

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st January 2017 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: One member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

140/01/17. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were received from PCSO Baker.

141/01/17. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

142/01/17. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 03/01/17. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

143/01/17. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

144/01/17. Democratic Period. The member of the public present said he was attending the meeting to see what goes on.

145/01/17. Planning:

a) To consider any Planning Applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting.

46/16/0036 Erection of two storey extension on the east elevation of Pollards, Silver Street, West Buckland. Applicant: Mr C Winter.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the granting of approval.

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

46/16/0016 Change of use of premises to Class B1 (food prep) with additional ancillary Class A1 (retail) and retention of Smokehouse at The Old Hay Barn, Morrishes Farm, West Buckland (retention of part works already undertaken). Decision: conditional approval granted. The Clerk drew the Council's attention to Condition 2 of the approval which states that the premises shall be used for the sale of food goods produced from the smokehouse and ancillary products. The reason for this condition is to prevent an unrestricted retail use in an unsustainable location contrary to policy CP3 and DM2 of the Core Strategy.

46/16/0026 Construction of first floor to be used as storage/office space at ProCo STS Ltd, Unit 3A and 3B Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington.

Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/16/0028 Erection of fence to front and side elevations (retention of works already undertaken) at Byland Cottage, Wellington Road, West Buckland. Decision: refusal.

46/16/0030 Erection of an agricultural building for general purpose, including the housing of livestock, at Pitt Farm, Wellington Road, West Buckland.
Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/16/0031 Erection of detached double garage with store over ancillary to Chestnut Lodge, Gerbestone Lane, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/16/0032 Erection of agricultural buildings for the housing of livestock and to cover slurry store, alterations to access with formation of farm roadway and hard surfaced yard area at Pitt Farm, Wellington Road, West Buckland (retention of part works already undertaken). Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/16/0033 Erection of agricultural building for general purpose, alterations to access with formation of farm roadway and hard surfaced yard area at Pitt Farm, Wellington Road, West Buckland (retention of part works already undertaken).
Decision: conditional approval granted

c) Any other planning matters. The Council has not received a new application for Gerbestone Manor Farm and the Clerk will follow this up with TDBC.

146/01/17. Highways

a) Matters arising from previous meetings

- **Removal of BT phone box in village/consultation on removal of phone box at Piccadilly.** The phone box in the village has now been removed and the pavement area where it stood has been reinstated with tarmac.
- **Request for removal of redundant brown tourist signs.** No update.
- **Provision of de-icing material at bottom of Sawyers Hill.** Four bags of de-icing material were left at the bottom of Sawyers Hill but one bag disappeared the following night.

b) To note any highway defects to reported/or to report to SCC. Repairs have been carried out in Hockholler Lane. The edges of the road are breaking down again in Silver Street.

c) To prepare a list of jobs for the lengthsman. Spring time work will include cleaning signs and minor vegetation clearance.

d) Any other highways matters. It was reported there are a lot of cones in the road at Vokers Cross. Visibility is not good at this junction and there have been several incidents. There are problems with loose kerbing and blocked drains on the roundabout under the M5.

147/01/17. Finance

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to agree the following payment: Mrs J Larcombe - £301.91 Clerk's salary and expenses (Chq no 1352).

b) Report on spending v budget Quarter 3 2016/17. The report was noted and there were no areas of concern.

The Council will review its Financial Regulations at the next meeting.

148/01/17. To note reports from:

a) Police. The Police Report for December was circulated by email in early January. There were 37 logs for the beat in December including an unsuccessful attempt to break into a shed on Buckland Hill. Two volunteers have been trained and are carrying out speed checks but more volunteers are needed. They are not using the Parish Council's speed gun and it was queried whether it was still compliant.

b) Village Hall Committee. Cllr Mrs Hannath's reported on the meeting held on January 4th. The Pre-School is happy with the amount their charge has increased by. Hopefully the

Defibrillator will be installed very shortly. The electrician was ill when he should have installed it and a new appointment will be arranged. Training sessions will then be organised. The carpet near the front door needs to be stuck down and Mr Hagley will sort this out. A WI photo will be fitted on the wall in the Committee Room. The alarm still keeps going off. Mr Hagley will meet the contractor who fitted the boiler to discuss the problem. Insulation might be needed. A chip has been discovered in the new worktop, near the hatch. The Fete Committee have held their last meeting and the remaining funds will be distributed among village organisations. A village barbeque has been suggested..

149/01/17. Playing Field:

a) Any matters to report from inspections carried out during the previous month; any actions taken or to be taken as a result. During the winter the play area is not used as much and Cllr Mrs Blogg carries out an inspection once a week. There was nothing to report from the inspections for the previous month.

When the new goalposts were purchased the deal included four footballs with a 14yrs + guideline. Councillors were asked who these could be donated to. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Blogg is storing the footballs and the caps which can be used to cover the holes if the goal posts are taken out temporarily.

b) Update on overlay of surfacing. The Clerk has met the contractor and his quote has been accepted. Once a date has been decided arrangements will be made to close the play area for the work to be carried out.

150/01/17. Footpaths: any matters brought forward. There were no matters brought forward. Cllr Mrs Blogg asked Cllr Mitton, PPLO, whether the large tree which had come down across footpath WG14/7 had been removed. This will be checked.

151/01/17. Update on the installation of the defibrillator. An appointment has been made for the electrician to install the defibrillator on Saturday 4th February. Once it is installed the training sessions will be booked. It was suggested that light refreshments be provided.

152/01/17. Proposed New Council. The proposal for Taunton Deane and West Somerset consultation – to consider the Parish Council’s response. The Chair and Clerk attended a briefing meeting at The Deane House on January 18th. Cllr Mitton attended the meeting as Chairman of SALC. He also attended the meeting held by West Somerset Council for their Town and Parish Councils.

Cllr Mitton informed the meeting that when District Councils were formed in 1972/73 it was suggested there should be one council for the area now covered by the two councils of TDBC and WSC. There were political objections from West Somerset and two councils were formed.

WSC has been on the brink of bankruptcy for a long time and this has been caused because EDF appealed against the amount of business rates they paid for the power station sites at Hinkley and the amount was reduced. Even though the business rates had been received by the Government WSC were forced to repay EDF £1.8million and this has been the main reason for their financial difficulties. Business rates will be coming back to District Councils but WSC will not be receiving all the business rates from Hinkley as the Government will be taking a chunk. To form a new council is their only choice as they will not be able to set a balanced budget on their own and would collapse. The benefits for TDBC members will be efficiency measures.

Under the proposal the number of District Councillors will be cut. There are 56 on TDBC and 28 on WSC and this will reduce to 50-55. WSC have said they would expect councillors on the new council to do more work. 60% of the population of TDBC live in Taunton and Taunton has dominated the work of the Council. Under the proposed new council Taunton would not be as powerful.

The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

TDBC is also asking whether there should be a Town Council for Taunton. TDBC is doing the work a Town Council would do for Taunton.

It was questioned whether the grants given by TDBC would continue. WSC has also given some grants to its parishes but generally grants from District Councils to Town and Parish Councils are disappearing.

Councillors were urged to respond individually to the consultation.

It was resolved the Council has no objections to a proposed new district council for Taunton Deane and West Somerset. It hopes that services will be retained as much as possible.

153/01/17. Correspondence and items of interest. There was no further correspondence.

Cllr Silverlight reported he had canvassed residents in his area about possible changes to the waste collection. Whilst this was a small sample the proposal for three weekly collections of waste going to landfill was not well received. It was suggested that someone from the Somerset Waste Partnership should be invited to give a talk at the Annual Parish Meeting.

154/01/17. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. There was no urgent business.

155/01/17. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 at 7.30pm