

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Mrs M Blogg (Chair), D Lacey, Mrs C Hannath, J Nutt, C Rayson and C Silverlight.
In attendance: County Cllr J Thorne and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

85/10/17. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mitton.

86/10/17. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures of interest.

87/10/17. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 26/09/17. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

88/10/17. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

89/10/17. Democratic Period. There were no members of the public.

90/10/17. County Cllr Report. It was agreed to bring this item forward on the agenda. Cllr Thorne reported that due to concerns about parking on Chelston Business Park, once Flip Out Somerset opened to the public, he had attended a meeting with the agent for South West Leisure Ltd. Jo Sharp, SCC Highways Officer, had also attended. There was a discussion about yellow line marking at junctions but this would have to be looked at very carefully. It has been decided to monitor the situation for six to twelve months. There is also a problem with lorries parking overnight on the estate. Human excrement has been found as there are no toilet facilities. A person in West Buckland has started an online petition asking for something to be done about the junction with the A38 at Heatherton Grange to make it safer. Six hundred people have electronically signed the petition and it is hoped to get to one thousand. This is a difficult junction to do anything about and SCC has no plans at the moment. Cllr Thorne said he had looked at the accident statistics and there are no reports of accidents caused by pulling out at this junction and there have not been enough accidents to call it a cluster location. Cllr Thorne is putting forward the suggestion of traffic lights to start discussion. It was noted the Parish Council has been looking at this problem for many years and agreed there is no easy solution. Many people do not use that junction during busy periods. Camelot Nursing Home is asking for a crossing on the A38. Cllr Thorne has also been made aware of a parking issue opposite the school. Parishes are being offered the opportunity to collect ten free 20 Kg bags of salt. There is no news about the new Highways England consultation on the A358. SCC need to make £19million of

savings over the next few years and is not sure how it will manage to set a balanced budget. Cllr Thorne wants to talk to an officer to get a better understanding of bus subsidies. The library service is being restructured but not externalised. SCC would like it to stay in house and to continue to be run by SCC. They are looking at making better use of the buildings and more use of volunteers. There is a consultation on the future of children's centres and plans to de-designate them so they can be used for other uses. By law they cannot be used for other uses at present. There are twenty six at the moment but SCC only plan to keep eight. SCC needs a service to work with children from 0 to 19 years of age but most of the work is carried out in people's homes or online. The consultation ends on the 1st December and details can be found on the SCC website. SCC has discussed closing the Park and Ride facility on Saturdays but nothing will be done before Christmas and they are looking to see if there is any more funding. They are also trying to reduce spending by withdrawing all school transport they do not legally have to provide. Gigaclear is holding a big event on 15th November and more should be known then about their progress in delivering broadband on the Blackdowns. They have finished their premises by premises survey. Everyone is being encouraged to get a flu injection as it is thought there could be a flu epidemic this winter. More people are needed to foster and adopt children. A minimum of forty people are needed as foster carers and thirty as adoptive parents. A stepping stones support programme is being developed for those leaving the care system and a minimum of seventeen people are needed to provide support. Progress is being made to form a joint committee from eighteen or nineteen local authorities and two national park authorities across the local enterprise area to improve productivity across the south west. Devolved powers will enable more funding to be drawn down from the government. There is no longer a need for it to have an elected mayor.

Cllr Thorne left the meeting.

91/10/17. Planning:

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

46/17/0046 Variation of Condition No 02 (approved plans) of application 46/17/0036 at Chelston Motorhomes, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Applicant: Mr W Kavanagh, Chelston Motorhomes.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the variation of Condition No 02.

b) To note comment made for application 46/17/0044 Variation of Condition 02 (approved plans) and Condition 03 (landscaping) of application 46/16/0018 at Units 1-4 Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Applicant: Mr J Appiah, South West Leisure Activities Ltd.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the variation of Conditions 02 and 03. The Council supports the plans to create more parking spaces as inconsiderate parking on the sides of the roads and on junctions in Chelston Business Park is causing problems for other business owners and creating a road safety issue.

To discuss correspondence received regarding parking issues in Castle Road relating to this business. The Council was one of several parties that received an email from the owner of a business neighbouring Flip Out Somerset. He had emailed to complain about the problems lorries were having trying to deliver to other businesses in Castle Road because of inconsiderate drivers who were unable to park in the FOS car park and had parked on road junctions and close to business entrances. His own HGV had been unable to leave his premises because cars were parked so close to the entrance it would have damaged them had it tried to do so. Cllr Thorne was also included in the email and

reported on this problem under item 90/10/17.

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

46/17/0038 Erection of industrial unit for Class B1 use on land to the rear of The Gate House, Chelston. Decision: conditional approval granted.

d) Update on planning enforcement matters reported to TDBC. E/0092/46/17 Alleged non-compliance with planning approval at Blackdown Garden Centre, West Buckland. At the last meeting it was reported that the work wouldn't be able to take place until Spring 2018 because SCC will only give permission for one piece of work to be carried out on a road at any one time and other work has permission until then. Cllr Thorne has followed this up with SCC Highways and in an email to the Clerk reported the developer for the garden centre still has not resolved the situation with regards to the BT duct that runs across the front of the site. Technical approval has however been achieved with regards to the highway works. There is a major BT chamber access point that will be located in the middle of the bell mouth of the proposed new junction. SCC highways are not able to sign off the scheme until such time as we have written confirmation from BT that they will not be looking to the highway authority to cover the cost of moving the chamber. The developer has been aware of this situation since his first design submission and has yet to resolve this. It is the lack of conclusion with regards to this from the developer and BT that it is not possible to let the works commence. When these discussions are concluded road space will then need to be booked to enable the works to go ahead. Due to other current road space bookings on this section of road, these works would not be able to start until 2018. SCC Transport Development team have been chasing this scheme for several years to get the works carried out and are aware that the developer has on a couple of occasions applied for a section 73 amendment to his planning consent with regards to the timing of installing the right turn lane.

The possible planning contravention on the site adjacent to the entrance to Foxmoor Business Park has been reported to TDBC Planning Enforcement and registered as E/0194/46/17.

There is no further update on E/0092/46/17 and E/0093/46/17.

Following the refusal of 46/17/0009 erection of an agricultural workers dwelling and plant and machinery store in relation to free range egg production, with the store to be used as a temporary dwelling to replace mobile home whilst workers dwelling is being built at Gerbestone Manor Farm, Gerbestone Lane, West Buckland (retention of works already undertaken) no changes have taken place and the building remains as it was when the planning contravention was reported. The Clerk was asked to find out what TDBC are planning to do about this.

e) Any other planning matters. There were no other planning matters.

92/10/17. Highways.

a) Matters arising from previous meeting/s. Potholes appear to be being filled in quite quickly after they are reported. Parts of Buckland Hill have been resurfaced.

b) To note any highway defects to report to SCC. None.

c) Update following submission of report on condition of signs to Highways. No response has been received. Vegetation has been cleared from in front of some of the signs in the report. The Clerk suggested that reporting the problems identified in the report in the usual way rather than by emailing a report titled 'Work for the Parish Lengthsman' might be more successful. Cllr Nutt said Jo Sharp asked for the report to be emailed to her. Cllr Nutt will report outstanding problems through 'Fix My Street'.

There is a queue for the app to carry out the condition survey on fingerpost signs.

d) Any other highways matters. There were no other highways matters.

93/10/17. To receive reports from:

a) County Cllr. Received as item 90/10/17.

b) Police. A report for September was circulated by email earlier in October.

c) Village Hall Committee. Cllr Mrs Hannath reported on the Village Hall Committee Meeting held on 4th October. The taps on the wash basin in the disabled toilet are to be replaced with hospital type levers. Enquiries were made re: sensor type taps but their batteries only last 2 years. Committee opted to go for the hospital lever type.

2 card tables have been purchased - 1 for card players and the other one for the Committee Room. The gutters have all been cleaned and sorted out and the disabled toilet door eased. The hall will hopefully have broadband before long as the Post Office have checked to make sure the managing body is a Trust and not a domicile. Colin Rayson is dealing with Data Protection- all signed up and being used. The fence painting will be carried out when the weather is suitable. The heating is now on and available for people booking the hall. There is a jumble sale for the Church on 28th October 2017.

d) Any Other Reports. No other reports. There were 26 Police logs for the month from the beat.

94/10/17. Finance

a) To agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Cllr Mrs M Blogg - £27.40 expenses claim for printer cartridge (Chq no 1380)

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £20.00 Remembrance Wreath (Chq no 1381)

Mrs J Larcombe – 291.89 Clerk's salary and expenses (Chq no 1382)

Mr J Stanworth - £460.00 grass cutting & strimming (Chq no 1383)

Cllr C Silverlight - £4.32 mileage claim Fingerpost sign training (Chq no 1384)

b) To receive a report on Spending v Budget for 1st April to 30th September. The report was noted. There were no matters of concern. No invoice has been received for the playing field grass cutting and strimming so it is difficult to compare with the end of the second quarter for 2016-17.

c) Arrangements for setting precept and budget for 2018-2019. The Council will start planning the budget at the November meeting and the precept will be agreed at the meeting on 2nd January.

95/10/17. 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. There were no matters to report.

b) To consider level of satisfaction with the grass cutting contract for 2017 and agree any changes to the specification for 2018. Next season the contractor will be asked to cut the whole field. The WI can then arrange for the area they use to play golf croquet to be cut shorter as necessary. Councillors were happy with how the field and play area has been cut but an earlier first cut will be requested next year. TDBC will be asked for a quote for cutting the field and play area for 2018.

Now the playing field hedge has been cut back tightly it is possible to see how wide the hedge has become since the original planting. The Council will consider paying to have the hedge cut back properly rather than trimmed.

c) Any other matters to note. There were no other matters to note.

96/10/17. Footpaths: any matters brought forward. No matters brought forward.

97/10/17. Neighbourhood Watch – to note letter from Lindsey Stone, Watch Scheme

Co-ordinator. Residents of 1 – 16 Peacocks Close and 10 – 32 Dyers Close received a letter to say the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator was no longer covering that role and

explaining what would happen as a result. That is not applicable now as a new co-ordinator has taken over the role. The Council holds £101.16 in earmarked reserves for Neighbourhood Watch. It was felt information is now circulated in different ways than when the scheme was started and this money was no longer likely to be used for this purpose. Consideration will be given to using this money for another use.

98/10/17. Correspondence and items of interest. Cllr Mrs Blogg informed the meeting the Hospital of Sir John Popham has a vacancy for a governor. This vacancy does not have to be filled by someone on the Parish Council and can be filled by someone representing it. The board of twelve governors meet twice a year to discuss the management of the flats owned by the trust. Cllr Mrs Blogg will try to find someone from West Buckland to fill the vacancy. The following correspondence was noted: Somerset Waste Partnership – Newsletter and poster of Christmas and New Year waste collection dates.

99/10/17. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. There was no urgent business.

100/10/17. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th November.

101/10/17. Meeting dates for 2018. These will be Tuesday: 2nd January; 30th January, 27th February; 27th March; 24th April (Also Annual Parish Meeting); 29th May; 26th June; 31st July; 28th August; 25th Sept; 30th October and 27th November.

All meetings will be in the Committee Room except on the 2nd January when it will be held in the Main Hall as there is already a booking in the Committee Room. The Council will only be charged the Committee Room hire charge.