

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th November 2013 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: County Cllr R Henley, four members of the public and the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

104/11/13. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs Hannath.

105/11/13. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. None.

106/11/13. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 29/10/13. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

107/11/13. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

It was agreed to move the County Cllr's Report to this point on the agenda.

108/11/13. County Cllr Report. Cllr Henley reported that he had written to Dennis Quick, SCC, to find out what was happening about the flood prevention work at Willowbrook and to ask about permission for the siting of a seat on the grass verge by Willowbrook Nurseries. An order has been placed with Hi-Line to remove some trees and pollard others, permission has been agreed with Blackdown Garden Centre to allow access on to their property and they will accept the excavated material and dispose of it on their land. Down stream of the bridge SCC is in discussions with the new owner Mr Mitchell to allow access to his field and removal of self-seeded trees growing in the river bed. If agreement cannot be reached with Mr Mitchell SCC will start work on the Willowbrook side of the A38. If required SCC's Flood team in County Hall can take the legal route with Mr Mitchell and serve notice on him to carry out the work down-stream of the bridge but it is felt that it will be a shame if all the works cannot occur at the same time as the end result will be better if one contactor does all the work. The verge outside of Willowbrook Nursery does not belong to SCC so they do not need to give permission to site a seat. Cllr Henley has been looking at how he can use his Healthy Living Grant Funding and following a visit to West Buckland Pre-school he will be giving them £250 for their Healthy Living Project. The school is looking at what project they could do. Cllr Henley will be visiting the WI next week to see their indoor curling. There is no further news about cuts to Household Recycling Centres. Some sites are charging a £2 entry fee. SCC has received an inadequate rating from Ofsted for its child protection services. The previous rating received three to four years ago was good. Cllr Henley said this was very worrying and SCC will need to turn this round very quickly. Cllr Mrs Blogg asked Cllr Henley if there was any news about the repairs to the

road surfacing on the A38 where there are speed restrictions but he did not have any further information. As a District Councillor he reported that the management teams of TDBC and West Somerset are merging. It was also reported that TDBC are cutting the hedge by the Lee Park Play Area.

Cllr Henley left the meeting.

109/11/13. Public Questions. Members of the public discussed issues around planning Application 46/13/0042.

110/11/13. Planning:

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

46/13/0041 Replacement sewage treatment plant at Georges Farm, West Buckland.

Applicant: Cave Veterinary Specialists. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the granting of planning permission.

Two additional planning applications had been received since the agenda was circulated. Cllr Rayson declared an interest in application 46/13/0044 as a neighbour.

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). Applicant: Mrs Donna Lane
Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the application but note that the application site is in a flood plain and the Flood Risk Assessment is incomplete.

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. Applicant: Mr Philip Hyde.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections.

b) To receive results from planning applications determined by TDBC

46/13/0030 Erection of open fronted barn at Crosses Farm, Bussells Farm Lane, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/13/0032 Variation of condition 04 (full implementation of highway works prior to use) of application number 46/12/0007 to allow completion of highways works after the new building has been brought into use, at Blackdown Garden Centre, West Buckland.

Decision: condition approval granted. The Council noted Condition 4. The use of the retail sales building hereby permitted shall cease on 7 April 2014 unless the highways works listed have been implemented and fully completed in accordance with Plan No. 851-02 Revision A.

c) TDBC Planning Training Dates. TDBC has invited Parish Council representatives to a number of planning training sessions in the John Meikle Room at The Deane House starting at 6.15pm. The dates are Wednesday 22 January 2014 – main topic Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Wednesday 26 March 2014 – main topic Town Centres, Wednesday 18 June 2014 – CIL and Viability Testing, Wednesday 29 October 2014 - Heritage.

d) Update on issue reported to Planning Enforcement. No update.

e) Any other planning matters. None.

111/11/13. Highways.

a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on repairs that are needed. Nothing noted.

b) Update on flood prevention work at Willowbrook and request for permission to site seat. As reported by Cty Cllr Henley in item 111/11/13 an order has been placed with Hi-Line to remove some trees and pollard others, permission has been agreed with Blackdown Garden Centre to allow access on to their property and they will accept the excavated material and dispose of it on their land. Down stream of the bridge SCC is in

discussions with the new owner Mr Mitchell to allow access to his field and removal of self-seeded trees growing in the river bed. If agreement cannot be reached with Mr Mitchell SCC will start work on the Willowbrook side of the A38. If required SCC's Flood team in County Hall can take the legal route with Mr Mitchell and serve notice on him to carry out the work down-stream of the bridge but it is felt that it will be a shame if all the works cannot occur at the same time as the end result will be better if one contractor does all the work. The verge outside of Willowbrook Nursery does not belong to SCC so they do not need to give permission for the seat to be installed by the bus stop.

c) Update on Booby's Lane, Blackmoor. There has been no update from Mr Shove who is dealing with this.

d) SCC- salt bags for Town & Parish Councils. The Council was offered 10 x 25kg bags of salt free of charge if collected from the Highways Depot in Taunton. As the Council has a lot of salt in stock it was decided not to take up this offer this year. Cllr Biffen was asked if any was needed for Buckland Hill but she reported that there was a lot of salt already at the top and bottom of the hill.

e) Any other highways matters. None.

112/11/13. To receive reports from:

a) District Cllr. No report.

b) Cty Cllr. See item 110/11/13.

c) Police. An email report for October had been received from the Police. There were 39 Police Logs created for the Monument Beat which was an unusually high number but with no one reason for the increase. 9 traffic calls were received. There were 2 logs for missing persons and 2 logs for officers to attend a residence for a deceased person. Details of crime in the Monument Beat included the theft of 25 litres of diesel from a tank held within stables at West Buckland, assault as part of a parking dispute in West Buckland, theft of diesel from Piccadilly Services, assault & ABH on the A38 Wellington and theft of scrap metal and batteries from an industrial unit at Chelston Business Park. Some advice on security for heating oil and fuel was given.

d) Village Hall Committee. Cllr Hannath was not present to give a report. Cllr Mrs Blogg and Cllr Rayson, who are members of the Village Hall Committee, had nothing to report.

e) Any other reports. No other reports.

113/11/13. Finance

a) To agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to make the following payments
Mr G Henley - £22 reimbursement for payment to Royal British Legion for Remembrance wreath (chq no 1216)

West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £18.00 room hire (chq no 1217)

Somerset Playing Fields Association - £10.00 annual subscription (chq no 1218)

Mrs J Larcombe - £165.05 Clerk's salary & expenses (chq no 1219)

Stooks Memorials (J & N Crossman) - £597.00 refurbishment of the War Memorial (chq no 1221)

It was agreed to sign a cheque dated 31/12/13 for the Clerk's December salary - £136.45 (chq no 1220)

b) To review hours and salary scale point for Clerk. It was agreed that from 1st January 2014 the Clerk will be paid at scp 22 of the NALC/SLCC Salary Scales for 17 hours per month with 17 hours holiday pay per year.

c) To set the budget and agree the precept for 2014/15. TDBC has advised that the Parish Grant for 2014 – 15 will be £521. It was agreed that the Precept for 2014 – 15 will be £7483. This will give the Parish Council an income of £8004 and there will be no increase to the Parish Council share of the Band D Council Tax charge for parishioners. TDBC has warned that the grant could be cut for 2015 – 16.

d) Update on online banking for Town & Parish Council's. SALC has informed Parish and Town Councils that the DCLG have confirmed that the Cheques Legislative Reform Order (The Legislative Reform (Payments by Parish Councils, Community Councils and Charter Trustees) Order 2013) has been laid in Parliament. This would abolish the existing inflexible "2 signature rule" that currently prevents parish councils from using electronic payment methods. Many businesses and other public bodies that Councils deal with are increasingly either refusing to take cheques or discouraging their use by discounting electronic payments. The order will be considered by parliamentary committees over the coming weeks.

114/11/13. Playing Field.

a) Update on hedge cutting. This will now have to wait for ground conditions to improve. The Council will need to be better prepared next year.

b) Registration of transfer of land for additional car parking for Village Hall with land registry. Cllr Rayson is following this up as it appears that the ground the Village Hall is built on is registered with the Land Registry as being owned by the Parish Council.

115/11/13. Footpaths.

a) To receive any update from our PPLO. No update.

b) Update on appointing new PPLO. Mr Taylor has been thanked and the Council is grateful for the work he has done in getting most things up to date and for liaising with SCC. A piece has been put in the newsletter to try and find a new PPLO.

c) Any Other Footpath Matters. None.

116/11/13. SALC

a) Update on memorial for Peter Lacey. The SALC Management Committee was due to discuss this at their meeting today.

a) b) SALC website and use by Parish Council. The website is now live on www.somerset-alc.org.uk and the Chairman and Clerk have been given passwords.

117/11/13. Recommendation from Clerk regarding review of Standing Orders. It was agreed to adopt the updated Standing Orders as circulated by SALC and personalised by the Council.

118/11/13. Correspondence and items of interest including information circulated by SALC. The following correspondence was noted:

SWP – waste collection dates for Christmas and the New Year.

SCC – Winter Maintenance in Taunton Deane

119/11/13. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. There was no urgent business.

120/11/13. Dates of Meetings for 2014. Meeting dates for 2014 will be Tuesday 28th January; 25th February; 25th March; 29th April (also Annual Parish Meeting); 27th May; 24th June; 29th July; 26th August; 30th September; 28th October and 25th November. A provisional date of Tuesday 7th January was agreed if a meeting is needed to deal with business that cannot wait until January 28th.