

Buckland Monachorum Parish Council

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of **BUCKLAND MONACHORUM** held at **BUCKLAND MONACHORUM VILLAGE HALL** on **WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2019** at **7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs V Bolitho (Chair) R Cheadle, S Woollacott, G Baird, L Wood, L Larkin, D Butland, R Allan and M Fowler
Apologies: Cllr's Challis and J Morewood

In Attendance: Rob Price – Environment Agency
John Abraham – Roborough Cycle Path Proposal.
10 members of the public
Katharine Griffiths (Parish Clerk)

129/19 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND REPORT

Cllr Bolitho welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and gave an explanation of its proceedings. Cllr Bolitho also reported on the Parish activities during the past year (report attached as **Appendix A**).

130/19 ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - TAMAR CATCHMENT

Rob Price from the Environment Agency gave a very informative talk. A link to the slide presentation can be found on the website or click [here](#). Then opened the floor to questions by members of the public.

131/19 ROBOROUGH DOWN CYCLE ROUTE PROPOSAL.

John Abraham gave a comprehensive update on the proposal for a cycle path across Roborough Down running parallel with the A386. John informed those present that the current cycle route, the Plym Valley, is generally a leisure route there is a need for a suitable commuting pathway. There has been a steady increase in people cycling in recent years. Due in to the increase in housing in Tavistock there a need and for improved transport. The preferred route is on the east side of the A386. The route will need to be constructed up to a quality standard. A walk over of the site has been carried out to assess any issues. The new path would cross two roads and sections of the golf course.

There has currently been a lot of support from local residents, Sustrans, councillors and Dartmoor National Park. The next step is to have an initial feasibility study carried out. This obviously comes with a cost and it is being looked into as to how to raise those funds. It is likely that the funding will have to come from central government or Devon County Council.

It was then opened up to questions from members of the public. One of the questions raised was whether there would be a necessity for the path to be lit. John commented that there is no requirement for the path to be lit.

132/19 OPEN QUESTIONS

Cllr Bolitho then asked if there were any other questions for the Parish Council. There were no further questions raised. Cllr Bolitho thanked Rob and John for their time and those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

APPENDIX A

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Chairman's Report

Clr Bolitho gave the following report

Good evening and thank you for coming.

I cannot believe I have been Chair of BMPC for a whole year.

During this time BMPC have continued to work towards improving aspects within the Parish, however, there is always work to do. With the help of money from the new development at Briar Tor and liaison with Maristow Estate, new footpaths between Briar Tor and Yelverton Shops have been agreed. The intention is that it will be easier and safer for people to walk between Briar Tor and the services they require. In addition, The Rick Hotel has sponsored the roundabout this year, enabling us to spend more money on the footpaths around Yelverton. We now cut the paths from Chub Tor to Yelverton, Clonway to Yelverton and Woodman's Corner to Yelverton. As a result many residents have been walking to the shops and buses, rather than using their cars.

The Rock Hotel also put up the Christmas lights on the roundabout, which looked great.

The Parish has also developed a link with Tom Lee of Devon highways. Tom spent some time in the area meeting Ric Cheadle and other Parish Councillors who showed him some areas of particular concern. All the issues Tom was shown have been addressed. Having a named person to contact is helpful as things are less likely to be "forgotten". Additionally if something is likely to be expensive or delayed, at least we are able to understand why.

I am sure people have become aware that West Devon Borough Council are seeking to reduce their financial commitments by closing some public toilets. Buckland Monachorum Parish Council has agreed, in principle, to take on the facilities in Yelverton. There are still some issues that have to be addressed but the need to have Public toilets in Yelverton is accepted, especially as, apart from the shops, walkers and cyclist use the village as a gateway to Dartmoor.

Funding from a range of sources, Devon County Council, Tamar Valley ANOB and fundraising at coffee mornings and Buckland Monachorum Summer Fair, has allowed the parish to develop a small wetland area in Crapstone. For those of you who haven't been there or who do not know where it is, it is on the former MOD land at the end of Morley Drive. Nationally wetland is being lost and the species that inhabit it becoming endangered. A small committee with the help of some local volunteer's planted trees and shrubs, sowed seeds and bulb, put up bat and bird boxes, and added two hedgehog homes to the undergrowth. With the help of local fundraising events, we were able to put up an information board, made of recycled plastic and supplied by Greenscheme. Although this area is small, it will play a vital part in providing habitat for such flora and Fauna.

A new litter picking group has been formed in the Yelverton area called Yell-Lit Yelverton Community Litter Pick and their next clean up will be on Sunday 28th April at 10am meeting at the Aerodrome. Sadly too many people leave litter along the sides of roads and around the open spaces. I personally can never understand how people can carry a picnic when it is full of food but cannot take the containers etc when they are empty, nor why it is necessary to throw fast food containers and drinks cans and bottles out of car windows. Sadly they do so this group will be tidying up after such people.

In Buckland Village, the maintenance guys have been working hard in the cemetery and a number of people have commented how good it is looking. It is good to have positive feedback. A New gate has also been installed at the rear of the cemetery. The parish Meadow, behind the Church, was given a new look, with an area left to grow long in the centre with paths around, allowing children to run around in the long grass.

COMMUNICATION: At one time the Council used to send out a newsletter twice a year. Some of you will remember the Miscellany. This took a great deal of time and money, both in the preparation and printing and in the distribution. Now that the Moorlinks is delivered to every household alternate months, we have reserved a slot in the magazine to keep parishioners up to date with what is going on more frequently. We also have a Website and a facebook page. The last of these offering an interactive means of communication.

Some people will be wondering what has happened to the Neighbourhood Plan. It has been delayed due to West Devon's plan becoming a Joint Local Plan with Plymouth and the South Hams. The Joint Local Plan is now all but completed and signed off.

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During the delay some additional building has been proposed within the Parish which has caused some changes to the plan being necessary. It is now almost ready for the next stage, consultation. Once the various phases are complete it is hoped it will be ratified. Then it will be in place and help the Council and parishioners know what the next few years hold in store regarding development in the area.

There are elections on 2nd May. Nominations are already in and there being too few people standing in BMPC to fill the seats there will be no election for the Parish Council, in fact we will be looking for people to put themselves forward once the election date is over. There will be an election for WDBC, however. There are 5 Candidates for the 2 seats - Conservative, Independent, Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat. Hopefully the turnout will be high for this.

Thank you once again for coming and I hope you will enjoy the evening and think about joining the council yourselves at some time.