

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th November 2024 at 7.00pm in Scoriton Village Hall

Present – Cllrs Brent (Chairman), Feasey , Knowling , Le Merchant , Owen & Rolls
List Cllr Pannell , Clerk - Karen Gilbert. No members of Public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

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

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - FULL REPORT AVAILABLE FROM CLERK

The introduction of a two tier payment system for the District's car parks was discussed .
It was forecast that those residing outside of the South Hams District would be charged double the charge for South Hams residents

He also touched on the topic of Devolution for Devon. It was felt that the new Government had an appetite for larger combined Authorities with Mayors - which would in turn take on some the roles from central Government

DEVON COUNTY - CLLR DAN THOMAS

Snow warden scheme - Additional salt

Towns and parishes who are signed up to the Snow Warden Scheme and whose snow warden has completed online training are generally entitled to an allocation of 5 tonnes of salt per winter, supplied in 25kg bags. Once approved orders will be delivered directly to the town or parish by the salt supplier.

Forms to request salt and update contact details can be found on the Devon Highways self help section of our website (www.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/self-help). Snow wardens can request access to the online training by emailing communityselfhelp@devon.gov.uk.

DNPA

Ranger - Rob Steemson

Erosion work at Chalk ford has been completed and a new bridge as arrived in our yard at Parke. Arrangements are being planned for its construction on site soon.

All the drains on Scoriton lane have been dug out and some path repair has been undertaken in Burchetts wood.

New permitted path signs have been installed on Scoriton down permitted footpath.

24/11/01 Apologies for absence - County Cllr Thomas and Rob Steemson

24/11/02 Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 1st October 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record **24/11/03. Declarations of interest** - None **Dispensation requests** None

24/11/04- PC admin -

- a) There were no Co-option applications to consider
- b) Cllr Feasey explained the reasons why the website had temporarily lost its content
- c) To note consultation on Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings and to consider delegating online response to one Councillor

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

It was **AGREED** that the online consultation form be completed by Cllr Feasey
The Councillors **AGREED** that remote meetings could be utilised in times of bad weather and where meetings might otherwise be inquorate - due to Councillors being unable to attend in person
It was considered that the proposal would create more problems than it would solve
It was **AGREED** that there would be a preference to meet in person whenever possible
It was **NOTED** that each Council would be able to decide on the use of remote meetings through the Councils Standing Orders
It was also **NOTED** that it may be the Public would be entitled to attend remotely - in which case it would be necessary to buy appropriate equipment

It was generally considered that Proxy voting - without the benefit of hearing debate - would not be acceptable

d) To note potential cost implication of remote attendance

It was **AGREED** that the costs involved to carry this out effectively would be far greater than the benefit - and possibly beyond the reach of a small Parish Council
However, it was hoped that the Government might instigate a grant process to facilitate

e) To note the Local Government Service pay agreement and the increase to be applied to the Clerk's hourly rate, to be backdated to April 1st 2024 **NOTED**

24/11/05 - Clerks Report

The Clerk advised that she had contacted the owner of the overhanging trees - as reported by a Parishioner - and that he would ask his Tree surgeon to appraise the situation
It was confirmed that the New Bench and slat had been collected from Rattery Sawmills and was awaiting installation. It was **NOTED** that no charge had been made for the replacement slat - The Council thanked them for this generous gesture

24/11/06- Planning

0427/24 - Change of use of land from agriculture to equine together with relocation of stable and store at Post Box Field, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0JA

SUPPORT

24/11/07 Finance -

Approval of cheques - AGREED by all

K GILBERT	BACKPAY 4/24 - 11/24 INCL	152.76
K GILBERT	EXPENSES 10/24	41.00
SIMON BRENT	POPPY WREATH.	25.00

b) To note introduction of Bank Charges by Lloyds Bank. NOTED

c) To consider suggestions for 2025/2026 budget / precept

The Clerk presented the spend to date for 234/25 and the estimated spend to the end of the year - 31/3/25. It was **AGREED** that the previous precept had been correctly set.
The Clerk presented a draft budget to the Council - it having been circulated to all in advance.
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the budget - all in agreement

It was **NOTED** that there would be an increase in precept from £8100.00 to £9400.00
This represented an increase to a band D property of approx 22p per week.
It was **RESOLVED** that the precept for 2025/26 be set at £9400.00 - All in agreement

24/11/08 Councillor reports

- a) Tree Warden report. - Nothing to report
- b) Councillors reports from other meetings. **NONE**
- c) Footpaths Warden Report. - **NONE** - see report from Rob Steemson

24/11/09 - Village Matters

Highways - **The condition of the side of the highway on Mill Leat Lane was raised**
Village Hall - **NONE**

24/11/10. Parish Council Meeting 3rd December 2024 at 7.00pm

24/11/11 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies. (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the agenda item 12 owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and that the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.
NO PUBLIC PRESENT

PART TWO

24/11/12. Confidential matters

The matter was debated at length
The Clerk gave the legal advice she had received
It was **AGREED** that the Clerk take the next step in the process in order that a decision could be reached

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm