

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 25th February 2014 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's Mrs M Blogg (Chair), Mrs C Biffen, Mrs C Hannath, D James, J Nutt and C Rayson.
In attendance: the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

139/02/14. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr D Lacey.

140/02/14. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. None.

141/02/14. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 28/01/14. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

142/02/14. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

143/02/14. Public Questions. None.

144/02/14. Planning:

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

46/14/0001 Change of Use of 40 caravan touring site from seasonal use (1st April to 30th Sept) to all year round use with retention of site managers mobile home at Greenacres Caravan Park, West Buckland Road, Chelston, Wellington (Retention of works already undertaken). Applicants: Mr & Mrs D Fry.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the application.

46/14/0004/T Application to fell 7 Maple trees, 4 Birch trees, 4 Cherry trees, 3 Pine, 4 Ash, 1 Willow and 1 Sycamore included in TDBC (West Buckland No 1) Tree Preservation Order 2004 at Wellington Motors, Chelston (TD959). Applicant: Mr M Finn, Wellington Motors Ltd. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the application.

b) To minute the comment sent to TDBC for 46/13/0043 Change of use to Class B2 (Vehicle Repair centre and VOSA MOT Test Centre) at Unit 1J Summerfield Avenue, Chelston. Applicant Mr Martin Leaf, Chelston Motorhomes. Comment. West Buckland Parish Council has no objections.

c) To receive results from planning applications determined by TDBC. None.

d) Any other planning matters. The next TDBC Planning Training Session will be on Town Centres and this will be held on 26th March. This is the same date as the SALC West Area Meeting which is being held at West Buckland.

145/02/14. Highways.

a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on repairs that are needed. Councillors noted there were a lot of potholes around the parish.

b) Update on progress of flood prevention work at Willowbrook. The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk had been to see what work had been carried out. Some trees have been cut down but nothing else appears to have been done. The Clerk has emailed Daniel Martin, SCC Flood Engineer, for an update but received an automatic reply to say he was on leave until 25th March.

c) Update on repairs to surfacing on A38. There are new, temporary, 30mph speed limit signs on the A38. Some of these signs have been blown over during the recent gales. The area of the temporary speed limit appears to have been extended and people are getting fed up with this continuing speed restriction.

d) Buckland Hill – update on reported problems. The shale was cleared from the road soon after the last meeting but more has appeared as the heavy rain has continued.

e) Update regarding request for contribution towards a Bus Shelter on A38. No update.

f) Any other highways matters. Stones are falling out of the wall of Lippincotts and onto the highway and there was concern that the wall might collapse. Cllr Mrs Blogg will report this to highways.

Cllr Nutt commented on the poor condition of the surface of the motorway.

146/02/14. To receive reports from:

a) District Cllr. No report.

b) Cty Cllr. No report.

c) Police. An email Police report for January has been received. There were 35 police logs for January for the Monument Beat. Five of the reports were for suspicious vehicles and people. There were 6 traffic related calls but 8 more calls regarding flooding and mud slides on the roads. There were 2 calls from residents in West Buckland about charities collecting door to door in the no cold calling zone. An officer attended these calls and words of advice were given. There were 2 animal related calls. There were no reports of anti-social behaviour. The report contained information on Community Speed Watch and PCSO Bramley offered to assist in the implementation of schemes.

d) Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Hannath reported that there has been a problem with the water heater in the men's toilets and it has had to be replaced. The age of the hall means that some things are starting to go wrong.

e) Any other reports. None.

147/02/14. Finance

a) To agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to make the following payments: Somerset Association of Local Councils - £25.00 fee for training session (chq no 1224) Mrs J Larcombe - £219.40 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1225)

b) To review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit. Councillors considered the information circulated by the Clerk (attached). The Clerk said she considered the internal audit was adequate and felt that the Council managed its finances well. The Internal Audit Review document was agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

c) NALC briefing regarding the imminent repeal of the cheque signature rule. A draft Legislative Reform Order (LRO) which repeals s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (which requires all cheques or other payable orders to be signed by two councillors) has been approved by parliament but needs to be formally made by the Minister. Before it comes into place proper practices need to be updated. JPAG was due to meet on 17th February to approve the relevant amendments to Governance & Accountability for Local Councils – A Practitioners' Guide (England). Once the LRO is in force every council that wishes to take advantage of it must

put in place effective systems and arrangements compliant with the proper practices before it seeks to abandon the two signature rule. West Buckland Parish Council is due to review its Annual Business Risk Assessment but the Clerk recommended waiting until further guidance was received as there would need to be some amendments.

d) To agree the purchase of paint for the War Memorial railings. It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase black Hammerite paint and paintbrushes.

148/02/14. Playing Field. Update on arrangements for grass cutting 2014-15. Heathfield Garden Contractors will cut the grass on the playing field for the 2014-15 financial year. The Council is happy to use Mr Hawker again as he does a good job, is reliable and is value for money.

149/02/14. Footpaths.

a) Update on appointing new PPLO. Someone who has recently moved to the village is interested in becoming the new PPLO. Cllr Mrs Blogg has spoken to him and he will now speak to Peter Taylor before making a decision.

b) Any Other Footpath Matters. None.

150/02/14. SALC: Plans for unveiling the memorial for Peter Lacey. This will take place on Saturday 5th April at 2.30pm. The Village Hall has been booked between 2pm and 4pm so that there are facilities for people who have travelled to West Buckland. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the committee room after the unveiling. Cllr Lacey has been paid his expenses for purchasing and collecting the trough and for planting it up. The Chairman of SALC is organising an engraved brass plaque which will be fixed to the stone trough. The surplus from the collection will be passed to the Parish Council once a photo frame has been purchased. A photo of Mr Lacey will be put up in the SALC office. This surplus money will be used to plant up the trough in the future.

There will be a SALC West Area meeting in West Buckland Village Hall on Wednesday 25th March. It was agreed that the Council would pay the room hire charge.

151/02/14. Correspondence and items of interest (including information circulated by SALC).

The following correspondence was noted:

Somerset Community Foundation – guidance on applying for funding if effected by flooding.

Somerset Levels Relief Fund – leaflets giving information about the launch and aims of the fund.

152/02/14. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. None.

153/02/14. Dates of Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 7.30pm.