

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2024 at 7.00pm in Scoriton Village Hall

Present – Cllrs Brent (Chairman), Feasey , Knowling & Rolls
Dist Cllr Hancock , Clerk - Karen Gilbert. 2 members of Public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

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

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - Council Funding

The Government has announced that the Rural Services Delivery Grant will be withdrawn in the coming year. This grant compensates authorities in rural areas for the additional cost of delivering services to people living in more thinly populated areas than in large urban conurbations. The full impact of this measure will not be known until the Finance Settlement for Councils is published – around 19th December.. Support will be provided for authorities to help offset the increase in employer National Insurance contributions, but the New Homes Bonus is to be withdrawn after 2025-26. This rewards councils for encouraging development and has been a valuable additional income stream. The maximum District Councils can raise Council Tax for 2025-26 remains at 2.99% or £5, whichever is higher. There will be a Business Rates baseline reset in 2026-27, when the Government will also implement wider reform, including a Fair Funding Review. A White Paper is expected shortly on Devolution, and on the shape of Local Government in the future. Hints that District Councils will be abolished to make way for Unitary Authorities are becoming heavier.

South Hams Community Awards 2025

The South Hams Community Awards 2025 will open for nominations on Monday 13 January for four weeks. Towns and Parish Councils have also been made aware. Last year nominations could be made for three categories: Young Persons Award (under 18), Community Champion Award (over 18) and Community Organisation Award. This year a fourth category will be available, Green Award – Climate Champion. Further information will be available on our website when nominations open.

DEVON COUNTY - CLLR DAN THOMAS

An update from County after Storm Bert.

Our flood risk team is working closely with the Environment Agency and District Councils to review the communities and properties in Devon which were flooded during Storm Bert. Strong winds and heavy rain battered Devon last weekend and we received reports that approximately 40 properties suffered internal flooding. The results of the investigation, which will be published in the New Year, will help us identify which properties and areas would most benefit from future resilience measures, in line with other priorities, workload and funding opportunities.

Devolution Latest

The ‘Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority Regulations 2024’, a ‘statutory instrument’ (SI), has been laid in Parliament, paving the way towards the creation of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority. The Regulations will be debated in the

House of Commons and the House of Lords. When they are signed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP, under powers delegated by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) will come into being. The CCA will make decisions about the powers and funding devolved from Whitehall to Devon and Torbay through the deal that was agreed in January this year.

24/12/01 Apologies for absence - County Cllr Thomas and Cllr Owen (approved)
Cllr Judy Le Merchant was not present

24/12/02 Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 5th November 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

24/12/03. Declarations of interest - None **Dispensation requests** None

24/12/04- PC admin -

- a) There were no Co-option applications to consider
- b) Cllr Feasey explained that the Minutes and agendas had been reinstated into the framework of the website It was **NOTED** that there was a problem with the emails which was in the process of being rectified
- c) It was **AGREED** the emergency matters be delegated to the Clerk in association with the Chairman during the Christmas / January recess

24/12/05 - Clerks Report

It was **NOTED** that one of the signatories had failed to sent the necessary approval to allow a third signatory to be added to the Bank Account

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Feasey had not yet sent in the survey regarding remote meetings and Proxy voting - as **AGREED** in 11/24

It was confirmed that the new bench had been placed by the War Memorial

24/12/06- Planning - NONE

24/12/07 Finance

Grahams garden services	tidy War memorial	£140.00
K Gilbert	cont to SLCC fee	£25.00
K Gilbert	Expenses 11/24 + 10 x mileage	£86.00
K Gilbert	2 hours - confidential matter	£32.00

Approval of cheques - AGREED by all

24/12/08 Councillor reports

a) Tree Warden report. - Nothing to report

Following a complaint about overgrown trees from a Parishioner , it was **NOTED** that remedial action had been taken by the landowner

b) Councillors reports from other meetings. NONE

c) Footpaths Warden Report. - It was **NOTED** that there was a blocked drainage hole at Ludgate which was causing water to pour down the pathway in wet weather
ACTION ; CLERK TO CONTACT DNPA

24/12/09 - Village Matters

Highways - It was reported that the 6'6 sign was missing from Stumpy Oak - possibly damaged / removed when the hedge was cut

ACTION ; CLERK TO REPORT ONLINE

Village Hall - It was **NOTED** that the Hall is finically stable thanks to regular bookings and income from solar panels

24/12/10. Parish Council Meeting 4th February 2024 at 7.00pm

24/12/11 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.

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT TWO MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REMAIN IN THE ROOM DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL - NO PUBLIC PRESENT

PART TWO

24/12/12. Confidential matters

The Chairman read out an email from the Clerk as to her perception of the current situation As the Clerk was interrupted during her supplying further advice and not allowed to speak further (advice being supplied by Cllr Feasey) , the Clerk considered that her input was no longer required and left the Meeting at 7.35pm

In the absence of the Clerk , it was agreed that the District and County Councils be approached to see if they could give legal advice on a Trust Deed at reasonable cost

There being no further business the meeting was closed at. 7.55 pm