

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7th May 2024 at 7pm in Scoriton Village Hall

Present – Cllrs Brent (Chairman), Feasey, Le Marchant, Knowling, Rolls & Owen
& County Cllr Dan Thomas Clerk - Karen Gilbert

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

Full reports available from the Clerk - all reports circulated to Councillors in advance

COUNTY CLLR DAN THOMAS

Devon County Council and Torbay Council have formally submitted our joint proposal for a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.

It follows agreement by both councils for the formation of a Devon and Torbay CCA that, if agreed by the Secretary of State, would oversee a raft of new decision-making powers and funding devolved to Devon and Torbay from Whitehall.

Opportunities like this don't come around often, so it's seen by both councils as a major achievement to now submit the application to the government, and to be closer to having the CCA in place in the Autumn.

The CCA will deliver the devolution deal which will enable important decisions to be made locally on local priorities such as jobs and skills, housing, and the environment.

Councillors at Devon and Torbay councils were given an analysis of the feedback following recent consultation that drew responses from a broad cross-section of organisations including Devon's District councils, Town and Parish councils, and representatives from the business, education and skills, housing, transportation, health service providers and voluntary sectors.

Taking that analysis into account, Councillors at both councils agreed the next steps: to submit the proposal to the Secretary of State, and subject to receiving the approval and the making of the necessary Regulations, to draft a constitution for the Devon and Torbay CCA for consideration this September.

At Torbay Council's specially convened meeting, the vote to progress the CCA proposals was carried unanimously. But not all Councillors at Devon County Council were in agreement – Councillors Bailey, Brazil, Connett, Cox, Leaver, Letch, Roome, Thomas and Wrigley abstained from the vote.

The recommendations, however, were carried. In addition to the Devon and Torbay CCA, the County Council will begin the process of establishing the statutory Team Devon Joint Committee, to formalise the existing long-standing partnership between the eight District, City and Borough Councils, Devon Association of Local Councils (representing town and parish councils) and the two national park authorities.

DNPA - GUY PANNELL

The main news from Dartmoor National Park Authority is that we heard of our financial settlement from the Government on the last working day of the financial year. The grant has been frozen again at £3.8million. There's been no increase since 2019. If our funding had kept pace with inflation we would have been receiving nearer £7million. This has clearly had a severe effect on our ability to provide the range of services we would like and led to a reduction in staff.

The ray of sunshine is that we have received an additional one off payment for this year of £500,000. This was to have been restricted to capital spending only but after strong lobbying from DNPA we have been told we can use half of it for revenue spending, so this will ease pressure on staffing costs for one more year.

DIST CLLR HANCOCK - SHDC

Community Safety Partnership update

The end of the financial year is always a busy time for the CSP team, as it is for so many people.

At the beginning of March we hold our annual priority setting meeting, where we get together with our lead members and partners from a number of agencies to take a look at the intelligence we have and agree what the priorities of the CSP should be for the coming year.

These priorities include a mix of statutory duties such as the Domestic Homicide Reviews, along with additional local priorities.

Sadly the intelligence shows us Devon has seen a rise in suicides. As a result of this, suicide prevention and awareness will be one of our priorities for the coming year.

You will also see we have recently been publicising the need to be aware of rogue traders. This has been as a result of some recent incidents in Devon and we will also be looking at carrying out more awareness work around rogue traders and the online space.

Our overarching priorities for the coming year are domestic violence and sexual abuse, violence prevention and violence against women and girls, problem drinking and drug use, exploitation and hate crime, changing youth culture and anti-social behaviour.

If anyone would like to know more about the work we are doing to address these priorities, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In addition to the priority setting meeting, we held our annual forum. For the first time in many years this was a hybrid option so was a great opportunity to network with our partners face to face.

The forum gives an overview of some of the work carried out by the CSP and its partners over the year. We are looking at the possibility of holding it face to face again next year.

Finally we have launched two bitesize awareness sessions. The first is aimed at professionals working with young people and is to raise awareness of gaming and gambling harm. This session will be run on 23 April; people can sign up [online here](#).

The second is our exploitation awareness session which is available to any professionals. People can sign up for this session [online here](#).

Both sessions are completely FREE of charge and are held online. We will also be recording the sessions for those who are unable to attend.

24/05/01 - Election of Chairman

Cllr Brent had confirmed his willingness to act as Chairman to Buckfastleigh West Parish Council . Cllr S Brent was proposed by Cllr Feasey & seconded by Cllr Owen with all in agreement.

Election of Vice Chairman – Cllr K Feasey – proposed by Cllr Brent & seconded by Cllr Owen - with all in agreement.

24/05/01a. Apologies for absence Cllr Niering and Dist Cllr Pannell

24/05/02- Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting and Annual Parish meeting both held on 2nd April 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

24/05/03 Declarations of Interest - None. **Dispensation requests** - None

24/05/04 - Parish Council admin

Cllr Feasey ran through the details of the new website which he had produced . The Council unanimously approved and thanked him for all his hard work

It was **AGREED** that responsibility for various roles be as follows

a) Snow warden	TBC
b) Personnel matters	Cllr Feasey
c) Parish Paths	Cllr Knowling
d) Emergency planning	Cllr Brent
e) PC rep for Village Hall	Cllr Owen / Le Marchant
f) Noticeboards / Bus shelter	Cllr Brent
g) Defibrillator	Cllr Feasey
h) Website	Cllr Feasey
i) Tree Warden	Cllr Brent

24/05/05 Clerks Report - None

24/05/06 - Planning

DOC/0366/23 3 4 5 6 10	Discharge Of Conditions	Dribble Park Barn, Scorriton, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0JB	Change of use of barn to
NO COMMENT			

24/05/07 - Finance - Approval of cheques - **AGREED** by all

Karen Gilbert	expenses/ stationery	£78.94
K Gilbert (reimburse)	payment of election fees to SHDC	£134.40
KEVIN FEASEY	Website costs	£153.43
Tradesmans Arms	Buffet APM	£30.00
Hawthorns accounting	Internal Audit	£70.00

b) To consider the Internal Auditors report - **NOTED**

The Clerk presented the internal Auditors report which highlighted no issues **NOTED**

c) To consider & approve the Parish Council Accounts y/e 31/3/24 /exemption form

The Clerk presented the Accounts for Buckfastleigh West Parish Council for the year ending 31/3/24 The Clerk also presented the Exemption from Audit form

Both were **APPROVED** by all - SHOW OF HANDS

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Accounts as adopted and sign the exemption form

d) To consider/ agree Annual statement of Governance y/e 31/3/24

The Clerk read out the statement of Governance

APPROVED by all - SHOW OF HANDS

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

e) To consider & approve Statements on Annual return y/e 31/3/24

The Clerk presented the Annual Return - previously circulated
APPROVED by all - SHOW OF HANDS
IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE RETURN

24/05/08 Councillor reports

- a) Tree Warden report. - Nothing to report
- b) Councillors reports from other meetings. -See Village Hall item below
- c) Footpaths Warden Report. - No major issues to report

24/05/09 - Village Matters

a). Highways - The hedge opposite the pub was reported as being very overgrown

ACTION : CHAIR TO FIND DETAILS OF ABSENT OWNER

It was reported that a very large sink hole had appeared in the village centre near the Farm . Clerk to write to Highways but in the meantime a cone was to be placed therein to avoid any accidents with pedestrians / livestock using the road

b) Village Hall - A Deed had been forwarded by the Village Hall Committee detailing the responsibilities between Parish Council and the Hall Committee with regard to decisions on matters concerning the Hall . The Council noted the contents

ACTION - CLERK TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND COMMENT TO VHC

The Chairman advise Cllr Marchant that he had the plaque for the Phone Box

The D Day commemoration was planned for 6th June with the lighting of the Beacon / picnic and BBQ . Flyers to be produced by Cllr Feasey with details to be advertised locally. It was planned as a low key event - as it was to take place on a weeknight

It was AGREED that the Parish Council would pay for the portaloo . The Clerk asked that the invoice be made out to the Parish Council in order that the Vat might be reclaimed

24/05/10. Next meeting 4th June 2024 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at.8.30 pm