

BUCKLAND TOUT SAINTS PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held at St Peter's Church at 6pm on Tuesday 24th
January 2023

Present: Chair Diana Jones, Councillors Jane Harrison and Andy Brunner-Ellis. County Cllr Rufus Gilbert and District Cllr Richard Foss. Helen Hamilton, Clerk. There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

- 1 APOLOGIES** – Apologies had been received from Cllr Kerswell and Cllr Bridger.
- 2 ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Chair Jones with regard to payments to Oliver Jones for website works.

3 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Cllr Gilbert

Council Tax will be, subject to DCC approval, increased by 5%. This will comprise of 2.993% increase direct to Council Tax and remainder 2% to Adult Social Care (ASC). Yet, due to the increase in National Minimum Wage, the 2% for ASC will cover this increase in salary and therefore there is no real increase in provision.

Modbury road closure has been postponed until 2024. Works were due to start the beginning of 2023 however the contractor has pulled out.

Roads are suffering over recent months due to the prolonged cold weather and rain that has had an impact. There are currently 500 pot hole reports made every day, and there is a huge backlog to repairs due to the poor weather which has meant repairs cannot be undertaken. Dual roles are held by those who repair the roads and grit the roads. Therefore if individuals are out gritting roads at night they are unable to work in the day to carry out repairs.

Cllr Gilbert left at 18:20

District Cllr Foss

Refuse services have improved since being bought back in-house again, alongside an improvement in staff morale. Some households may be moved over to the new box system however locations and roads will need to be factored in to any changes. Should this go ahead it will be rolled out slowly and residents will receive letters.

Chair Jones asked about the waste that was appearing in the hedgerow from refuse vehicles travelling to Torr Quarry. Cllr Foss advised that this should be directed to Cllr Gilbert.

Cllr Foss advised that SHDC receive 9% of residents' total council tax bill. They have requested an increase of £5 for each household. Currently, SHDC is a financially stable council.

For the elections on 4th May 2023 residents will require photo ID. More information can be found here: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/voter-ID>

Cllr Foss advised there was funding available for projects in the parish with a link to agriculture, tourism and business. Cllr Foss to provide Clerk with further information.

Cllr Foss left at 18:40

- 4 MINUTES** The minutes from the meeting on 22nd November 2022 had been circulated and it was agreed that they be approved as a true record of those proceedings. Chair Jones signed them accordingly.

5 BUDGET / PRECEPT REQUEST 2023 / 24

To minute that the Parish Council will request a precept for 2023/24 of £5170.00.
See appendix below for breakdown of proposed budget costs.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk read out payments made in December to be minuted:

HMRC	PAYE – Dec	£39.40
H.Hamilton	Clerk Salary – Dec	£157.93

a. Expenditure to be approved

It was agreed that the following items of expenditure be approved:

HMRC	PAYE – January	£39.60
H.Hamilton	Salary – January	£157.73
Oliver Jones	Annual website hosting	£390.00
Oliver Jones	Website upgrade	£960.00*

*To note, the PC has received £640.00 from Cllr Foss' Locality Fund in 2022 to support with the website upgrade, which has not been upgraded since the website implementation seven years ago.

The clerk confirmed that the bank balance as of 19/01/23 was £7085.11. The finance spreadsheet had been emailed to cllrs prior to the meeting and had been seen by all. Chair Jones signed a hard copy of the finance spreadsheet for records.

7 REVIEW OF STATUTORY DOCUMENTS

a. Standing Orders

Had been reviewed by all cllrs and all in unanimous agreement to adopt these Standing Orders by the Parish Council immediately.

b. Financial Regulations

Had been reviewed by all cllrs and all in unanimous agreement to adopt these Financial Regulations by the Parish Council immediately.

c. Financial Risk Assessment

Had been reviewed by all cllrs and all in unanimous agreement to adopt the Financial Risk Assessment by the Parish Council immediately.

8 CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Harrison had attended a meeting with Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group in December regarding Home Energy. Please see appendix B below for information.

General discussion around Coronation celebrations in May but in agreement that would like to mark this occasion. Ongoing discussions to be held with parishioners.

Jonathan Harrison advised that Brooking are no longer working in the area cleaning gullies. However, there does not appear to be much debris in the parish to warrant a gulley clean. DCC will be attending for their annual clean during the next few months. Clerk to obtain contact details for gulley cleaners from Slapton PC should they be required.

The junction at Sandy Lane / Black Ridge Cross requires digging out and draining. Cllr Kerswell is discussing this with the landowner.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, planning meeting, is on Tuesday 21st February, 6pm at St Peter's Church.

Meeting closed at 19:35

Helen Hamilton, Clerk

APPENDIX A

ITEM	2022 / 23	2023 / 24	Difference
Clerk Salary	£2600.00	£2600.00	£0.00
Clerk expenses	£60.00	£60.00	£0.00
Insurance	£260.00	£270.00	+£10.00
Auditor	£170.00	£130.00	-£40.00
DALC subscription	£60.00	£60.00	£0.00
Website Hosting	£370.00	£370.00	+£5.00
Meeting room costs	£200.00	£240.00	+£40.00
Road maintenance	£700.00	£700.00	£0.00
Grass cutting at St Peter's	£250.00	£250.00	£0.00
Training costs	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00
Information Commissioners Office registration	£50.00	£40.00	-£10.00
Defibrillator pads	£200.00	£100.00	-£100.00
Other – laptop / printer	£200.00	£230.00	+£30.00
Election fee costs	£0	£70.00	+£70.00
TOTAL	£5170.00	£5170.00	£0.00

APPENDIX B

Report from Cllr Harrison from Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group (KASG) meeting:

The topic was Home Energy, as a major subject to combat the climate crisis & also to reduce all our energy bills.

Our PC distributed the flyer from South Dartmoor Community Energy (SDCE) - by email & by hand in December.

We also plan to have Ben come to speak at our Annual Parish meeting. Discussion was held regarding having a drop in session at St Peter's Church prior to April APM but it was felt it best to wait.

The KASG suggested we look on the Gov website (<https://www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate>) at EPC certificates for the parish area and see which houses have lowest ratings (E, F & G) and who could perhaps be encouraged to attend the APM to discuss energy efficiency measures for their home.

Also *It All Adds Up* government campaign which suggests ways to save energy:

- **Use or switch to a renewable energy provider**
- **Turn down Combi flow temp to 60C (save up to £100 per year)**
- **Turn down radiators in rooms not using (up to £70)**
- **Turn appliances off at sockets (up to £70)**
- **Wash clothes at lower temperature (up to £40)**
- **Use tumble dryer less (up to £70)**
- **Close curtains & blinds at night to keep heat in**
- **There are apps that with a smart meter help to track hourly energy use.**
- **Draught proofing (up to £60)**
- **switch to energy saving lightbulbs e.g. LED's (up to £55)**
- **Insulating hot water cylinder (up to £70)**
- **Installing smart thermostats & heating controls (up to £60)**
- **Roof & loft insulation (up to £355)**
- **upgrade to more energy efficient appliances (ie if change washing machine from C to A rating could reduce energy used by 25%)**
- **Solar panels on roof (up to £455 per year)**
- **Upgrade to double glazed windows (up to £235)**
- **Replace boiler with a heat pump (with Gov grants up to £6000)**
- **Underfloor & wall insulation**

On this Gov site there is also the very sobering statement that

"If we are to reach the Net Zero Carbon emissions target set by the UK Gov, we will need to reduce the carbon emissions from heating our homes by 95% over the next 30 years"
(ie by switching to renewables and reducing energy we use)

The good news is new houses built will be more energy efficient based on this list above and that the Plymouth & SW Devon Climate emergency planning document was formally adopted 30th Nov 2022.

So planning applications after 31/10/22 will need to meet these requirements and complete a new Climate Emergency Compliance form to show how they will do that.

Unfortunately KASG have decided to drop the Carbon Savvy sessions they were running in Kingsbridge. Instead they will aim to host a local climate and nature gathering in Kingsbridge every 3-4 months - bringing together sustainability projects, organisations, businesses and anyone interested in creating a greener future for our town.

There is much to do and many ways to get involved and they need help with:

- Joining their committee and help to coordinate their work?
- Help organise events or volunteer at them?
- Join one of their project steering groups and take action in areas such as:

- Home energy and community energy,
- Biodiversity
- Sustainable transport and active travel
- Their Repair Café project (last Sunday of every month 10-1 pm KB Care Hub).
- Share Shed in Market Square, Kingsbridge on Fridays 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

I suggest anyone in our Parish who is interested in becoming better informed about the Climate emergency and what can be done should contact me and I can point them to the local initiatives in action; janevharrison@icloud.com