BUCKLAND FILLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Community Day Centre, West Heanton
Thursday 11th November 2021, 7.30pm

Present, Cllr Pett (Chair), Cllr Bond (vic Chair) Cllr Balsdon, Cllr Nethacott, Cllr Salter, Selina Woollacott (Clerk) County Cllr A Saywell.

1. Apologies, No Apologies.

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,

The Dip – Flooding was caused by leaf fall inhibiting water flow through the grate. Was resolved 24 hours after being reported to Highways. If this becomes a continuous issue Highways will investigate further. Currently they did not recommend removing the grate as that would see far more debris go into the drain and potentially block it. Regarding the defective patch, the Head of Asset Management has said that Highways "are making arrangements to address this."

Dipper Mill – Highways are aware of the erosion issue and have contacted the landowner. It is now best to leave it in the hands of Highways as they do not want to see the road being jeopardised by the river.

Devon secures £9.3m for skills, training and jobs – DCC's bid to the Government's Community Renewal Fund has been successful and we've been awarded £9.3m by the Government for investment in innovation and employment projects. There will be 13 pilot projects across Devon, backed by the largest funding allocation to any local authority area in England. Project benefits will include retraining for 3,500 people.

Improving Rail Links – The Okehampton to Exeter line will reopen on the 20th November. In the Budget today an announcement was also made to take forward early stage proposals to re-open the Plymouth-Tavistock line. DCC are also looking at improving rural bus links to our rail connections (see below).

Bus Route Funding Bid – DCC has submitted a bid worth £34m to the Government to improve and introduce new rural bus services throughout Devon. Proposed routes include a new strategic service through Torrington, connecting people to the railway line at Umberleigh, possibly also to an express bus service to Tiverton Parkway. Reintroducing Sunday services also being looked at. Precise route details though subject to funding but this gives you an idea as to the direction of travel of this bid.

'Node' Enterprise Centre opens – A new enterprise centre at Roundswell has opened. Know as 'Node', the coworking and office space will support SMEs, start-ups, freelancers and local workers in North Devon and Torridge (and Torrington Rural!).
The modern building boasts 37 small and medium offices, a coworking space for up to 50 people, a number of meeting rooms and an on-site coffee shop. It aims to facilitate the changing way people work, by providing flexible workspace for individuals.

Covid – Cases nationally have started to fall and this trend is normally mirrored in Devon a week or two later. In Devon they have stabilised and are starting to fall.
Devon had 442.2 cases per 100,000 in the last seven days compared to 346.5 for England. However, Torridge is 395.8, North Devon 534.8. Highest case rates are in people aged 20 and under, and in the 40s age group.

BUT, Hospital cases remain relatively low, we have not seen a massive increase in hospitalisations as a result of the higher infection rates.

Vaccines – Almost 9/10 16+ adults in Devon are fully vaccinated. More than 100,000 have had booster jabs. The NHS can only invite people for their booster six months after they've had their second dose. When you are invited for a booster please book an appointment immediately.

Free school meal vouchers - DCC have sent families of nearly 18,000 children in Devon free supermarket vouchers this October half term, worth £15 per child per week and helping to prevent holiday hunger.

Foster Carers - DCC is still looking for more Foster Carers in Devon, especially for children with more complex needs. A recruitment campaign will be launched shortly… If you know anyone who would be interested, please refer them to this DCC webpage - Child and Parent fostering - Fostering in Devon

Funding for self-isolating residents – DCC have launched a new fund to help community organisations provide practical, social and emotional support to Devon residents self-isolating due to COVID-19. The grants of up to £5,000 for small projects and £20,000 for larger projects can be used to help those self-isolating with any caring responsibilities; accessing food and other supplies; practical tasks such as dog walking; and mental health and wellbeing support to address things like loneliness and boredom.

More information available online - The COVID-19 Outbreak Management Grant (Self-Isolation) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) (devon.gov.uk)

Cllr Balsdon asked if the Parish Council was allowed to know the final cost of the work completed on the Dip? Cllr Saywell replied, in the reign of £125,000. The Parish Council are very grateful the work has been completed. Cllr Bond asked if a different style grate was fitted it may stop the leaves getting stuck and blocking the grate, a grate with vertical bars maybe better. Cllr Saywell asked Cllr Bond to email him this suggestion.

4.2) Report from Councillor Wiseman, No report.

4.3) Report from PCSO Baker. No report.

5. Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2021. All Councillors agree the minutes are correct. Cllr Pett signed the minutes.

6. Urgent matters raised by the Chairperson which are not included in the agenda.
Cllr Bond - The gully on the right hand side of the road going up to West Heanton from Horseshoes bridge is wearing out. Worried it will end up like the Upcott road if nothing is done. Clerk to report.
Cllr Pett - The Gallmington road is getting worse, This has been reported to the local Highways Officer. Clerk to check the road to see if any new potholes have formed and need reporting.

7. Finance
7.1) Bank Account Balance, All written chqs have been presented and cleared from the account. Balance at 3rd November £12,143.29. £1,000 of this is for the bench, usable amount £11,143.29.
7.2) Chq for the Clerk, ink and thick paper to print the Emergency Leaflets. The 100gsm paper was £6 and a set of ink was £15.99. Total chq for Clerk £21.99 all councillors agree and chq signed.
7.3) North Devon Record Office grant request. For the past 3 years the Parish Council has granted £50 a year to the North Devon Record Office, all Councillors decided to grant £50 again this year, Chq Signed.
7.4) Half Year accounts review. Half year accounts up until the 27th Sept 2021.Clerk handed out Income and expenditure sheet and budget sheet. Not expecting anymore income as both Parish Precept payments received, P3 funding and VAT refund all received. Income £4,337.91. Expenditure so far £1,475.61, the work for the bench should be in this financial year, local charities have not applied for grants yet this year. All councillors were happy with the report and had no questions.

8. Update on installing the bench on the road between the Glebe and Parson Cottage.
Dave Hockin was booked on a Street License course for the week commencing the 1st November this course was cancelled is now booked on a course for the week commencing 22nd. Clerk to contact him week commencing the 29th November. Once Dave Hockin has his certificate Clerk can complete the Highways forms. Councillors agreed a plaque on the bench would be a nice touch, to organise when purchasing the bench or after.

9. Update on Emergency leaflet.
Clerk printed the leaflets, Cllr Balsdon, delivered the leaflets to properties in the parish.Only 2 properties he was unable to deliver to Little Galmington and Smith Hill. Clerk will post or deliver to these properties. Thank You to Cllr Balsdon for delivering the leaflets on his Poppy Appeal round. Clerk has calculated that hand delivering the leaflets saved the Council £55 in envelopes and stamps. Cllr Pett suggested a donation to the Poppy appeal of £100. All councillors agreed Chq signed.

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

10a) Planning granted permission.
1/0601/2021/FUL granted permission on 5th October 2021, Proposed Conversion of the existing Barn into No.1 dwelling.Barn At Grid Reference 246187 109196, Buckland Filleigh.

11. Footpaths and Roads
11.1) Flooding in the Dip, large puddle on the road and drains at Horseshoes bridge. Cllr Saywell has updated the meeting on the flooding in the Dip in his report. Regarding the large puddle which now forms the Head of Asset Management has said that Highways “are making arrangements to address this. The puddle has only been forming since the road was resurfaced. Cllr Bond has taken photos of the drains at horseshoe bridge Clerk has sent the photos to the local Highways officer. There is still a lot of water flowing out of the BT manhole cover and running down the road. Clerk spoke to BT about this, BT were not concerned. Clerk to check if Hightways got a different answer from BT as Clerk is sure Highways were going to contact BT about this issue.
11.2) Update on Dipper Mill, Shebbear. Erosion. As Cllr Saywell states in his report Highways are aware of the erosion issue and have contacted the landowner. As it is not our Parish this is as much as we are able to do, it is now best to leave it in the hands of Highways as they do not want to see the road being jeopardised by the river.
11.3) Grit supplies. The Parish Council has a good supply of grit, however the gritter is no longer working and is beyond repair.It is earlier to grit by hand as the gritter has never been great. Clerk to remove the gritter from the insurance policy.
11.4) Checking Footpaths. Cllr Balsdon has volunteered Mrs Balsdon to check the footpaths for the Parish Council; she did a very good job last year and all Councillors agreed.

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

13. Matters for inclusion in the next meeting.
The next meeting will be 13th January 2022, Parish Precept, Budget, P3 application, Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Meeting Closed 8.23pm

Selina Woollacott, Buckland Filleigh Parish Clerk.
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