

DRAFT

Minutes of a meeting of the **BUCKLAND MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL** held at **CLEARBROOK VILLAGE HALL** on **WEDNESDAY** the **25TH FEBRUARY 2015** at **7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs R Cheadle (RC) (Chairman), S Challiss (SC) (Vice-Chairman), S Britton (SB), V Bolitho (VB), D Butland (DB) M Davis (MD), L Larkin (LL), L Norton (LN), L Wood (LW), S Woollacott (SW)

In Attendance: Cllr Philip Sanders (WDBC and DCC Cllr), two residents of Milton Combe (Bus service 55 item) Mrs D Ashton (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Sanders gave an update on DCC, WDBC and DNPA matters. As per previous years, all principal authorities have been reviewing budgets. DNPA is undergoing a restructure in a bid to save further money, each DCC budget is going to be scaled back and some services will be affected such as road maintenance in order to maintain essential services. WDBC will not be cutting services and will be increasing Council Tax in order to pay for this.

With regards to the bus service 55 problems, residents have reported an inconsistency in service and that the size of the bus is an issue - some bus drivers are able to drive into the village while one or two others do not. The bus company was aware of what was involved in the contract when they tendered. There is ongoing communication between DCC, bus company concerned and Milton Combe residents to try and resolve the issues as soon as possible - Cllr Sanders suggested a site meeting with the parties concerned.

Cllr Sanders advised that a DCC public consultation on proposals to cut public transport has now opened. Local bus services do not receive enough financial support from government to support the free bus pass scheme. This along with the numbers of people using buses dropping which makes it hard for certain services to be financially viable for bus companies.

Members felt it was important not to leave rural communities feeling isolated. Would it not be better to scale back one of the Tavistock bus services rather than one that serves a rural community? Could the free bus pass scheme be reviewed? Cllr Sanders explained alternative ideas to fund buses is being discussed.

Cllr Sanders was asked if WDBC's target of 20 new homes in the parish over the next 15 years remained a viable target, will there be pressure to build more houses? Not many sites have some forward in the parish to support a higher rate of development than this.

BMPC had slightly increased its 2015-2016 precept as it had factored in a 'devolution' fund into its 2015-2016 budget setting in order to be prepared for the taking on of any services from DCC. Cllr Sanders has seen a trend of other parish councils upping their precepts too for the same reasons - parish councils are going to be encouraged to take on certain services. Local council precepts will not be subject to the same 'capping' rules as principal authorities - it would be difficult for DCLG to administer and the cost to local councils to implement would be prohibitive though larger town councils may be capped in the future.

Members discussed WDBC's proposal to expand Yelverton Business Park. Cllr Sanders said there is potential to expand the site increasing employment opportunities though there are issues due to its proximity to DNP and the AONB. There is local concern over the proposal - there are empty units which should be filled before expansion is considered, what type of business would be encouraged to move there, could the existing categories of business be protected to prevent the site becoming a manufacturing site? The Neighbourhood Plan will include the parish's views on the future of the business park.

Cllr Davis raised the matter of speeding at the entrance of Yelverton Business Park, it would help if the 30mph limit could be moved to the other side of the entrance. Cllr Sanders explained that unless a certain criteria is met, Highways will not reduce speed limits - more effective is the community trying to encourage local drivers to slow down. Road safety will again be part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Sanders also briefly touched on the Tavistock to Bere Alston railway project which is still ongoing.

062/15 | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr Fowler.

063/15 | **TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** None

064/15 | **BUS SERVICE 55**
Discussed with Cllr Sanders during the public open session. It was **AGREED** for Parish Councillors to meet at Milton Combe with Cllr Sanders and the bus company to discuss the issues.

065/15 **DCC PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW**
 Members were concerned about rural communities becoming isolated should any services were cut. It was felt that the level of main route Tavistock services should be reviewed - could some of these main routes be cut in order to keep the rural service provision? Cllr Cheadle will submit comments on behalf of Council.

066/15 **COUNCILLOR CASUAL VACANCY** No enquiries or applications have been received for the remaining vacancy.

067/15 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE 27TH JAN 2015**
 It was **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2015 without amendment.

068/15 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THE 27TH JAN AND 11TH FEB 2015** It was **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 27th January and 11th February 2015 without amendment.

069/15 **FINANCE**
 The Clerk circulated a finance report to Members which included the recent bank reconciliation - **NOTED**. Cllr Cheadle had checked the latest bank transaction information and signed the bank reconciliation.

a) Payments and Receipts

It was **AGREED** to approve the following payments:

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Net £</u>
DD	NPower	Xmas tree lights (February)	5.00
101999	MRB Gardening Services	BM grounds maintenance Dec 2014	1,000.00
102000	Perfect Pastures	Yelv grounds maintenance Jan 2014	381.71
102001	Richard Eggins	Parish hedge-trimming	200.00
102002	MRB Gardening Services	BM grounds maintenance Jan 2015	1,000.00
102003	YWMH	Hall hire 27/01/2014	18.00
102004	DCC LGPS	Employee pension	205.42
102005	HMRC	NI contributions	30.46
102006	D Ashton	Clerk's net salary	721.61
102006	D Ashton	Council admin	110.75

Receipts (£) since the last meeting - **NOTED**:

Current a/c:	TBB	CHEQUE	150.00	Interment - Plot E3-22
	TBB	CHEQUE	450.00	ExRoB/Interment - Plot D5-8
	TBB	CHEQUE	175.00	ExRoB/Interment of Ashes - GoR plot 19
	TBB	CHEQUE	450.00	Interment - Plot B5-8
	TBB	CHEQUE	130.00	New memorial - Plot H3-17
Savings a/c:	04/02/15	CASH	93.00	Crapstone field rent - Feb 2015
	16/02/15	DC	1,125.00	DCC Locality Grant (Briar Tor path project)

A VAT refund of £1,181.81, for the period 1st Oct 2014 to 31st Jan 2015, has been submitted to HMRC - **NOTED**.

b) IT equipment:

Cllr Challiss reported that the Clerk uses her own laptop for BMPC work which unfortunately crashed and necessitated in the purchase of a new replacement. Cllr Challiss felt that Council should financially compensate the Clerk for use of her laptop. Members discussed that the money paid to the Clerk for use of their home as office had not increased for a number of years - it was **AGREED** to set this at £650 per annum.

070/15 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

- Cllr Bolitho reported on a Healthwatch Devon meeting where the cutting of bus services across the county was discussed. Healthwatch Devon is concerned as there is an equality issue associated with the cutting of services.
- Cllr Cheadle and Davis had attended a conference on future housing at Dartington - notes from that

meeting were e-mailed to all Cllrs. The conference was an opportunity to gain and share knowledge about imaginative, equitable and sustainable ways meet housing need.

- Cllr Butland reported that:
 - WD TAP Fund projects now need to be paid for by the lead partner Council on completion of the project - a grant claim application will then need to be submitted to WDDBC.
 - Roborough Commoners' have agreed to an appointed Council representative sitting on the Committee (Council agreed to appoint Cllr Butland May 2014). The Commoners' have requested for their notices to go up in Parish Council noticeboards. The Commoners' will post hardcopies to the Clerk as the Parish Council cannot print out non-Parish Council noticeboard requests due to the volume of Parish Council ink all of these posters/notices would consume

071/15 **ANNUAL WEST DEVON MAYORAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS** No nominations.

072/15 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)**

Cllr Cheadle reminded all of the following planned events:

1. A housing drop-in day is being arranged for 28th March (10am to 3pm at St. Paul's Church Hall). Cllr Wood will try and arrange for a representative from the Community Land Trusts to attend.
2. A 'Parish Ramble' is being arranged for 22nd March as part of the Tamar Valley AONB's 'Helping Hands for Heritage' project.

Cllr Wood suggested holding a 'know your community day' in Buckland Monachorum, similar to the one held in Tavistock, to bring together different parish and village groups to help better communication across communities.

073/15 **WDDBC 'OUR PLAN' CONSULTATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EVENT**

The consultation starts 26th February 2015 - deferred to the next meeting to give Members enough time to look at the consultation in more detail.

074/15 **DEVON ASSOCIATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY (DARE) - FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANT UPDATE**

An application has been submitted and is being processed - awaiting a response.

075/15 **BMPC COMMUNICATIONS**

BMPC's Facebook page continues to increase its following. Cllr Wood will advise Council if a matter is raised that requires consideration by Council.

076/15 **GENERAL PURPOSES**

a) Dog Fouling:

The spray trial is going well in Buckland Monachorum and Crapstone - there appears to be a decrease in dog waste left on the paths.

b) Grounds Maintenance:

- **Plastic waste in the cemetery:** Members discussed how much plastic is contained in floral wreaths and tributes. The tributes are rarely cleared away from graves once flowers gone over leaving unsightly plastic around the cemetery which does blow about. Cllr Woollacott volunteered to collect up the old wreaths. It was **AGREED** to submit an article to Moorlinks encouraging visitors to the cemetery to bring floral tributes with less plastic in and that are biodegradable.
- **Large Laurel hedge to the right of the driveway:** General Purposes Sub-Committee site meeting to be arranged to discuss this hedge later in the year.

c) Yelverton Roundabout Tree: Cllr Cheadle has requested a quote for a new tree - awaiting a response.

d) Play park matters and inspections:

- Inspection forms have been sent out to Cllrs as per the rota. There were no items of concern from Cllrs who had carried out an inspection since the last meeting.
- Cllr Cheadle reported that Buckland Monachorum Parish Council is able to apply for another grant from 'Awards for All'. It was **AGREED** to replace the wooden Jungle Gym kit and the wooden beams (road end) at Buckland Monachorum play area - Cllr Cheadle will put a bid together which will also include safety matting and a picnic bench.

e) Parish Meadow: Cllr Woollacott suggested that picnic benches in the Parish Meadow would be well received by the community and that grant monies could be applied for to fund them. It was **AGREED** to provide picnic benches for the Parish Meadow subject to obtaining grants to fund their purchase.

f) **Cemetery:**

- **Green Burials:** Cllrs Cheadle and Woollacott met with Officers of Tavistock Town Council at its Plymouth Road Cemetery green burial area. There are no benches or headstones in the green burial area and only biodegradable coffins are permitted. The area is left to grow and is cut just once a year. All interments are marked with a micro-chip so a plan can still be kept and the law complied with. It was felt the top half of the cemetery extension field would be suitable for green burials – General Purposes Sub-Committee to have a walk round at its next cemetery site meeting.

077/15 **YELVERTON PATHS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Cllr Woollacott reported that a condition of the recent Briar Tor development grant of planning permission is upgrade/creation of paths to serve the new estate.

078/15 **HIGHWAY MATTERS AND REPORTS OF MINOR REPAIRS**

- Cllr Larkin will contact DCC Highways with regard to the drain outside Buckland Abbey.
- A 'road closed' sign left over from the Tanner's Bridge work still needs collecting by DCC Highways.
- Lorries following satnav from the A386 to Meavy through Clearbrook are causing damage to properties.
- There is a landslip on Churchill, Milton Combe - the landowners are addressing the problem.
- On the road from Buckland Monachorum to Crapstone, there is a pothole on the bend of the road.
- Part of the hedge has collapsed along the path along the side of Buckland Monachorum Church.

079/15 **REPORT ON PARISH PATHS (P3) AND OTHER FOOTPATH MATTERS**

- A tree is down across Footpath 4 - the landowner has now cleared it.
- Cllr Butland reported that DNPA are reviewing how footpaths in DNP are maintained in the future.

080/15 **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES**

The following list of correspondence was **NOTED**:

- 1) 2014 DNPA Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Report
- 2) WDBC - Our Plan Consultation and Neighbourhood Plan Event
- 3) DCC Scrutiny Task Group into Communities is seeking views
- 4) DALC Finance Settlement update
- 5) WD Town and Parish Newsletter - Elections Special
- 6) WDBC - Information on forthcoming local elections
- 7) DALC Newsletter Feb 2015
- 8) TNMWD Citizens Advice Bureau Newsletter
- 9) Various e-newsletters

The majority of the correspondence listed above, where e-mails have been received, are forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.

081/15 **ITEMS OF INFORMATION OR INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS**

- Cllr Butland reported that someone is leaving carrots in the middle of road on Roborough Down for the ponies.
- Cllr Wood reported that the Buckland Monachorum Village Hall Committee is going to be asked if the defibrillator can be installed on the side of the village hall.

082/15 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA** Parish noticeboards.

083/15 **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Following a request from Cllr Cheadle, it was **AGREED** for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 8th April 2015 instead on 15th April 2015 - the Planning Committee meeting to commence at 6.45pm with the APM to start at 7.30pm.

Wed 11th Mar: Planning Committee meeting at 7.30pm at Buckland Monachorum Village Hall (Committee Room)

Tues 24th Mar: Planning Committee meeting at 7.00pm followed by a meeting of Full Council at 7.30pm at Yelverton War Memorial Hall (Committee Room)

The meeting closed at 9.25pm