

## BUCKLAND DINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting at 7.30pm, Thursday 8 December 2016 in the Village Hall, Buckland Dinham**

**3287 Present:** Councillors Will Phippen, Peter Corbett, John Reckless and Paul Sherrin  
Pauline Short, Clerk

**3288 Apologies:** Councillors Tamsin Aston, Alan King and Viv Street. Councillor Phippen took the chair in the absence of Councillor Aston

**3289 Minutes of the meeting on 2 November 2016:** Minutes were agreed and signed

**3290 Code of Conduct - Declarations of Interest:** none

**Unminuted open forum for the public and council:** Cllr Phippen closed the meeting so that all could discuss topics of their choice and then reopened it

**3291 Confirmation of revised recommendation made since the 2 November meeting on planning application by Edge Renewables for lean-to extension to an existing building to house two biomass boilers at Charlton's sawmills** – Since the last meeting council had received answers from Edge Renewables to the questions that had caused them to recommend refusal of the application on 2 November. Councillors were happy with the reply received and it had been agreed, out of meeting, to change their decision to one of recommending approval. The clerk had notified planning department who had also agreed to change the decision recorded. Approval from Mendip had been granted on 23 November

**3292 Consultation on planning application for a residential link extension between house and garage at 8 St Michaels Close** – Council recommended approval of this application (proposed Cllr Reckless, seconded Cllr Corbett)

<b>3293 Matters arising from the last meeting:</b>	<i>Action</i>
<p><b>1. Update on the Broadband situation-</b> Although not present, Cllr Aston had provided a report on progress with this project for the meeting. Briefly this report included the following facts:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a.</b> The numbers of residents in Buckland and surrounding villages that had formally registered their interest had more than met the total required for Voneus to proceed</li><li><b>b.</b> Mendip had recently approved listed building guidance on installing the new broadband equipment in/on listed buildings. Cllr Aston had alerted all relevant households that had currently registered and Voneus was also coordinating a review of the buildings with Mendip Conservation officers</li><li><b>c.</b> The PCC had arranged a meeting with Voneus to discuss the next steps on getting formal approval from the Diocese and Mendip District Council for the church tower to be used</li></ul>	<p><i>Cllrs Aston &amp; King</i></p>
<b>3294 Matters arising:</b>	
<p><b>1. Consultation by BT through Mendip District Council on proposal to remove the telephone box from the Cross as it has not been used for over 12 months. Offer by BT to sell the box to the parish for £1 so that it can be used for another purpose</b> – Council had taken some time</p>	

before the meeting to consider buying the box for £1 and some were keen on the proposal initially. However further thought about the practicality of the project, the actual uses it might be suitable for and the potential future costs and maintenance issues, caused them to decide to refuse the offer. They were unanimous in agreeing that they had no objection to BT removing it and thought it might actually improve the appearance of The Cross as it is not one of the old "red" variety. (proposed Cllr Phippen, seconded Cllr Corbett)

*Ms Short*

2. **Consultation by Mendip Planning Department on Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Marketing and Business Evidence to Support Planning Applications** - After study of this document, council agreed it made sense and supported measured intervention by Mendip to keep facilities in villages (proposed Cllr Corbett, seconded Cllr Sherrin)

*Ms Short*

### **3295 Clerks Report**

1. A provisional Tree Preservation Order has been made by Mendip on the large yew tree to the left of the church porch. Various questions on this had been answered by Bo Walsh, Trees Officer. Council should be notified of whether this will be made permanent in the next 6 months
2. There had been no evidence of any speed checks in the village since Cllr Aston asked the police to restart them in October and they had replied that the site is now back up and running.
3. Dave Grabham, Somerset, has written to say that next years proposed dates for the visiting SID will be weeks commencing 6 February and 14 August at the Bell and 20 February and 28 August at Fountain House
4. Cllr Sherrin had checked the salt bins and all are full so no refills had been requested. However council were reminded that they should be checked regularly and Highways must be notified as soon as they are getting low rather than when they are empty
5. The pothole on the A362 at the crossroads by the Bell was still waiting for attention
6. The new kissing gates between Sandscross Lane and Lower Street had been installed. It was unknown whether the bridge on the path to Elliots had been repaired and Cllr Sherrin volunteered to check (He has since confirmed that it has been completed)
7. The clerk had written to Clare Haskins, footpaths officer, to ask her to revisit Clareham Lane to relook at the flooding situation as it is during winter. She had replied that she will try to fit it in but that funding is low,
8. The area of grass that Clare Haskins had arranged to have strimmed during the summer does not appear to have been cut since. She will put it on the programme for possible clearing twice a year
9. Although not in our parish, the dangerous state of the footpath where it is fenced around Orchardleigh Lake had also been reported. Clare was aware of this but it is a long standing problem that she needs to discuss with the landowner
10. Cllr Sherrin has circulated the report of the latest neighbourhood policing
11. A letter received from NALC encouraged parish councillors to complete a survey giving their opinions on whether parish councillors should have the same rights as principal authority councillors to be able to claim dependant cares allowance.

*Cllr Aston*

*All*

*Ms Short*

*Cllr Sherrin*

*All*

**3296 Finance:**

1. **Precept estimates for 2017 to 2018.** Council discussed at some length the initial precept estimates prepared for this discussion by the clerk. No initial changes were made but there will be a further discussion at the next meeting by which time more facts may be known and councillors will have given it more consideration
2. Dates were considered for the annual meeting with the playing field committee. The clerk will check out possible dates suggested and let councillors know the venue and the date that is best for the majority
3. The TSB internet access for banking had still not been addressed due to other pressures on time
4. Cheques had been signed since the last meeting for:-
  - a. £200 to the playing field committee to help fund the repair to the "dish". A thank you letter had been received from Susie Hicks on behalf of the committee
  - b. £1218 including VAT to Stellasoft for the first part of the Transparency Fund project. £75 of this was from parish council funds to upgrade the specifications of the new laptop and the remainder from government grant. The total included purchase and set up of laptop and software, purchase of scanner, part of the agreed training and the total cost of domain email services and web hosting until 31 March 2017
5. A cheque was signed to pay £78 to Society of Local Council Clerks for annual membership
6. Transfer was signed to move £2000 from building society to fund bank account

*All*

*Ms Short*

*Ms Short*

**3297 Dates of next two meetings:** Agreed as 19 January and 2 March  
This meeting closed at 8.45pm