BUCKLAND FILLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Community Day Centre, West Heanton
Thursday 12th January 2023, 7.30pm

Present, Cllr Pett(Chair) Cllr Bond (Vice Chair) Cllr Nethercott, Cllr Balsdon, Cllr Salter, Selina Woollacott (Clerk) County Cllr Saywell (for part of the meeting)

1. Apologies, District Cllr Wiseman, and PCSO Baker.

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. 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. Cllr Saywell will be joining the meeting later.
4.2) Report from District Councillor Wiseman. No Report.
4.3) Report from PCSO Baker. PCSO Baker sent an email to the Clerk. For the months November and December no crimes and no incidents reported in the Parish of Buckland Filleigh.

5. Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st December 2022. The minutes were sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. All Councillors who were at the December meeting agreed the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Pett signed the minutes.

6. Urgent matters raised by the Chairperson which are not included in the agenda. Cllr Pett would like reflectors or reflective strips put on the bench between Glebe and Parson Cottage as it is hard to see the bench in the dark and someone may pull in and hit the bench. All Councillors agreed. Clerk to find, purchase and fit to the bench.

7. Clerk Report, Planning comments, drain near the Sawmill, Sedgewell Cross, Queen Elizabeth II plaque/stone.

Planning comments, I submitted the comments for the three planning applications discussed at the last meeting. All were No Objections from Buckland Filleigh Parish Council.

Drain near the Sawmill, I reported the drain and slabs have been placed over the drain. I personally was expecting more to have been done. I have emailed the local Highways officer who will have a look when he is next in the area. Cllr Balsdon has asked if he can be informed when the Highways officer is going to look at the drain. As he has a few questions for the Highways officer.

Sedgewell Cross, I asked the Highways Officer if he could have a look at the crossroads after the recent near miss when a car did not stop or give way. He has had a look this is his reply,

I visited Sedgewell Cross yesterday and had a look at all the approaches to it.

I noticed that the advanced warning triangle Give Way sign on the approach from Shebbear has faded, to the extent that the lettering is no longer visible, so I have created a defect and requested that the sign is replaced with a new one. This is quite important, as it is this sign that lets drivers approaching the junction from that side know, both that there is a junction ahead and what the priority at the junction is. I have also arranged for the other two existing Give Way signs at the junction to be cleaned, as there is some algae on both which will be affecting their reflective qualities in lower light.

The warning signs on both approaches on the Furze House to Down Farm stretch are well placed and in good order, so once the work detailed above has been carried out I am happy that there will be adequate information for drivers using the junction.

Thanks again for letting us know about this.

Queen Elizabeth II plaque/stone. I have contacted the Chairperson for the Village Hall Committee and It will be discussed at the Village Hall Committee meeting in January. Will update when I hear more.

8. King's Coronation. Clerk has set aside funds in the budget for the King's Coronation for celebrating or/and memorabilia. Clerk had a look for memorabilia for another parish not much available yet. Parish Council agreed to see who from the Parish approaches the Parish Council for funds to hold a celebration or to purchase memorabilia.

9. Finance

9.1) Bank Account Balance and update on accounts. On the 5th December 2022 the bank account balance was £10,899.99. All the written Cheques have been cleared out of the account. The VAT reclaim of £103.30 has been paid in. There is a cheque to sign for £60 for the North Devon Record Office which was agreed at the November 2022 meeting. Clerk wanted to check the Payee. The Account holds £622.20 of P3 funds to be used on Footpath signs. WIth the P3 funds and the £60 minused off the balance, give a usable balance of £10,217.79.

9.2) Grant request from Citizen Advice. Clerk received an email from Citizen Advice as the Parish Council has granted funds in the past. Last year the Parish Council granted £500. In past years the Citizen Advice have provided data with the number of parishioners who have used the service they are no longer doing this as in some small parishes it was felt people could be identified from the information. The number of people using the service has increased over the past year. Cllr Balsdon proposed £500 and Cllr Salter seconded the proposal, all Councillors agreed. Cheque signed.

9.3) Grant request from Little Bear Pre School. Email from Little Bears Pre School. I am writing to you to apply for a grant from Buckland Filleigh Parish Council for Little Bears Preschool.

We are hoping to create an access point to enable the Little Bears children to be able to walk through to an outside area within Shebbear community school (Old pond area), that they are hoping to turn into a wildlife rich seating area. This would be of huge benefit to the Preschool children, who would be able to go and sit in the wildlife area for reading and learning about nature. It would also give them a chance to forge even stronger relationships with the school so that when they transition up to the Community school, they feel more secure and integrated, as it will feel more familiar to them.

It is hoped that they will be able to have some of the transitional reading times in the outside space too. We are not sure of the total cost, However, we will be able to add money from our Christmas fundraiser, as well as the funds raised from the continued bags2schools collections. The Councillors did a rough calculation of what they felt the total cost would be and Cllr Nethacott proposed £200 was seconded by Cllr Pett. All Councillors agreed. Cheque signed.

County Cllr Saywell joined the meeting and gave his report.

Busy couple of months A new Chief Executive Donna Manson has been appointed. Donna will be moving down from Scotland to start the position mid-February, having been the Chief Executive of Scotland's largest rural authority, The Highland Council, since 2018. Donna is keen to start and performed well in the 2 day final interview process.

Budget, the overspend is now at 7 Million, savings still being made with projects and recruitment being put on hold. The Autumn Statement was helpful for the Council with more funding for Adult and Children Social Care. The budget for the next financial year is not looking as bad as first thought. A few of the areas which were planned to be cut now will not be cut. Adult and Children Social Care need to look for value for money on how the funds are spent else the spending in these areas will soon go out of control.

10. Set Budget and Parish Precept. Clerk had printed off the budget and Precept figures for each Councillor. The budget has been set using the spending from 2020/21, 2021/22 and spending so far in 2022/23 as well as predicted cost for 2023/24.The Expenditure on the budget comes to £3,019.59 the Precept amount with no increase to Council Tax is £3,157 last year was £3,137. The Councillors checked the budget and agreed the amounts. The Councillors agreed that a precept of £3,157 will cover plan expenditure and the bank account has funds available so no need to increase the precept this year. Clerk to submit the paperwork for a £3,157 Parish Precept.

County Cllr Saywell left the meeting.

11. Planning.

11.1) Review of Planning Applications in Buckland Filleigh and adjoining parishes.

1/1188/2022/FUL, Conversion of barn to dwelling with associated garden, Galmington Farm, Shebbear, Beaworthy. Comments to be submitted by 15th January 2023. Councillors were sent the link to the planning on the TDC website prior to the meeting, the Clerk launched the planning on her laptop at the meeting for the Councillors to see and discuss. All Councillors agreed to comment No Objections from the Parish Council. Clerk to submit the comments before 15th January 2023.

11.2) Planning granted permission. Planning 1/1005/2022/FUL Siting of a static caravan for occupation as an agricultural worker;'s dwelling for a period of three years at land adjacent to Haddiport, Shebbear. Has been granted permission.

12. Footpaths and Roads.

12.1) P3 Application. Mrs Basldon has walked most of the footpaths in the Parish for the Parish Council. Thank you Mrs Basldon for doing this and emailing a report. The Footpath sign at Chalhanger and one at Hembury have been replaced.

The items on the report which the Clerk will apply for P3 funding for after getting an idea of cost from Footpath Contractor are, The bridge from Glebe to Chalhanger is in a bad state of repair. One board has completely gone and others are rotten. Flooding has washed the soil away from the bridge, so ideally it needs steps both sides up to it. The hill from Glebe to Chalhanger would benefit from more steps, it is proving difficult to get up and down now and very slippery in the winter. Clerk will complete and submit the P3 forms before the 13th February deadline.

12.2) Update on Roads. Potholes are reported when seen. Highways are only filling safely defect potholes. This is a pothole with straight down sides deeper than 40mm and wider than 400mm.

Cllr Bond has cleaned out the drains in the dip and so far this winter no flooding issues in the dip. Cllr Bond also cleaned around Horseshoe bridge so that water does not form large puddles on the road. Cllr Bond was out with grit the last time we had cold weather and the roads were icy. Cllr Bond would like the road from Buckland House to Horseshoe bridge swept as this would get rid of most of the fallen leaves which block the drains and the gullies.

13. Correspondence email to Councillors prior to the meeting.

P3 Winter Newsletter plus presentations from the Autumn workshop

Area Advisory Group Meetings

14. Matters for inclusion in the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March 2023. Cllr Nethacott apologies that he will not be at the March meeting.

Meeting Closed 8.46pm

Selina Woollacott, Buckland Filleigh Parish Clerk.
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