

## West Buckland

### **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs M Blogg (Chair), Cllr D Lacey, Cllr Mrs C Hannath, Cllr D Mitton, Cllr J Nutt, Cllr C Rayson, Cllr C Silverlight Mr G Larsen, CCS Village Agent, and 4 members of the public.

**In attendance:** Mrs J Larcombe, Clerk to the Parish Council.

- 1. Welcome from Chairman.** Cllr Mrs Blogg welcomed everyone to the 2017 APM and explained the format of the meeting had been changed due to the reducing number of village organisations sending a representative to present their report.
- 2. To agree the minutes of the APM held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.
- 3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.** There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Chairman's Report for 2016/17.**

As in previous years one of the Parish Council main responsibilities has been the maintenance of the playing field and play area. The grass has been cut for many years by John Hawker from Hemyock but due to his recent retirement, the work was put out to tender and as from April this year, the contract is with Taunton Deane DLO. Other areas of the village, including SSG and the grass round the War Memorial are maintained by John Stanworth. The hedges in the playing field were cut in the autumn but the first attempt to carry out work in the play area had to be abandoned due to several parents refusing to remove their children for safety. In future, the play area will be closed for this work to be carried out. The Parish Council will probably need to take on additional maintenance in future – such as the overgrown, untidy entrance to the village from the motorway and at the top of Buckland Hill. This may involve employing a contractor for a couple of days each year and include other work around the village.

SCC has decided it can no longer afford the maintenance and upkeep of the cast iron fingerposts in the County and is preparing guidance for Parish Councils who are interested in maintaining the signs in their parish. There are a number of fingerpost signs in West Buckland parish and once the guidance is published the Council will carry out a full condition survey.

Two new 'youth sized' goal posts and nets were purchased for the playing field and the size of the pitch adjusted accordingly. There was a concern that the safety surface under the roundabout in the play area was slippery when wet so the product, 'Wet and Forget' has been applied to kill moss and algae. A new wetpour overlay has been applied to the deteriorating safety surface under the rainbow climber and the swings. Two swing seats were replaced in the spring of 2016. The play area is inspected annually by Rospa,

The new defibrillator has been installed on the exterior wall of the Village Hall. This has been purchased without cost to the Parish as the Parish Council's application to Awards for All for a full grant was successful. A training evening was well-attended and another session can be arranged if there is sufficient interest.

When news was received that the local bus service was due to be discontinued in July 2016, a survey was carried out to find out how many people used it on a regular basis and the number was between 10 and 15. However, the WI in particular decided to send petitions to SCC and the 'Slinky' bus was made available. Although offering a more limited service, this has been well received by residents with no other means of transport.

In January this year, the BT telephone box was finally removed.



David Mitton is the PPLO and would like to have details of anyone who walks a particular footpath regularly, to be added to the Adopt a Footpath Scheme. Also David can be contacted about any problems experienced by walkers while using the footpaths.

Parking in the village remains a problem and owners of large vehicles are requested to be considerate, especially outside the village shop during opening hours.

The Parish Council has received complaints about the speed of vehicles passing through the village and past the school. SCC agreed to carry out a speed check in the 20 mph limit near the school over a seven day period last October to see whether there was a problem. A print out of the results showed the average speed in that area was 22 mph. A Community Speedwatch Group has been formed and trained and they will be carrying out checks on the speed of vehicles passing through the parish. More volunteers are needed so that more checks can be carried out.

## **5. Clerk/RFO report on the 2016/17 Parish Council accounts**

Appendix A.

In response to questions it was confirmed that other costs referred to the cost of purchasing the defibrillator and the parish has five years to spend the Community Infrastructure Levy,

## **6. Reports from Village Organisations.**

A report was received from the Friendship Group – Appendix B

Village Agent Scheme – Gary Larson introduced himself as the Village Agent covering a large area which includes West Buckland. The area he covers is rural and has an increasingly older population. Since becoming the Village Agent he has supported 1,098 people to deal with 2,850 issues. Most of the people he has helped have been over 75 years of age, including those clients he has helped in West Buckland. 79% of the issues have been about disability and long term health issues. Village Agents provide free and confidential advice and they are at the end of the phone. Anyone needing help was encouraged to ring Gary. He was asked whether Universal credit had been brought in for people in the area and has there been any effect. There has been no input at present. Most of the people he has dealt with are on state pensions or PIPS and he has been helping some people to get attendance allowance.

West Buckland Church – Appendix C

- 7. Update on Speedwatch Scheme and request for more volunteers.** A report was received by email from PCSO Louise Fyne – Appendix D. There have been complaints from parents that vehicles are speeding through the village. More volunteers are needed and posters have been put on the noticeboard and passed to the school. Information has been put on the website. It would be helpful if parents would volunteer

- 8. Community Shop – to consult parishioners to see whether there is any interest in running a community shop should the existing shop close.** Cllr Mrs Blogg questioned whether there was any interest in the parish for a community shop run by volunteers if the village shop closes. She said she felt the shop was not well used for the size of the population of the parish. It was questioned where would be suitable to run a community shop if the present shop was sold. It was suggested that Wellington was too close for the shop to be successful. The estate agent selling the shop has asked whether there is any interest in the community taking over the shop. Cllr Silverlight said there are people in the village who value the shop and will miss it if it goes. In considering what would make the shop successful Mr Larson suggested that people who are running successful shops could be invited to talk to people who were interested in running a community shop. Councillors felt there wasn't that level of interest. The shop has been on the market for nearly a year now with no interest having been shown. Cllr Mitton said he had been to a couple of presentations on running a community shop and it does need a group of local people who are

interested in running a shop and the interest is usually generated when a shop closes. In conclusion it was felt there was no interest in running a community shop. The Post Office closed some time ago and it was felt that this was what people used.

- 9. Defibrillator - Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS).** Cllr Mrs Blogg explained this was a community phone system which could be used to get support to collect and use the defibrillator if someone is on their own. It is free the first year but there is a charge for the second year onwards. Enquiries will be made to see if anyone is interested. The Friendship Group has their own defibrillator which they take on trips. Information about the scheme will be printed in the community newsletter and volunteers might be found if another training session is held.
- 10. Litter problem in the parish.** Litter is very bad in some areas and looks unsightly, particularly by the roundabout under the motorway at Junction 26. It is difficult to organise a litter pick due to the lack of pavements along the roads in the village. Recycling boxes have no lids and paper blows out when it is windy. Some paper also comes out of the recycling lorries. Some dog walkers regularly pick up litter when they are walking their dog/s. Some people bag the poo from their dogs and through the bags in the hedges. It was questioned whether it was a countryside problem that people are happy to leave their litter for other people to pick up.
- 11. Any other matters brought forward.** There were no other matters brought forward.



## West Buckland Parish Council Accounts 2016/17

	2016/17	2015/16
Opening Balance at 1st April		
Natwest Current Account	9075.31	9691.11
Natwest Capital Reserve Account	7997.09	7993.07
<b>Total Opening Balance</b>	<b>17072.40</b>	<b>17684.18</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Precept	7562.00	£7,428.00
Council Tax Support Grant	351.00	£527.00
Vat Refund	984.82	£477.09
Bank Interest	2.75	£4.02
Playing Field Grant	735.00	£735.00
Cemetery Grant	800.00	£800.00
Footpath Grant	170.00	£170.00
Other grants	2618.00	
CIL	0.00	£843.76
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>13223.57</b>	<b>£10,984.87</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Clerks salary	2807.52	£2,274.48
Mileage	365.31	£390.60
Playing Field	4575.82	£2,671.50
Insurance	431.32	£413.40
Admin	242.30	£98.62
Footpaths	210.00	£215.00
Subscriptions	305.71	£333.83
Room hire	139.00	£82.00
Miscellaneous	2309.74	£1,898.68
Silver St Green	100.00	£120.00
Church Drive Triangle	90.00	£120.00
Peacocks Close Grass	125.00	£170.00
Audit	190.00	£90.00
S137	22.00	£22.00
Grants	1475.00	£1,325.00
Dog bins	0.00	£133.12
Training	95.00	£70.00
Neighbourhood Watch	0.00	£0.00
Website	0.00	£44.95
Memorial Trough	22.03	£53.65
War Memorial	70.00	£85.00
Vat to be reclaimed	1484.00	£984.82
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>15059.75</b>	<b>£11,596.65</b>
<b>Opening Balance + income - expenditure</b>	<b>15236.22</b>	<b>£17,072.40</b>
Closing balances at bank at 31st March		
Natwest Capital Deposit Account	7999.84	£7,997.09
Natwest Current Account	8177.98	£9,942.52
Current Account Unpresented Cheques	941.60	£867.21
Current Account Less Unpresented Cheques	7236.38	£9,075.31
<b>Total Closing Balance at 31/03/16</b>	<b>15236.22</b>	<b>£17,072.40</b>
including earmarked reserves of:	4951.14	£4,574.91
Neighbourhood Watch	101.16	£101.16
Swings	3000.00	£3,000.00
Memorial Trough	607.96	£629.99
Community Infrastructure Levy	843.76	£843.76
Awards for All funding for defibrillator	398.26	£0.00

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-West Buckland Friendship Club

Chairman-Denis Cottle

Continuing the great success of previous years, Christmas was a busy time for the club with the Chairman appearing as Father Christmas for the second year and members manning Santa's Nic/Nac stall with items of handmade craftware for sale at the village Christmas Fayre all proceeds this year going to the village church. We celebrated with our seasonal lunch at Oake Golf Club with 85 members attending. 2016 started with a false beginning due to a misunderstanding with the Woodland trust, no speaker appeared for our **January** meeting so we enjoyed another cup of coffee and a social chat. On the **28<sup>th</sup> January** celebrated our 4<sup>th</sup> year with a birthday tea with an anniversary cake provided by Penny. Dr Charles Hill from the Woodland Trust came to talk about the trust instead of at the club meeting as previously arranged, as the club had collected 8153 christmas cards for recycling the trust had hoped that we could provide a site locally to plant some young trees, the trust provide 1 tree for every 1000 cards collected. But unfortunately none was available . In **February** we were entertained by Kay Wych, who's unique presentation of life as a 16 century kitchen maid in full costume had us fascinated and amused. As the winter came to a end and we reached **March** our speaker explained the world of camera's and photography(world's away from my little box browne). We visited Oakham Treasurers a gem of



the past with shop display's of items not seen since the 50's. Old household products and brands of cigarettes, and lots more, and we had an enjoyable lunch to rebuild our energy **April** took us into the world of the author with Dawn Lawrence who had recently written a book called "Two steps behind". We also enjoyed a carvery lunch at Oake at the end of the month with their usual good service.

**May** is always our Summer outing as the village hall becomes a polling Station on our club day. This year we spent the day at Slimbridge Wetland Centre, the weather was excellent and the venue looked after us well with a private presentation after coffee on arrival. The **June** meetings speaker had to be rearranged due to illness. So Patricia Pearson kindly stepped in and gave an entertaining talk on her experiences in the Diplomatic service(part 1) to be continued next year. We then at the end of the month, travelled down the Exeter canal from Exmouth to Exeter quays with a sandwich lunch and coffee during the journey. **July** was a exciting month for the club with three dates. First was the village fete and flower show which saw us selling our usual produce with our customary enthusiasm. The monthly meeting was looked forward to, because of it being a favourite speaker- Spence Kingdom talking of his experiences as a youngster. On the 20<sup>th</sup> we visited Salisbury Cathedral and Arundrells (Edwards Heaths home). It was a full day with guided tours in both locations and a soup and sandwich lunch in the cathedral tea rooms. I think most of us were as they say (cream crackered)

by the time we got home. In **August** we were reminded of the types of transport long past, good and old memories. On the 10<sup>th</sup> we were invited to a visit one of our local privately owned period houses "Crowcombe Court". A very interesting visit and guided tour by the owner and his wife, they also provided refreshments afterwards. These houses can only be visited by invitation only. **September** was an amazing month with Robbie Burns speaking about his experience on stage, and the two outings ,the Exmoor Safari's, had mixed fortunes with weather but on the whole not bad. The scenery was great, with the hospitality at the Exmoor centre being both excellent and entertaining, we were well looked after. We then went to the steam railway at Woody Bay a little gem hidden away in the hills, after a short ride on the train we were presented with a cream tea to finish the day. A full but very enjoyable day!.The year is coming to an end, our **October** Meeting promised to spark our interest with a visit from Secret World, they did not disappoint. They brought 2 Owls and a kestrel which were both interesting and entertaining, the members were enthralled with the whole presentation. This bring us full circle a great year with the prospect of more to come. **November** was our Annual General meeting where the Chairman presented the 2017 programme to the members, with all the forthcoming speakers and subjects as well the arranged outings for the year. The members were also supplied with either a calendar or diary to book the important dates in. The meeting was



completed by a buffet lunch. Our membership continues to grow every month with well over a 100 members on our books. It would seem that this will continue as the older population is forecast to increase and the local building programme also increases bring more people into this part of Somerset.



**ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2016**

After the slight increase in general giving in 2016 it is disappointing that it fell back again last year. Notwithstanding general income being some £200 down on 2016, general expenditure remained at previous levels enabling us to pay our parish share of £13,000 in full.

With the aid of grant assistance from Viridor Credits restoration work to the south and west walls, at a cost of some £50,000, is almost complete. It's wonderful to walk into a lovely, bright – and dry - church.

We obtained more than 60 church chairs from a redundant chapel in Chippenham which turned out to be a good colour and look well and complement our remaining pews. We were fortunate in being able to sell our former chairs which covered the cost of transport.

It has been a wonderful year for fund-raising, from coffee mornings through to the abseil (raising over £8,000), bringing a total for all events in excess of £13,000! Particularly notable has been the support from the community; people who are not regular church attenders.

It is pleasing to note that our church attendance has remained stable for a number of years with 30 members attending over a month and a weekly average over the year of 21.

Thankfully, another year has gone without suffering theft or vandalism.

The churchyard continues to be well maintained and we are grateful to various individuals who have carried out maintenance tasks over the year.

We are grateful to Pat, Hilary and Jane for playing for us and encouraging us to sing up and also to our dedicated bell ringers, who come from several churches around the area to provide joyous sounds on special occasions (more ringers are required). We are also grateful to the small band of ladies (and men) who keep the Church clean and ladies for the beautiful flowers.

We thank the PCC for their support over the year with special thanks to David, our Treasurer, who for several years has been reporting under payment of our parish share but this year has been paid in full!

Colin Rayson and Betty Dummett

Churchwardens St Mary's Church, West Buckland

Appendix D

**Subject:** RE: Speedwatch Report for Annual Parish Meeting

**From:** Louise Fyne (Louise.Fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

**To:** kentisbearepc@yahoo.co.uk;

**Date:** Thursday, 6 April 2017, 17:59

Hi Jill

'After being approached by members of West Buckland Community and the parish council who had concerns over speeds through the village, PCSO Louise Fyne looked at setting up a Community Speed Watch group. A few people who had expressed an interest in becoming volunteers were contacted and asked to complete the knowledge check and application form on-line.

Sites where volunteers would be able to stand safely were risk assessed by PCSO Louise Fyne and the Speed Enforcement Unit( SEU). These are situated at Sawyers Hill and Frogs Lane.

The SEU have looked at a possible site near the school but have deemed they are not able to enforce in the immediate area of the school due to safety reasons.

They believe their occasional presence at the approved sites will help enforce the strong message of road safety and responsible driving.

SEU say it's too soon to provide quantifiable data and that it is not a question of the number of speeders but educating the drivers for the long term. PCSO Louise Fyne has asked for regular updates and will feed this information back.

We as the CSW group have just started the sessions and are looking at adjusting times to school drop off and pick up times. It will be trial and error initially and we do need more volunteers to keep the group running successfully.

The school have been updated'

Jill is this ok?

Kind Regards

<https://mg.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=abo8vbfspf1dp>

25/04/2017