

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th January 2014 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: PC A Hooper, County Cllr R Henley, one member of the public and the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

121/01/14. Police Report. It was agreed to bring this item forward to the start of the meeting. PC Hooper referred to the December 2013 Police Report which had been circulated by email. There was a break in to a garden machinery business at Blackdown Nurseries. They did not have any security so the Police have put them in touch with someone who can provide this. A catalytic convertor was stolen from a motor vehicle at Chelston; it was unusual that only one was stolen. There was a nasty burglary at Beam Bridge which CID is dealing with. The pub landlord is still off sick with stress as a result of the incident and improvements to security are being looked at. There was a reported incident at the Church but it is thought that it was probably caused by the wind rather than it being a break-in. Cllr Mrs Blogg asked whether the monthly Beat Surgeries were still taking place. The Police are now coming along to social events because they get to speak to more people. PC Hooper spoke about the need to educate people about security and the devices that are available to protect them; the cost of which can be covered by savings in insurance. Cllr Biffen commented on a security light outside business premises in Silver Street which dazzles drivers. PC Hooper will investigate this.

PC Hooper left the meeting.

122/01/14. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were received from District Cllr C Hill.

123/01/14. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

124/01/14. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 26/11/13. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

125/01/14. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

126/01/14. Public Questions. The applicant for planning application 46/13/0042 (discussed by the Council on 26/11/13) alleged a councillor had not declared an interest before discussing her application. The Clerk advised that the councillor did not have an interest.

127/01/14. Planning:

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

43/13/0157 (Neighbouring Parish Application) Variation of Condition No 2 (Approved Plans) of application number 43/10/0143 on land at Westpark 26 Business Park, Chelston. Comment: the Parish Council has no objections.

46/13/0047 Erection of single storey extension to dining room at rear of The Merry Harriers, Forches Corner, Clayhidon. Applicant: Mr R Payne. Comment: the Parish Council support the application.

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

46/13/0040 Erection of first floor extension at The Old Barn, West Buckland Road, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/13/0041 Replacement sewage treatment plant at Georges Farm, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/13/0042 Replacement of agricultural storage building located on end of outbuilding, erection of an agricultural polytunnel and erection of 6ft high fence and trellis at Brook Farm, Wellington (retention of works already undertaken). Decision: conditional approval Granted.

46/13/0044 Erection of extension to the north west end of Proco S T S Ltd, Unit 3 Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) Any other planning matters. None.

128/01/14. Highways.

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

b) Update on flood prevention work at Willowbrook. Work has finally started with the removal of trees. De-silting and channel improvement works are due to follow subject to the water levels in the watercourse remaining favourable.

c) Update on repairs to Booby's Lane, Blackmoor. Nothing has been done and the bridleway is reported to be nearly unusable now.

d) Update on repairs to surfacing on A38. Some work has been carried out to sharpen up the surface but the damage to the surfacing is resulting in potholes.

e) Buckland Hill – report of loose shale being washed across the road. During the recent storms heavy rain has led to lots of loose shale being washed across the road and the flints are causing lots of punctures. A stream is bringing down the shale and this will probably continue while the rainfall is so heavy. It was thought the water course had been changed when Trees Farm was developed. A large hole under and against the deer fencing was reported. Cllr Mrs Blogg will follow these problems with highways.

f) Request received by TDBC for Bus Shelter on A38 by Camelot Nursing Home and their request for a contribution from Parish Council. The Council considered the request from TDBC but decided it was unable to agree to contribute due to financial constraints. It has not received a request from the public.

g) Wellington Town Council – correspondence regarding SCC Community Warden Scheme. The Clerk will contact Wellington Town Council to say this is a great idea but West Buckland Parish Council doesn't want to take part at this time. It was felt the Parish Council did a lot of this anyway.

h) Any other highways matters. Debris has gathered behind a hurdle in a gap in the hedge adjoining the gallops below George's Farm and the water coming out of the hedge is now missing the drain and running down both sides of the road. Cllr Lacey will have a look and report back.

129/01/14. To receive reports from:

- a) **District Cllr.** No report. Cllr Hill has been asked for information about rate relief for charities but doesn't have any information about this. No one has approached the Parish Council for information.
- b) **Cty Cllr.** No report at this point.
- c) **Police.** See item 121/01/14.
- d) **Village Hall Committee.** Cllr Mrs Hannath reported the Accident Book is now kept in a drawer in the kitchen. A donation of £100 has been received from Yvonne at the shop. The door handles have been replaced. Geoff & Liz Henley have been running the 100 Club for many years but have decided they can no longer do so. Other methods of fund raising will be considered.
- e) **Any other reports.** None.

130/01/14. Finance : to agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to make the following Payments: Cllr Mrs M Blogg - £13.99 expenses claim for print cartridge (chq no 1222)
Mrs J Larcombe - £220.50 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1223)

131/01/14. Playing Field.

- a) **Update on hedge cutting.** It is too wet to cut the hedge and it is unlikely to be done this Winter. The Council will need to make sure the hedge is cut as soon as possible next Summer, taking in to account legislation on nesting birds.
- b) **Report from Routine Play Area Inspection – slippery surface under roundabout.** Cllr Mrs Blogg reported that during a routine play area inspection she noticed that the safety surface under the roundabout was slippery. It is a very smooth surface and moss grows on it. Cllr Mrs Blogg has tried removing it by brushing it but this hasn't cured the problem. Cllr Lacey suggested pressure washing the area but this would need to be done very carefully.
- c) **To discuss arrangements for grass cutting 2014-15.** Cllr Lacey will find out whether Heathfield Garden Contractors will be able to cut the grass for the 2014/15 season.
- d) **Land Registration for Village Hall and car parks.** The Village Hall and the first car park are all shown as being owned with the rest of the playing field by the Parish Council. When the Parish Council gave the Village Hall the land for the extension and the first car park there was a Deed of Grant.

132/01/14 Footpaths.

- a) **Update on appointing new PPLO.** No one has come forward to take on this role and the Council recognised that they had been very lucky to have Peter Taylor. Cllr Mrs Biffen suggested the WI could be pro-active in informing SCC Rights of Way about any problems they notice on their walks. People who use the paths will be asked to inform SCC about any problems.
- b) **Any Other Footpath Matters.** None.

133/01/14. SALC: Update on memorial for Peter Lacey. Cllr Lacey and Mrs Pam Lacey have chosen and purchased a stone trough which is now sited on the green outside the shop. Angela Grant, the owner of the shop, has given the Parish Council written permission for the trough to be sited there. The trough has been planted up and the Chairman of SALC will make arrangements for a plaque to be mounted on the trough. Money collected by SALC will be used to reimburse Cllr Lacey's expenses in purchasing, collecting, siting and planting up the trough. SALC has agreed that the memorial will be 'unveiled' on Saturday April 5th with a provisional time of 2pm/2.30pm. The Village Hall will be opened to provide toilet facilities and cups of tea and coffee after the unveiling. Arrangements will be made for a photographer to take photos of the unveiling.

134/01/14. Updated Parish Website. Cllr Lacey has designed a new parish website and this has now replaced the old site. He was thanked for the improved site.

135/01/14. Correspondence and items of interest (including information circulated by SALC). Cllr Mrs Blogg reported she has been researching the history of WW 1 in the parish. She approached Mr Jim Skeggs for information and he suggested putting on a display in the Village Hall and this has been arranged for Saturday 2nd August to commemorate the outbreak of WW1 on August 4th 1914. This will be a fund raising event for the Village Hall and will include a themed raffle and refreshments. The event will be promoted in the Parish Newsletter and it is hoped that other interested people will contribute information and memorabilia. The SALC training session was noted. Cllr Nutt will attend the Being a Good Councillor Course on 11th March at a cost of £25.00.

136/01/14. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. None.

137/01/14. County Cllr's Report. Cllr Henley joined the meeting at this point. He had been attending another Parish Council meeting in his ward. He was asked when the surface of the A38 would be repaired but didn't have the answer. He will find this out and will also enquire about the progress of the flood prevention works at Willowbrook. The Clerk told Cllr Henley that she had experienced difficulties in obtaining contact information from SCC customer services and had to contact democratic services, who were very helpful. Cllr Henley didn't feel this was acceptable. Sheila Wheeler, Chief Executive SCC, is missing from her desk and another officer is now Acting Chief Executive. No information about the situation is being given to elected members. As the Chief Executive has a salary of about £160,000 Cllr Henley was concerned as he felt it was a critical time for SCC with flooding on the Somerset Levels etc

138/01/14. Dates of Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 7.30pm.