

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

108/11/16. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr's D Mitton and C Silverlight.

109/11/16. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

110/11/16. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 25/10/16. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

111/11/16. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

112/11/16. Democratic Period. There were no members of the public present.

113/11/16. Planning

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

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

Applicant: Mr G Thornton.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections as long as the visibility splay is not compromised.

46/16/0030 Erection of an agricultural building for general purpose, including the housing of livestock, at Pitt Farm, Wellington Road, West Buckland. Applicant: Mr J Sherwin.

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

46/16/0031 Erection of detached double garage with store over ancillary to Chestnut Lodge, Gerbestone Lane, West Buckland. Applicant: Mr D Gay.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objection to the granting of approval subject to a condition that the garage shall be used solely in connection with the use of the existing house of Chestnut Lodge, Gerbestone Lane, West Buckland as domestic storage and parking only and shall not at any time be used as living accommodation.

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). Applicant: Mr J Sherwin.

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

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). Applicant: Mr J Sherwin.

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

Application in adjoining parish

43/16/0127 Application for approval of reserved matters following outline application 43/06/00016 for the erection of Block 5 for Class B1, B2, B8 with ancillary trade counter and D1 24 hour gym use on land adjoining Chelston House Farm, Chelston. Applicant: Brewer, Smith and Brewer.

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

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

46/16/0018 Change of use from B8 (Warehouse) to D2 (Leisure & fitness) with associated A3 (Café) facilities and additional parking at Units 1 to 4, Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Applicants: South West Leisure Activities Ltd.

Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/16/0025 Erection of extension to agricultural building for storage of machinery at Middle Stoford Farm, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted. It was noted that a Certificate of Lawfulness has previously been approved for a flat within the agricultural building (46/16/0007/LE).

b) Any other planning matters. The Clerk reported she had received an email from Karen Wray, Planning Officer TDBC & West Somerset Council to update the Council following the withdrawal of application 46/16/0024. Following investigations, the planning permission to build the permanent residential dwelling to which the application related to, was in fact void (3 years had passed since permission was granted and any works that had been undertaken as part of that application were not in accordance with the approved plans i.e. the tractor shed). Ms Ward was therefore due to recommend refusal for the use of the 'tractor shed' for a two year temporary period as workers accommodation as there no longer was a valid permission for the dwelling. As the application has been withdrawn and the tractor shed remains in situ, Ms Ward and Mr Horan (the council's enforcement officer) had arranged to meet with the applicant and his agent on site.

114/11/16. Highways.

a) Matters arising from previous meetings

- **Removal of BT phone box.** There has been no further news on the removal of the phone box. The Clerk will remind BT that the phone box has still not been removed.
- **Request for removal of redundant brown tourist signs.** There was no update.

b) To note any highway defects to report to SCC. No defects reported.

c) BT proposal to remove the phone box at Piccadilly Service Station, Chelston.

TDBC, as the 'Relevant Public Body', has been asked by BT to decide whether various telephone boxes should be removed or whether there is any justification to retain them. Included is the phone box at Piccadilly Service Station where only one call has been made in the last twelve months. The Council had no objection to the phone box being removed.

d) SCC proposals to reduce the current 50mph speed limit between the Heatherton Grange junction and Wellington to a 40mph speed limit and to reduce the current derestricted stretch of road between the Heatherton Grange junction and Rumwell

to a 50mph speed limit. The Somerset Road Safety team have recently carried out speed monitoring on the A38 Wellington Road between Heatherton Grange and the Blackbird Inn, West Buckland. The data shows that average speeds recorded within this section of the A38 are 38.6mph for southwest bound traffic and 40.5mph for northeast bound traffic. This average speed is within the criteria for the police to consider enforcement. Taking account of the generally low speeds and the validated collision data showing that there have been 3 KSI collisions and 11 slight injury collisions in the last 5 years recorded on this 0.8km section of the A38, Somerset Road Safety have advised that they will support any recommendation for relevant safety improvements, including a reduction in the current speed limit at this site. A plan was provided to show the roads that will be included in a new 40mph speed limit.

The second consideration is to reduce the current derestricted stretch of road between the Heatherton Grange junction and Rumwell to a 50mph speed limit. SCC has carried out a review of collisions and data shows that there have been 3 KSI collisions and 8 slight injury collisions in the last 5 years recorded on this 1.9km section of the A38. A plan was provided to show the roads that will be included in a new 50mph speed limit. The Council is pleased to see SCC's proposals to reduce the speed limit along a dangerous piece of road and hope that it will be implemented as soon as possible.

e) Results from speed check in the 20mph speed limit area in Silver Street. Following the site meeting with Jo Sharp, Traffic Engineer SCC, in August she arranged for speed readings to be taken on Silver Street. Readings were from the telegraph pole outside 1, Holway Cottages in Silver Street. This site was located within the 20 speed limit. The readings show that the average speed readings based on a 24 hour day (00-24) was 22.3mph. The results appear to provide no evidence that this location has an overall speeding problem. Mrs Sharp said she would imagine this is the usual scenario whereby the majority of motorists abide by the speed limits but there is a small minority who do not, and it is of course the minority who are remembered. A printout from the speed check was circulated to Councillors.

f) Update on possible contractor/s to carry out work for the Council. Mr Jon Manning, has provided information about the work he carries out for Bishops Lydeard Parish Council and his relevant qualifications. In considering the work the Council needed to have carried out it was thought a contractor would probably be needed twice a year, in the Spring and Autumn, to clean signs, trim vegetation around signs and trim vegetation at some road junctions. A reference has also been provided by the Clerk to Bishop Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council. Mr Manning will be asked about his charges.

g) Any other highways matters. SCC has offered Town and Parish Councils ten free bags of road salt/grit for collection from the highways depot at Taunton on the morning of Saturday 3rd December. The parish still has a supply from previous years and it was decided that more wasn't needed for this year. Cllr Mrs Blogg will check with Cllr Silverlight to see if 'dumpy' bags of salt/grit have been delivered to Buckland Hill.

115/11/16. Finance

a) To agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to make the following payments: West Buckland Village Hall – £18.00 hire of Committee Room for 3 meetings (chq no 1345).

Correspondence has been received from the Village Hall Committee to say they have agreed to increase their charges from 1st January 2017. The cost of hiring the Committee Room will increase from £6 per session to £8 per session and the Main Hall from £11 per session to £12. This is the first increase in ten years.

Mr J Stanworth - £80.00 cutting the playing field hedge (chq no 1346)

Grant Thornton - £120.00 external audit for year ended 31/03/16 (chq no 1347)

Mrs J Larcombe - £291.11 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1348)

Somerset Playing Fields Association - £15.00 annual subscription (chq no 1351)
As there will not be a meeting in December the following payments were agreed and dated 27th December 2016.

Mrs J Larcombe - £259.49 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1349)

HMRC - £49.60 PAYE for October, November and December 2016 (chq no 1350)

Following confirmation of the grant for the defibrillator an order was placed, as previously agreed, and a cheque (no 1344) made out to the Community Heartbeat Trust for £2,424.00 was signed between meetings.

b) To discuss the budget for 2017 – 18. The Council discussed the various budget lines and considered any increases/decreases in receipts and expenditure. It was agreed to recommend to the January 3rd meeting that the Band D rate should not be increased for 2017/18. It was felt that an increase could not be justified while the reserves were predicted to be in excess of £12,000 at the end of 2016/17.

116/11/16. To note reports from:

a) Police. An email report From PCSO Baker for October was circulated earlier in the month. There were 24 Police Logs for the Beat in October.

b) Village Hall Committee. In a written report Cllr Mrs Hannath noted the Committee had received a quote for painting the exterior of the Village Hall and it was agreed to accept it. The contractor would also be willing to paint the outside fence with preservative. The painting of the Committee Room has now been completed. It was suggested that the Committee should look for sponsorship for the paint and enquiries will be made. The instructor for the Pilates classes has to have public liability insurance but not the person hiring the hall for the classes.

Hiring charges will be increased from January 2017 it is quite some years since increases were made. Letters will be sent to all organisations re: the increases.

The certification has now been received for the new boiler.

West Buckland Fete/Flower Show Committee will have a final meeting 9th November 2016.

117/11/16. Playing Field

a) Any matters to report from inspections carried out during the month; any actions taken or to be taken as a result. No matters were reported.

b) To report on progress with points from the Rospa Report. The report was noted. Only the points raised about the surfacing under the swings and arch climber have not been completed. An overlay of the surfacing is being considered.

c) To report the completion of the hedge trimming. This job has been completed by Mr Stanworth as ground conditions are no longer suitable for a tractor and hedge trimmer to complete the work.

d) To report the new goal posts have been installed. The goal posts were installed soon after the last meeting and they have been well received.

e) To consider 3 quotes for the overlaying of some of the safety surfacing in the play area. Quotes were received from G B Sport and Leisure UK Ltd, Vita Play Ltd and the Safety Surfaces Company. The quote from the Safety Surfaces Company was the cheapest. The Clerk reported the company had carried out work for Cullompton Town Council, Devon and they were happy with their work. It was agreed to accept their quote subject to a site meeting to confirm the details. Cllr Mrs Blogg had met representatives from the other two companies on site but the Safety Surfaces Company representative had looked at the work on his own.

Vita Play Ltd have premises at Ashbrittle, near Wellington, and could be a useful contact for future maintenance of the play area. They also supplied a quote for painting the arch climber and cleaning the surfacing.

f) To discuss a draft policy for use of the Playing Field. With two minor amendments the policy was agreed. It will be reviewed biannually.

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

118/11/16. Footpaths: any matters brought forward. There were no matters brought forward.

119/11/16. To note the confirmation of the grant from Awards for All for the defibrillator and an order has been placed with the Community Heartbeat Trust. Confirmation of the grant has been received and the order has now been placed with the Community Heartbeat Trust. A quote has been received for the electrical installation of the defibrillator. The quote is from the electrician used by the Village Hall Committee and is very reasonable. It was felt that as this work was being carried out with the permission of the Village Hall Committee it should be carried out by the electrician they use and no other quotes will be obtained.

120/11/16. Correspondence and items of interest. The following correspondence was noted:

Somerset Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

War Memorials Trust Newsletter

121/11/16. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. Cllr Mrs Blogg reported she had been finding out how people were feeling about the new bus service and the comments she had received had been positive. People are booking to use the slinky bus service and some people had even reported they were being dropped off close to home and not just at the bus stop.

The Clerk reported she had written to Rebecca Pow MP regarding the Government consultation on capping local council precepts but had not received a response.

122/11/16. Personnel.

a) To agree the Part 2 minutes of 25th October 2016. This item was discussed in Part 2. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

b) To agree the Grievance Policy. The policy was agreed.

123/11/16. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 at 7.30pm.