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Minutes of a meeting of the **BUCKLAND MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL** held at **CLEARBROOK VILLAGE HALL** on **WEDNESDAY** the **13th DECEMBER 2017** at **7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs S Britton (SB), R Cheadle (RC), S Challiss (SC), G Baird (GB), D Butland (DB), S Hustler (SH), L Larkin (LL), S Lorne (SL) & M Fowler (MF)

In Attendance: Paul Glanville (DNPA Ranger for Area)
Mrs K Johns (Parish Clerk)

Paul Glanville gave a report to the Council from Dartmoor National Park Authority. They said that the main problems continue to be vehicles off-roading on the moor within the Parish. Some of those involved have used threatening behaviour, therefore they should not be approached directly by members of the public. He went on to say, that the Roborough Rock Volunteers group has proved to be successful and that there are more dates upcoming in 2018 where volunteers can get involved in reviving and conserving Roborough Down. The upcoming dates in 2018 are 27th January, 24th February and 24th March at 10am – 3pm. There is no need to book, volunteers just need to turn up at Roborough Rock (SX515672), with suitable clothing and packed lunch. For full information volunteers should call 01822 890414 or email visit@dartmoor.gov.uk. Finally, there will be tree works ongoing in the Gem Bridge/ Magpie area shortly.

Cllr Cheadle thanked PG for his attendance

- 329/17** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs Wood, Bolitho and Woollacott. SC proposed that Cllr Cheadle chair the meeting in the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson. LL seconded the proposal.
- 330/17** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** VB & SB declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 – TAP Project for Clearbrook and Milton Combe Defibrillators.
- 331/17** **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2017**
The minutes and the recommendations therein of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 8th November 2017 were approved without amendment.
- 332/17** **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2017** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st November 2017 were approved without amendment.
- 333/17** **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2017** The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21st November 2017 were approved without amendment.
- 334/17** **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER 2017**
The minutes and the recommendations therein of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 28th November 2017 were approved without amendment. SB proposed that the sheep be allowed to graze in the Parish Meadow until the end of March 2018, for the purpose of keeping the grass down as the grounds maintenance contract is not due to start until the beginning of April 2018. It was **AGREED** that SB would find out whether Buckland Food Growers would want the sheep to remain in the meadow and report back their response at the next Council meeting.

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FINANCE

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

i) The following receipts were **NOTED** since the last meeting;

Date	Details	Amount
01/12/2017	Gross interest up to 1st Dec 2017 A/c 2815	£4.64
06/12/2017	D Carmichael - Field Rent Dec 2017	£100.00
08/12/2017	DNPA Contribution to Hall Hire 21/11/17	£10.00

The following payments made since the last meeting were **AGREED**;

Date	Details	Amount
21/11/2017	K Johns - Salary Mth 8	£851.66
21/11/2017	K Johns - Admin Mth 8	£122.91
21/11/2017	Green Scheme Inv. 894 - picnic benches x2	£1,334.40
21/11/2017	A Creber - 2nd strim of footpaths	£840.00
21/11/2017	Milton Combe Village Hall Hire 2017	£70.00
21/11/2017	Peninsula Pensions - Mth 8 Emp & Emp'ee payment Mth 8	£254.39
21/11/2017	HMRC - Emp & Emp'ee NI & Tax payment - Mth 8	£86.39
21/11/2017	CCA - Hall Hire 08/11/17	£25.00
21/11/2017	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath & donation)	£30.00

ii) To report notification of new external auditor: KJ reported that the PC has been notified that the new external auditors appointed on behalf of the Council are LKP Littlejohn LLP.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES (INCLUDES UPDATES ON WD TAP FUND PROJECTS)

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DB recently attended a Superlink meeting on 11th December, 2017. He reported that a new chair of the meeting has been elected. There was an update provided on the failed merger bid between West Devon Borough and South Hams District Councils. In essence, the two authorities are now having to consider alternatives to save money. Some of the ideas being considered include reduced frequency refuse collections and not funding public W.C.'s.

He went onto say that there is a minimal amount of money, (approximately £3000.00) left in the TAP (Town and Parish) fund, which will be carried over into 2018. Additionally, new rules which govern administration of the TAP fund will be introduced in March 2018. Finally, he reminded members that there is still a pot of money held by Devon County Council, called the Highways Enhancement Fund which is available to Town and Parish Councils for Lengthsman type works. The scheme provides match funding. LL suggested that the fund could be considered for pothole repairs in the Parish.

There was also a discussion regarding the safeguarding of children in playparks at the meeting, the suggestion being, that Councils should look to introduce a policy document which covers this issue. It was **AGREED** that RC would investigate the matter and report back at the next meeting.

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BMPC COMMUNICATIONS (NEWSLETTERS, SOCIAL MEDIA, PRESS ARTICLES)

RC has a number of Parish news articles to be placed in the next edition of Moorlinks magazine. They include the installation of the new Picnic benches in Crapstone Field, issues with Fly tipping in the area and the importance of using the food waste recycling facility.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE (Cllr Cheadle)

All work on the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed, the NP group met in November to finalise it. It has now been passed to West Devon Borough Council, so that it will be scrutinised by a Planning Examiner to check the legality of the document. RC is hopeful that this work will be completed by Easter 2018.

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UPDATE FROM WDBC COUNCILLOR FOR THE WARD (Cllr Cheadle)

RC added to DB's update on the options open to West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council following the failed bid to merge the two authorities. He said that various options were currently being considered to help balance the books, some of which are unconventional. They include; local lotteries, purchasing assets to generate income, as well as devolving some of its responsibilities to other bodies. Nothing has been agreed to date.

340/17

HIGHWAY MATTERS AND REPORTS OF MINOR REPAIRS

KJ said that they have received a complaint from a member of the public about the danger caused by the high volume of HGV's being driven up and down Meavy Lane. The complainant has incurred considerable costs in having to undertake repair work to their property from damage caused by the vehicles. RC said that they are dealing with a similar complaint and would get in touch with complainant to discuss the matter further.

341/17

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IMPROVEMENT WORKING PARTY (CLLR FOWLER)

MF reminded KJ they he still required a code, so that the consultant can access the website. KJ promised that they will chase.

342/17

REPORT ON PARISH PATHS (P3) AND OTHER FOOTPATH MATTERS

SH has now received all the completed P3 footpath survey forms from members. They will pass to KJ for collation, after which they will be sent to Devon County Council to apply for 2018 funding.

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TO DISCUSS GENERAL PURPOSES ITEMS:**i) Cemetery:**

- a. **Interments and memorial work:** No interments or memorials to report since the last meeting, but KJ has completed 3 complicated legal transfers, which have taken a number of months to obtain the relevant paperwork.
- b. **To further discuss and agree treatment of ant infestation in cemetery:** KJ has now received a revised (downward) quote for the treatment of the ants' nests in the cemetery. The pest control company have also revised their identification of the ants. They originally believed them to be Argentine ants, but they have now been identified as Yellow Meadow Ants. The revised quote is for £1777.00 plus VAT. It was **AGREED** to accept the quote and engage the services of Rentokil pest control.
- c. **To discuss and agree the length of the Buckland Grounds Maintenance and Hedge Contracts starting in 2018:** The matter was discussed and it was **AGREED** that both contracts will run for a period of three years, starting 1st April 2018 and ending 31st March, 2021. It is hoped that by offering a longer contract period, that the work will be more attractive to prospective businesses.

ii) Playparks and Inspections: No problems to report at the most recent inspection. RC is looking at

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efficiency savings regarding running costs, as they have just taken over looking after Yelverton Play park on behalf of Yelvercare and believe that saving can be made from utilising the same inspection services.

iii) Crapstone field wetlands nature reserve update: The report from PEA (Plymouth Environmental Action) has not yet been made available. Until it has been received the project cannot move forward.

RC raised a concern that even with the wetlands project, that the PC should still consider other options which would make the field more of a community asset. He asked that the PC give the issue further serious thought. It was **AGREED** that RC would investigate further options and report back at the next meeting.

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CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

All general correspondence this month was via email and have been forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.

KJ has received a number of complaints from a parishioner. The first being that they are unhappy that people are smoking in the bus shelter at Yelverton. Secondly, the road sign to Pound has been damaged and finally, they have asked if there is any way that the PC could advertise the bus service run by Target Travel. It was **AGREED** that the PC could not do anything about the smoking in the bus shelters as there is no way that it could be enforced. Because it is not illegal to smoke in a two-sided shelter and there was no one available to police the bus shelters. KJ will report the damaged sign to DCC highways and mention to the complainant that they may wish to prepare an item for publication in the Moorlinks magazine to advertise the bus services.

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ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Presentation on Proposal for Crapstone Field Wetlands Nature Reserve
Annual increment of Clerk's salary
Setting of 2018/19 Precept

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 10th Jan: Planning Meeting at Buckland Monachorum Village Hall (Committee Room) at 7.30pm.
Tues 23rd Jan: Planning meeting at 7.00pm at Yelverton War Memorial Hall (Committee Room) followed by Full Council to follow at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm