

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Mrs M K Blogg
4 Peacocks Close
West Buckland
TA21 9JY
Tel 01823 663378
email margaretblogg@btinternet.com

Clerk – Mrs J Larcombe
6 The Old School
Chapel Street
Tiverton
EX16 6ND
Tel 01884 252647
email kentisbearepc@yahoo.co.uk

www.westbuckland.org

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 29th March 2016 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: PCSO Cridlin, PCSO Ferris and the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

157/03/16. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were received from District Cllr C Hill.

158/03/16. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

159/03/16. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 23/02/16. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

160/03/16. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

161/03/16. Police Report. PCSO Cridlin introduced PCSO Vicky Ferris who has recently joined the Police and will be working in Wellington Town Centre. She was attending the meeting with PCSO Cridlin who is her tutor. PCSO Cridlin discussed the incidents in the February Police Report. The Police are monitoring a property in West Buckland for cannabis. She also mentioned the speeding/parking issues at the school and said she had been following the emails related to this issue. The March Police Report has just been distributed by email. PCSO Cridlin was given the new email address for the Parish Newsletter and advised to contact the Clerk if there was anything to be put on the parish website.

PCSO Cridlin and PCSO Ferris left the meeting.

162/03/16. Democratic Period. Members of the public will be allowed to speak for up to three minutes. There were no members of the public present.

163/03/16. Planning:

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

46/16/0004 Erection of glasshouse, raising of roof of existing glasshouse, erection of biomass heating plant, plant room with associated equipment, erection of 2 dwellings and formation of flood retention lagoon at Greenfield Nurseries, Wellington Road, West Buckland. Applicant: Sunny Venture Ltd.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the Environment Agency comment that

the attenuation ponds should be dredged. The Council are concerned about the water that runs across the entrance to the site and ask for a condition requiring a culvert to be constructed to ensure this water does not run across the A38.

46/16/0005 Variation of condition 04 (implementation and completion of highway works of application 46/12/0007 at Blackdown Garden Centre, Wellington Road, West Buckland. Applicant: Mr M Hassall.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council object to a further variation of this planning condition and do not support the advice given by Mr Horan, Planning Enforcement Officer. The original consent for this application was given nearly four years ago. This condition was made in the interest of highway safety and needs to be enforced as quickly as possible. The Parish Council cannot condone further extensions when people's safety is at risk. This latest application allows for a further seventeen months extension from the previous application and this is unacceptable.

46/16/0006 Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 1 Cob Castle, Ham, Wellington. Applicant: Mr & Mrs Johnson.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the approval of this application.

b) To receive decisions from planning applications determined by TDBC. There were no decisions to report.

c) Update on planning enforcement matters reported to TDBC. Mr Horan, Planning Enforcement Officer TDBC, has not updated the Council even though he said he would in his last email. The Clerk has emailed him asking for an update but hasn't received a reply. The anonymous parishioner who reported the alleged breach of planning conditions at Gerbestone Manor Farm to Cllr Silverlight has been into the Deane House and has spoken to a Planning Enforcement Officer. He reported to Cllr Silverlight that the Enforcement Officer had been out to the site and had spoken to the owner who said it was only a temporary conversion to a house while they build the other. No comment was made about the extra mobile home. He was told that it is his risk and he could be told to remove it. The Clerk said she was concerned that the parishioner wanted to remain anonymous to the Council and added, in her opinion, when people want to remain anonymous there is a risk that their complaint can be vindictive. Cllr Silverlight did not feel that this was the case in this instance. The Clerk said in the past the Council had reported enforcement issues to TDBC and had left them to pursue the matter. The Clerk was instructed to follow up the two ongoing enforcement cases with TDBC because Mr Horan had told the Council he would update them. Cllr Silverlight will advise the person who reported the matter to contact Cllr Hill, District Councillor, and ask him to follow the matter up with planning enforcement.

There have been some complaints about the smell of smoke in Lee Park and in the village. It has been suggested this might be coming from the smoker but there is no evidence that it is coming from there. The Council will monitor this.

d) Any other planning matters. None.

164/03/16. Highways.

a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on work that is needed. No reports.

b) Matters arising from previous meeting

- **Sawyers Hill.** The Leylandii trees have been cut down at West View. The Council is not aware of what Mr Quick has arranged to deal with the drainage issue.
- **BT Phone Box.** The electricity to the phone box has been disconnected. The next stop will be for the phone box to be removed.

c) Any other highways matters. Cllr Mrs Blogg reported she had witnessed a person tripping over the high kerb at the top of Dyers Close. She will report this to Dennis Quick, SCC Highways.

Jo Sharp, Traffic Engineer SCC, contacted the Clerk by email on the 24th March (after the agenda had been circulated) to say she had received an enquiry from Mr Robinson of Robinsons Smoke House asking if he can have brown signs. It would mean 2 or 3 signs; one in the middle of the village directing traffic straight on towards the motorway bridge, one at Sawyers Hill near the junction of Silver Street and another before the motorway bridge. She is mindful that this is more of a retail business than a tourist destination as there are no tourist facilities advertised although visitors are able to see how he smokes the foods. The Council were asked for their views. The email was circulated to councillors before the meeting. The Council do not support this request as it is not a tourist attraction and could be detrimental to the village shop. The question was raised as to who would pay for the signs because SCC are making cutbacks. There is already an unnecessary brown sign to 'The Gallery' on the outskirts of the village. This is a business which is no longer operating and the Clerk will find out how to get this sign removed. The Council will discuss the maintenance of finger post signs at the next meeting. Cllr Lacey said he had made a list of the signs in the parish.

165/03/16. To receive reports from:

a) Police. Report made under item 161/03/16. The Police Report for March 2016 has just been circulated by email. There are three West Buckland issues.

b) Village Hall Committee. Cllr Mrs Hannathe reported that Sue Porcas is the new booking secretary for the village hall. Most of the re-decoration of the hall has been completed. A quote has been obtained for a new fence panel.

c) Cllr Mitton to report on TDBC Highways Matters training session. A powerpoint presentation from the training had been circulated to councillors. Cllr Mitton gave a summary from the training. Staffing cutbacks at SCC has resulted in consultee comments from the Highways Department often simply referring to 'Standing Advice'. They are obliged to comment on the basis of the information in front of them and are only responsible to the Local Planning Authority. They do not correct submissions or suggest alternatives although they do advise as appropriate. The National Planning Policy Framework has a presumption in favour of development and Highways will only object when the likely traffic impact of the development is severe and they are prepared to defend their comments at an appeal against a decision to refuse approval. Severe is not tested in law and they have to make a judgement. If the Parish Council has any transport objections for a planning application they should write to TDBC asking them to draw the Parish Council's objections to the attention of highways as they might not have visited the site. The Council should ask for SCC to comment to them on their objection.

d) Any Other Reports. No other reports.

166/03/16. Finance

a) To agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to make the following payments: Somerset Association of Local Councils - £50.00 Insurance & Risk Assessment Training Course fees for 2 places (chq no 1307)

D Mitton - £39.60 mileage and parking expenses for training course and representing the Council at meetings (chq no 1308)

F J Orchard & Sons - £180.00 hedge trimming at the playing field, Sawyers Hill & Steart Lane (chq no 1309)

Taunton Deane Borough Council - £306.00 painting play equipment (chq no 1310)

Mrs J Larcombe - £291.61 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1311)

b) To review and agree Business Risk Assessment March 2016. This was deferred to the next meeting because the version circulated did not include Cllr Mitton's amendments. It was only reported at the meeting that the wrong version had been circulated.

c) To agree an Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy. The Clerk circulated a draft version

of this policy a few days before the meeting with a recommendation that this item be deferred to the next meeting to allow councillors more time to read it and comment on it. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

d) Update on the purchase of a defibrillator. Contact has been made with the Community Heartbeat Trust and they have recommended some defibrillator models for the Council to consider. A lockable cabinet would also need to be purchased. The annual electricity cost will only be about £20 per year at current prices. It was agreed that Cllr Mitton would make more enquiries about prices. An application for grant funding will be made.

e) To note the arrangements for the meeting with West Buckland PCC to discuss the newsletter. The Council are meeting with members of the PCC tomorrow night, 30th March, at 7.30pm. Cllr Mrs Hannath and Cllr Nutt gave their apologies as they are unable to attend. It was agreed that it would be better for another councillor to chair the meeting because Cllr Mrs Blogg has strong views about the Newsletter. It was agreed that Cllr Mitton would chair the meeting because he was the most independent person.

167/03/16. Playing Field:

a) Request from Fete Committee to use the Playing Filed on 2nd July. The secretary of the Fete Committee has written to the Council asking for permission to use the Playing field for the fete on Saturday 2nd July. The Clerk has replied giving permission subject to the committee providing a risk assessment and proof of public liability insurance before the event.

b) Cllr Mrs Blogg and Cllr Mitton to report on their site meeting to look at the play area. Cllr Mitton and Cllr Mrs Blogg reported they had met to look at the play area. They noted that one of the flat swing seats is due to be replaced. They were concerned that the shackles on the swings had not been looked at and it was agreed to ask TDBC DLO to do this. The area under the roundabout needs to be pressure washed. They suggested the Council could consider replacing the rainbow climber with a new piece of equipment. This will be considered at a future meeting.

c) SPFA Play Area Inspection Training Session – to note 2 places have been booked. Cllr Mrs Blogg and the Clerk will attend a training session at Woolavington Village Hall on May 10th. Somerset Playing Fields' Association has teamed up with GB Sport & Leisure UK Limited to provide a Playground Awareness & Inspection Training event for Local Councils and Playing Field Committees. There is no charge.

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

168/03/16. Footpaths:

a) To agree the new PPLO. It was agreed that Cllr Mitton would be the new PPLO. He will let SCC know that he has been appointed. He has resigned as PPLO for Wellington. Cllr Mrs Blogg has the PPLO equipment and way markers handed back by Mr Gould, former PPLO.

b) Any matters brought forward. Adopt a Path Scheme – information about the scheme has been put on the website and will be put in the newsletter and mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Silverlight will adopt the paths in his area.

169/03/16. To discuss the Electoral Review of Taunton Deane. Cllr Mitton to report on Parish Briefing meeting. Cllr Mitton reported the initial consultation will run until 6th May and will consider how many District Councillors TDBC needs. At present there are 56. It would not change parish boundaries but a decision might be made to draw the electoral division through a parish and split it into two wards. After the 6th May there will be a further consultation on the recommendations from the first. A prediction will need to be made on the number of electors in TDBC in five years' time and there needs to be a balance of numbers in each ward. West Somerset District Council is becoming unviable

and the Government could take action to make one council of TDBC and West Somerset but this would not take place until 2019. The Parish Council will be asked to comment on the second consultation. A briefing document has been circulated to councillors.

- 170/03/16. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting.** The letters that are sent to parish organisations asking them for a report for the meeting have been amended to encourage more people to read out reports at the meeting. The meeting will start at 7pm and will be held in the main hall.
- 171/03/16. Expression of interest in forming a speed check group in West Buckland.** A parishioner has expressed an interest in forming a speed check group in the village and their details have been passed to PCSO Fyne. More volunteers will be needed to form a group and someone would be needed to lead the group. Information will be put on the website, the notice board and in the newsletter encouraging people to volunteer. It will also be mentioned at the APM. This initiative is about educating people, not prosecution.
- 172/03/16. To note additional pages created on the website.** The Clerk has created an additional page for information about footpaths. The information about the ‘Adopt a Footpath’ scheme is on this page. A page has also been created for the shop. The Fete Committee has been offered a page/s on the website.
- 173/03/16. Correspondence and items of interest.** The following correspondence was noted:
Clerk and Councils Direct – March 2016
- 174/03/16. Any urgent business at the Chairman’s discretion (Not for Decisions).** There was no urgent business.
- 175/03/16. Date of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th April. The meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.