon, Cllr T Bond, District Cllr Wiseman.

2. Declarations of interest
2.1) Councillors are reminded of the need to keep their Register of Members' Interests forms up to date.
2.2) To declare interests in matters on the agenda. Cllr Salter declared an interest in item 12.1.

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.
Coronavirus

- Stats – As of 8th July the DCC area of Devon now upto 24,016 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.
- Since the 3rd July that is a weekly increase of 397 infections, an increase of just under 50% the previous week.
- By way of comparison… in Torridge there were 45 new infections in the last 7 days (down 37 on the previous week), North Devon had 93 in the last 7 days, West Devon just 48 cases in the last 7 days. The bulk of the Devon wide increase comes from Exeter where there were 365 new infections.

As I am sure you are aware, we saw a large outbreak associated with Great Torrington School and this did drive our local infection numbers up. DCC and other agencies have worked closely with the school to manage the outbreak, and it has been successfully contained – it did not spill out into the wider community. I believe GTS dealt with a difficult situation extremely well given the circumstances.

Across Devon, the increase in infections have come from unvaccinated young adults or young people still in education. But we have not seen an increase in hospitalisations or deaths.

There is also a clear 'vaccine affect' in infections. The infection rate in Torridge for 0-59s is 88.8 per 100,000. For over 60s it is 24.7 (and only in the last week has the rate in the over 60s increased). Some over 60s or double vaccinated people will likely test positive – but the chances of them developing serious illness will be greatly diminished by having the vaccine.

So while we are seeing a slight rise in older people being tested positive but thankfully as you say the number of hospitalisations remain relatively low (just 11 people in acute beds with Covid-19 in Devon and only 1 in ICU).

'Unlocking' on July 19th

Despite the increase in infections, I do not believe this should be a cause for panic. We should remain careful, up to and beyond the 19th July, I will continue to follow Covid precautions as and when it is appropriate, and will continue to take lateral flow tests. The removal of legal Covid restrictions will be good news for our local businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector. Others I know may feel more uneasy. The people of Torrington Rural have shown great fortitude and common sense throughout this pandemic, I believe they will continue to do so in the coming months and that thanks to their behaviour and a high vaccine uptake, we will keep local Covid infections low.

Above all the key message remains, get your jab when you are called up!

Second Dose appointments have been brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. I have brought my second dose forward to later this month and would urge anyone else in similar circumstances to do the same.

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing

Rapid Lateral Flow tests can be ordered off the Government website or collected from DCC Mobile Community Testing Vans. The Mobile Service is currently in Torrington Tuesdays 1.30pm to 5pm and Thursdays 9am to 12.30pm, Sydney House Car Park. The Van is also available in Holsworthy on Wednesdays and Sundays, 9am-5pm, at The Manor Car Park. Or in Bideford, in Morrison's Car Park, on Mondays 9am-5pm and Thursdays 1.30pm-5pm.

Remember, lateral flow tests are only for people who DON'T have symptoms and are designed to pick up cases which are asymptomatic. If you have any symptoms, book a PCR Test through the Government website.

More information can be found online at devon.cc/testing

COVID Vaccinations

The rollout of the vaccine in Devon and in Torrington Rural continues to go well.

I sent a briefing note from the NHS to the Parish Councils earlier this week but the main points for vaccine rollout:

- All adults aged 18 and over on 1st July are eligible to book their vaccination.
- Second doses brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks.
- 861,763 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose up to 27th June, while 657,902 second doses have been given.
- Over two thirds of adults in Devon have received both doses, almost 9/10 adults have received their first dose.
- Latest estimate is 90% of people aged over 55 in Devon has received both doses. Over 50% of 18-24 year olds in Devon have received a first dose.

Return to the Office at DCC

Despite the removal of legal Covid restrictions the majority of DCC's workforce will, for the time being, continue to work from home. The enforcement of isolating contacts of people who have tested positive makes office working problematic… e.g. you would not want a whole team of social workers forced into self-isolation if one of them tests positive in the workplace and their colleagues are 'pinged'. However, staff who need to use or work in an Office will continue to be allowed to do so, though Covid measures will for the time being remain in place.

In the long term the Council is looking at flexible or 'agile' working arrangements though work on this is ongoing and is unlikely to be finalised until later in the autumn.

Local Highways Matters

Ponding Water outside of the Dip/Buckland House

I have discussed this issue with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer. There is a fault with the patch which they are looking at rectifying… it should also be noted though that the water coming onto the road is not originating from the Highway.

Potholes

Just a reminder regarding potholes, it is really important that residents continue to report potholes and other highways defects. I cannot stress enough this is a numbers game – the more potholes reported the

more likely it is we can have permanent repair works like resurfacing take place. Please visit devon.cc/report-it to report potholes and other highways defects online.

DCC Bids for Community Renewal Funding

A programme of bids totalling more than £12.2 million has been submitted by Devon County Council to a new Government funding scheme which aims to support communities and businesses to recover after the Coronavirus pandemic.

Devon's bid is made up 16 projects from across the county which have the potential to generate around 620 jobs, support the creation of 400 new businesses, and help 3,000 people to retrain.

Torridge activity accounts for £3million of the £12million bid, including bids for the biosphere, agriculture, and upskilling young people and self employed workers. I recently met with Torridge District Council's Economic Regeneration Manager Chris Fuller and stressed to him that if these bids are successful that I would like to see funding drawn down into our area, and not focused exclusively on the larger towns.

As ever, if there are any DCC matters you'd like to raise with me then please get in touch.

4.2) Report from Councillor Wiseman. No report.

4.3) Report from PCSO Baker. April and May 2021 2 crimes, 0 incidents reported. June 2021 0 crimes and 0 incidents reported. Been busy due to officers being deployed to the G7 summit. Currently busy due to the football (euro 2020) and summer.

Cllr Saywell and PSCO Baker left the meeting.

5. Approve Minutes of Parish Meeting, Annual Council Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2021. All councillors agreed the minutes were accurate, Cllr Pett signed the minutes.

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

7. Finance

7.1) Bank Account Balance, at the 21st May the account balance was £11,333.49, outstanding chq of £56.25 for DALC, £860 P3 funding waiting for the invoice as the work has been completed on the bridge. £1,000 set aside for the bench as this was the amount bequeathed to the Parish Council. After these amounts have been deducted £9,417.24

7.2) Chq for ICO £40. All councillors agreed, chq signed.

7.3) Last zoom fee payment and A4 paper and A4 folder, Clerk's expenses. Zoom £32.37, A4 paper £4.99 A4 folder £3.99 total £41.35 all councillors agreed, chq signed.

7.4) Website demain fee Chq to T Bond. £25 for 5th May 2021 - 5th May 2023 all councillors agreed, chq signed.

7.5) Gift for Mrs Kirby for checking the end of year accounts. Mrs Kirby has completed the external audit on the Parish Council accounts for the past 4 - 5 years free of charge. Suggested the Chair's allowance is used to purchase a thank you gift. Flowers suggested. All councillors agreed. Clerk to arrange.

8. Bench on the road between the Glebe and Parson Cottage. A contractor with a Street Work License needs to complete the work. Clerk has emailed 3 companies asking if they have a license and if they would be able to quote for the work. Councillors agreed a set plan is needed so all companies are quoting for the same work. Cllr Pett and Clerk are going to meet at the site to draw up a plan.

9. Emergency leaflet. The Parish Council would like to create a leaflet with the following information on that will be sent to all properties in the pariah. Location of the Defibrillator at West Heanton Nursing home and Shebbear shop, with brief details on how to use them. Village Hall contact in case the hall is needed in an emergency. Information on what 3 words, Parish Council contacts, location of grit bins. Contact numbers and location of health centres, minor injury units, GP, Water, Electric. Suggest that property owners have a quick reference sheet with the details of the water, electricity, gas companies on.

Emergency plumber and electrician number, Properties grid reference, what 3 word location, Medication they are on. Clerk to draft a leaflet for the next meeting.

10. Where to hold future meetings. Agenda item to be discussed at the next meeting when all Parish Councillors are present. Parish Councillors at this meeting can see pros and cons to both the localations. The locations are the Village Hall and the Community Day Centre.

11. Holsworthy and Torrington area joint advisory meetings. A proposed merge of the Holsworthy Area Advisory Group and Torrington Area Advisory Group to form Torrington and Holsworthy Rural Areas Advisory Group. Councillors asked their opinion on joining the groups. Cllr Bond attended the meetings prior to Covid. Councillors think it is a good idea. Clerk to reply to TDC.

12. Review of Planning Applications in Buckland Filleigh and adjoining parishes,
12.1) 1/0236/2021/FUL Change of use of land and siting of cabin for holiday use, Land Adjacent Parsons Cottage, Buckland Filleigh. The Parish Council were asked to respond by the 27th June. The Parish Council responded No Objection.
12.2) 1/0601/2021/FUL Proposed Conversion of the existing Barn into No.1 dwelling. Barn At Grid Reference 246187 109196, Buckland Filleigh, The Parish Council have been asked to respond by the 10th July. Councillors reviewed the planning application and all agreed No Objection. Clerk to submit response.

13. Footpaths and Roads
13.1) Update on Dipper Mill, Shebbear. Clerk sent a letter of support to Highways and the Environment agency. Highways responded that until the road is at risk it is not their issue. An Environment officer rang the Clerk to discuss the issue, all the information and details from the phone conversation and email conversation with the Environment officer were sent to Shebbear Parish Council Clerk. Clerk asked Shebbear's Clerk for an update on this issue, the reply was it's not really Council business. Shebbear PC has commissioned a drone to take photos and a Councillor is measuring the area of land from the road to the river which is decreasing. The photos and measurements are sent to the highways officer. Buckland Filleigh Parish Councillors are concerned that nothing will happen until the road has to be closed due to the river eroding the road. The road being closed will inpace on all local parishes. Councillors agreed for the Clerk to ask Cllr Saywell for advice and guidance on what can be done and to ask Holsworthy and Torrington Areas Advisory group if they will raise it as an agenda item, due to if the road is closed it affects local parishes.
13.2) Update on Galmington Road. Clerk took photos of the road and sent the photos to the highways officer. The clerk also reported potholes on the DCC, report a problem website. Highways officer is going to inspect the road.

14. Correspondence email to councillors prior to the meeting.
Updates from DCC and Devon Covid Vaccine updates.

15. Matters for inclusion in the next meeting. Bench, Dipper Mill, Emergency Leaflet, Where to hold future meetings.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Selina Woollacott, Buckland Filleigh Parish Clerk.
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