

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th January 2016 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's Mrs M Blogg (Chair), D Lacey, Mrs C Hannath, D Mitton, J Nutt, C Rayson and C Silverlight.

In attendance: County Cllr R Henley and the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

121/01/16. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were received from District Cllr C Hill, PCSO Cridlin and PCSO Fyne.

122/01/16. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

123/01/16. To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 24/11/15 and 05/01/16. The minutes were agreed as true records of the meetings and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

124/01/16. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. The TDBC Planning Training Session due to be held on 8th December was cancelled.

125/01/16. Democratic Period. There were no members of the public present.

126/01/16. Highways.

a) To discuss concerns about vehicles exceeding the 20 mph speed limit when driving past the school and the suggestion of installing warning signs that flash at the at the time children are arriving at or leaving school. In an email PCSO Fyne asked the Council to consider supporting the installation of flashing lights to warn people to slow down because of concerns about vehicles exceeding the 20 mph speed limit past the school. PCSO Fyne was unable to attend the meeting and no one from the school was available to provide more information. The Clerk had invited Mrs MacGregor, the Headteacher, to the meeting and she had hoped to attend. Councillors considered it was difficult to exceed the 20mph speed limit at these times of day because of the congestion caused by parents parking. There was also concern about emergency vehicles finding it difficult to access Lee Park during these times because of the congestion. The Clerk advised Councillors the cost of installing flashing lights would be £3000 and this would have to be paid by the Parish Council or the school. Councillors did not feel that the flashing lights would resolve the problem and it was agreed that the Council would not support the installation of flashing lights and would invite further discussion with the school. It was suggested that the Highways Department would have the equipment to carry out a check of vehicles speeds.

b) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on work that is needed. Work to alleviate flooding on Silver Street, close to Silver Street Farm, has been completed and appears to have worked.

A pothole was reported between the chicken unit and Manleys but it was thought this has been filled in recently.

During a period of cold weather a car hit ice at the bottom of Sawyers Hill and overturned. There has been a long standing issue of water running out of a field gateway adjoining West View and washing across the road. A track was constructed in the field a few years ago and this increased the amount of water coming off the field and out of the gateway. The owner of the field does not live locally and SCC was unable to contact them. The Council now has an address for the owner because a planning application was submitted for the conversion of an agricultural building on the field. Cllr Mrs Blogg has contacted Dennis Quick, SCC Highways, who is aware of the history of this problem, and has asked him to have another look at the problem. Laurels planted around West View have encroached onto the road and are preventing water going down the ditch on that side of the road. Councillors questioned whether highways records show a gully in this location. If Cllr Mrs Blogg does not receive a response from Mr Quick she will contact David Brown, the Highways Inspector for this area.

c) Matters arising from previous meeting

Ditch at Lee Park – update. The ditch has been cleared. TDBC DLO made a good job of this and cleared the spoil away. Trees in this area have also been pruned. The Clerk has asked for clarification about TDBC's responsibility for the open space at Lee Park but has not received a response. She suggested making a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Removal of lumps of concrete left on the verges following the removal - update of signs at Ford Street and collection of 20 mph warning signs following surface dressing. The 20 mph signs have been removed. Cllr Lacey has removed the lumps of concrete.

d) Any other highways matters. SCC has decided that it will no longer fund the upkeep of finger post signs on rural roads. The Council will carry out a survey to find out how many there are in the parish. Mrs Pam Lacey cleans the one in the centre of the village. It was reported that over the Christmas period 4 x 4 vehicles were driving around the balancing pond at Lee Park causing damage to the surface. Cars have gone onto the roundabout under the M5 and knocked out kerbing stones. The sign for the motorway, when approaching from Wellington, has been cleaned.

127/01/16. Planning:

a) To consider any Planning Applications received by the Parish Council. There were no applications.

b) To receive results from planning applications determined by TDBC.

46/15/0039 Erection of entrance lobby at Camelot House Nursing Home, Camelot House, Ham Road, Ham, Wellington. Decision: conditional approval granted.

b) To note planning enforcement matters reported to TDBC.

It has been reported to the Parish Council that the plant store constructed at Gerbestone Manor Farm appears to be different than the approved plans. The Clerk has reported this to TDBC Planning Enforcement. The complaint has been acknowledged and has been given a reference (E/0010/46/16).

The Clerk has reported the breach of the condition to complete highways work on the A38 adjacent to Blackdown Garden Centre by 30th November 2015. This complaint has been acknowledged by TDBC Planning Enforcement and given the reference E/0014/46/16.

c) Any other planning matters. It was reported that a smokehouse is operating from premises at Morrishes Farm and is open to the public for part of the week. The Council has not been consulted on any planning application for a change of use for the premises. This business use would be a different class than the one previously granted. The Clerk will report this to Planning Enforcement. There was concern that if this business is operating close to the village it might lead to an increase in the amount of business rates the Village Shop is charged.

West Buckland Primary School would like to put a notice board on the end wall of the shelter in their grounds and believe they need the permission of the Parish Council. The Parish Council have no objections but are not aware that they need to give permission.

Cllr Henley joined the meeting.

128/01/16. To receive reports from:

a) County Cllr. Cllr Henley apologised for not attending recent meeting. Councillors are aware of family commitments that Cllr Henley has at present and said they understood sympathised with him. He also apologised for not sorting out the problem with the ditch at Lee Park. He reported that SCC is setting its budget. Cuts of up to 35% are proposed for bus subsidies and £1million of efficiency savings will be made from the budget for support services for mental health, Asperger's etc. He asked whether the Parish Council wanted to make an application for a grant from his Health and Wellbeing budget. Grants are being given to some other village organisations.

b) Police. The Police report for November was circulated by email in early December..

c) Village Hall Committee. Cllr Mrs Hannath reported there have been problems with the thermostat on the boiler and the committee are considering whether the boiler needs to be replaced. Some re-decoration of the hall is planned but this will be done when the weather is better.

d) Cllr Silverlight on Councillor training. Cllr Silverlight said the training session had been excellent and had informed councillors about their role and responsibility. It was mentioned that there was a risk when 'Any Other Business' is included on the agenda. The Council has an item, 'Any other Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chairman'. The Clerk said she felt that the risk was small because the Council has an experienced Clerk and Chair who would not allow any decisions to be made under this item, Cllr Mitton suggested that if something minor came up it could be discussed following the meeting. The Clerk and Chair felt it was better if all business was discussed during the meeting as there was then a record. 'Not for Decisions' will be added to this item.

e) Any other reports. No other reports.

Cllr Henley left the meeting.

129/01/16. Finance

a) To agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to agree the following payments:
West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £18.00 room hire (Chq no1303)

Mrs J Larcombe - £237.67 Clerk's salary and expenses (Chq no 1304)

An invoice was received from Heathfield Garden Contractors shortly after the November meeting. As agreed at the November meeting payment was arranged and a cheque for £192.00 was signed on the 10th December (Chq no 1302).

b) To consider a grant to the PCC towards the cost of producing the newsletter. It was queried whether there was a general consensus for the newsletter to continue using the same format and the same circulation arrangements when the resignation of the editor was a chance for change. The first newsletter from the new editor has not been circulated yet but it is expected that it will continue in the same format. A new contact email has been

circulated. It was suggested the newsletter could be a community newsletter rather than a Church newsletter. At this point Cllr Rayson declared a personal interest as a Churchwarden and Cllr Mrs Hannath declared a personal interest because she attends services at the Church. The Council has a statutory duty to engage with parishioners and it would be best practise for it to produce four newsletters a year. The best method of circulation was discussed. Even when a newsletter is put through a letterbox there is no guarantee it will be read but email is not the answer as not all members of the household will receive it. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Treasurer of the PCC suggesting holding a meeting between the two organisations to discuss how the newsletter could be produced in the most efficient way and explaining the Council's statutory duties. There is no objection to contributing towards the cost of producing a newsletter.

c) Feedback on consultation with parishioners on future parish needs. There were no responses to the consultation.

d) To finalise the budget for 2016/17. The budget was finalised and agreed (Appendix A). The Precept request has been sent to TDBC.

e) To discuss further whether the Council should apply for funding to purchase a laptop. It was agreed not to apply for funding.

f) Sector Led Body for Audit. The deadline by which councils have the option to opt out has been extended to 31st March 2016. It was agreed not to opt out. The Council felt the sector led body was the best option.

130/01/16. Playing Field: Any matters to note. Cllr Mrs Blogg has completed the playground inspection form for the period 1st July to 31st December 2015 and has given it to the Clerk to add to the file. She noted the spring on the pedestrian gate to the playing field needs replacing.

The area around the dog bin has become very muddy because of the wet weather. The Council might need to look at providing a hard surface such as paving.

131/01/16. Footpaths:

a) Update on the locked gate on Footpath WG14/22. Cllr Silverlight reported he had received an email to say the fault had been closed. He emailed Sally Vickery and queried why the fault had been closed when although the lock had been unlocked it was still on the gate and a sign saying 'Locked due to fly tipping' was still displayed. She agreed that the sign was still there but said if anyone looked it was clear that the gate was actually open. She thinks the landowner has done this to deter fly tippers who invariably drive past and might immediately be put off by the sign. She said she would mention it to the landowner, because the sign may deter walkers but she is not inclined to ask for immediate removal of the sign. It is planned to fit a Bristol gate to ensure a better outcome for all. Ms Vickery agreed to reopen the fault and close it when all the work is finished. Cllr Silverlight will continue to monitor the situation.

b) Any matters brought forward. The Clerk has emailed Sally Vickery to ask for some new A3 maps but she is on leave.

132/01/16. To note the awarding of Listed Building Status for the War Memorial by Historic England. This was noted.

133/01/16. To inform Councillors about a training session on the Transparency Code for Smaller Councils to be held on 22nd February at the Edgar Hall, Somerton between 10am and 1pm and agree whether anyone will attend. No one is able to attend the Transparency Code training. It was agreed Cllr Mrs Blogg and Cllr Mitton will attend a SALC training session on 'Being Effectively Insured & Risk Assessed' on February 16th at Edgar Hall, Somerton. The cost will be £25 per place.

- 134/01/16. To discuss whether an event should be arranged to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday.** Following discussion it was agreed that the Council would not organise a formal event.
- 135/01/16. Update on request to BT to remove the phone box.** There was no objection from Taunton Deane to the removal. The recovery has been passed to BT's contractors and they are currently arranging the power disconnection which must be done before the kiosk can be removed. Power disconnections can take anything from 16-24 weeks to arrange and complete.
- 136/01/16. To discuss whether a defibrillator is needed in the village and if so, how it would be funded.** It was agreed that a defibrillator is needed and the Parish Council will look at how this could be funded. It is thought the cost will be up to £2000. There is the possibility of a personal donation and Parish Council reserves could be used. Cllr Mrs Blogg has looked at grant funding and she reported that the British Heart Foundation has stopped taking applications for this financial year. It was agreed to make an application to the BHF at the start of the new financial year.
- 137/01/16. Correspondence and items of interest.** Cllr Mitton will write a short article on Rural Deprivation for the newsletter. He has been unable to attend any recent Taunton One Team Meetings and will write the article after the next meeting he attends.
CCS is carrying out a survey on the work carried out by Village Agents. West Buckland is not in an area covered by a Village Agent. Cllr Mitton will give a short talk on Village Agents at the next meeting.
The Village Hall will be used as a Polling Station for two elections this year. The Police & Crime Commissioner Elections will be held in May and the EU Referendum later in the year.
- 138/01/16. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** There was no urgent business.
- 139/01/16. Date of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd February at 7.30pm.

Appendix A
West Buckland Parish Council Budget 2016-17

	2015/16	2016/17	Plus/Minus	%
Receipts				
Precept	7428.00	7562.00	134.00	1.8
Council Tax Support Grant	527.00	351.00	-176.00	33.4
Grants	1278.75	0.00	-1278.75	-100
Bank Interest	3.50	3.50	0	0
CIL	0.00	0.00	0	0
VAT	510.97	898.93	387.96	75.9
Total	9748.22	8815.43	-932.79	
Expenditure				
Clerks salary	2304.00	2327.00	23	1
Mileage	400.00	400.00	0	0
Playing field	2200.00	2200.00	0	0
Footpaths Maintenance	300.00	300.00	0	0
Cemetery grant	1250.00	1250.00	0	0
Grants	175.00	125.00	-50	-28.6
Grant to CAB	75.00	75.00	0	0
Admin	200.00	250.00	50	25
Audit charge	230.00	210.00	-20	-8.7
Insurance	600.00	420.00	-180	-30
Room hire	100.00	100.00	0	0
Subscriptions	350.00	360.00	10	1
Miscs	440.00	440.00	0	0
Dog Litter Bin	140.00	140.00	0.00	0
Grass at Church Drive	160.00	160.00	0	0
Grass at Peacocks Cl	200.00	200.00	0	0
Silver Street Green	150.00	150.00	0	0
Training	150.00	60.00	-90	-60
War Memorial	150.00	125.00	-25	-17
Website	0.00	0.00	0	0
VAT	480.00	480.00	0	0
Total	10054.00	9772.00	-342	-3.4
Memorial Trough	60.00	60.00		
Opening balance 01/04/2015	17684.18			
Predicted Opening balance 01/04/16		17220.96		
Closing balance 31/03/2016	17318.40			
Closing balance 31/03/17		16264.39		
Difference	-380.78	-956.57		
Band D Rate	17.84	17.84		