

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th August 2018 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: County Cllr J Thorne, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

53/08/18. To accept apologies for absence. There were no apologies.

54/08/18. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures at this point.

55/08/18. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 31/07/18. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

56/08/18. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

57/08/18. Democratic Period. A representative from Taunton Model Engineers attended the meeting to answer any questions that councillors might have about their plans for a new open space in West Buckland. Cllr Mitton noted councillors had to be careful about pre-determination. He asked about the entrance to the site and was told there are plans to create an access with enough visibility splay. The group don't want to create a hazard on the bend and the current gateway doesn't have a big enough visibility splay. Parking will be on turf over reinforced net as the group don't want hard landscaping. Cllr Mrs Blogg felt it was difficult to see where the proposed site is on the plan in the details given to the Parish Council and other interested parties. She asked how details of the proposal were being Circulated for consultation purposes. This will be through the press, the school and pre-school. Education is an important part of the group's purpose. Details have also been put on the parish website and will be put on the Parish Council notice board. The four acre site could also be available for community events. A planning application is expected to be submitted to TDBC in late September.

Cllr Thorne joined the meeting during this item

The member of the public left the meeting.

58/08/18. County Cllr Report. It was agreed to bring this item forward. Cllr Thorne gave the following report:

- Budget – Councillors have been given briefings on the county’s financial position and the difficult decisions which will need to be made, and made quickly. Essentially, anything that is not a ‘core service’, ie, those services SCC has to provide by law, will be looked at to see if savings can be made. The Park and Ride has already made some headlines as a result of a leak to the press. A full list of savings areas will be published on Monday 5th September and will be debated at scrutiny committee on 11th September, a day before cabinet meets to take the decisions. Every councillor is being invited to attend the scrutiny meeting, not just committee members, so there can be a thorough debate on the proposals, given the time constraints.
- Taunton Model Engineers Club – The club chairman, David Hartland, has briefed Cllr Thorne on their plans for a site just outside West Buckland and asked for his support of the proposals and a letter of support for the forthcoming planning application. He has given his support in principal for the club’s plans but said he will not write a letter to the planners without a show of community support for the club, and then only if the officers look likely to recommend refusal, as it is not really his role as a county councillor to become involved in individual planning applications unless there is a wider community issue.
- Footpaths T29/33 and T29/34 – There is a consultation on proposals to divert these footpaths at Stoford Lane. Comments need to be submitted by 21st September and can be emailed to sloyd1@somerset.gov.uk
- Support for young people – County is appealing for people who would like to become advocates for children in care or those who need extra support, which involves speaking up for them and ensuring their voices are heard. It can be as simple as having a coffee and a chat from time to time. There is an intensive training course involved over five weeks. Voluntary role but expenses are paid. Full info available at www.route1advocacy.co.uk.
- Dementia care – day service provision will change from February 2019 when the county stops funding block booking of day centre places and instead spends the money on personalised community-based services which have been requested via a survey this summer. Currently, patients have little choice but to attend a day centre if they are referred. However, fewer and fewer people wish to do so, and therefore county will instead help to develop the community provider market.
- Business Plan website - The Council’s Business Plan is now available on a new website showing how we will work to deliver our vision and improve lives across Somerset. The site is here <http://www.somerset.digital/businessplan>.
- Cheques - From Saturday 1 September 2018, county will make all payments via BACS, electronically from one bank account to another. Cheques will no longer be a payment option.

59/08/18. Planning:

a) To consider any Planning Applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting. No applications received.

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

46/18/0007 Erection of agricultural building for lambing, storage of machinery and fodder with erection of hay barn at Moonview, Manleys Farm, Calway Lane, West Buckland (part retention of works already undertaken). It was reported at the last meeting that conditional approval had been granted for this application. TDBC then informed the Parish Council that this application should have been determined by the Planning Committee due to the number of objections received and would be presented to the Planning Committee at their meeting in August. The Planning Committee agreed the conditional approval. The Council felt the way this application had been dealt with was unsatisfactory.

46/18/0017 Installation of first floor fire exit with outside staircase and installation of 2 first floor windows at 17 Knights Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington.

Decision: conditional approval.

46/18/0018/HR Notification to remove 5 metres of hedgerow on land to the north east of Rose Cottage, West Buckland Road, West Buckland. Decision: removal approved subject to conditions.

c) Update on planning enforcement matters reported to TDBC. No update.

d) To note the new Tree Protection Order at Ham House, Ham, Wellington. The Council noted the details of a new TDBC TPO relating to a Cedar tree on land at Ham House, Ham, Wellington. The previous TPO served on the site - TD474 - has been revoked.

e) Any other planning matters. There were no other planning matters.

60/08/18. Highways.

a) Matters arising from previous meeting/s. Cllr Lacey has emailed Dennis Quick to let him know that his company will be repositioning the fingerpost sign at the top of Buckland Hill. Skanska will be carrying out work on Buckland Hill to stop the erosion on the side of the road.

b) To note any highway defects to report to SCC. Nothing reported.

c) To discuss quotes for fingerpost sign refurbishment and positioning. One quote has been received from West Country Blacksmiths for refurbishing the sign at Budgetts Cross. The quote is in excess of £1,000.00. A second quote is awaited from another company but hasn't been received because the person responsible for preparing the quote is on holiday. The lengthsmen the Parish Council had planned to work with previously is going to work for Highways England and is no longer available.

d) Any other highways matters. www.travelsomerset.co.uk has a new webpage giving details of all planned highway structural maintenance for the current financial year - <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/structural-maintenance/> Cllr Mitton has tried it and reported it was not very easy to use. He found there was very little planned for West Buckland parish.

61/08/18. To receive reports from:

a) County Cllr. Received earlier in the meeting.

b) Police. The Police report for July 2018 was circulated by email in early August. There were 44 calls to the Police for the Monument Beat and it was a busy month.

b) Village Hall. Report from the meeting held on 1st August. Thanks were given to Mrs Perry for making £35.50 from the book stall at the school fete. Faulty lights have been repaired and all appliances will be tested next month. A second quote has been received to install temperature regulating taps in the toilets. Both quotes were thought to be excessive by a member's husband, who suggested a lower figure. The Committee asked him to supply a quote and agreed the Chair be authorised to accept if within the suggested amount. The Christmas Fayre will be held on 01/12/2018. The Secretary will ask all groups if they would prefer an Autumn Fayre in 2019. The Booking Secretary is obtaining particulars of hirers to put on the West Buckland website.'

d) Any Other Reports. No other reports.

62/08/18. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments: Mrs J Larcombe - £296.73 Clerk's salary and expenses (Chq no 1413)

Somerset Playing Field Association - £80.00 annual play area inspection (Chq no 1416)

b) To agree a grant to West Buckland PCC towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

Cllr Rayson declared a personal interest as one of the churchwardens. It was resolved to award a grant of £1,250.00 (Chq no 1414)

c) To agree a grant to Taunton & District CAB. It was resolved to award a grant of

£75.00 (Chq no 1415).

Cllr Nutt will be attending their AGM on 5th September.

d) To review the Council's Business Risk Assessment. A section on data security has been added. The Business Risk assessment was agreed.

63/08/18. Playing Field:

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

b) Update on repairs to play equipment following inspection report. The spring on the pedestrian gate by the vehicular entrance has been replaced. TDBC DLO has quoted £151.00 plus VAT to replace the damaged basketball polycarbonate sheet with aluminium sheet using existing profile edges. The quote has been accepted. It is believed the swings were made by Wicksteed and on the advice of Josep Galiceo, TDBC Open Spaces Technical Manager, the Clerk has contacted them about inspecting the top bar of the swings. An inspection has been booked but there is a lead time of eight weeks. The cost will be £45 plus VAT

c) Any other matters to note. There were no other matters to report.

64/08/18. Footpaths: any matters brought forward.

Highways Act 1980 Proposed diversion of footpaths T 29/33 and T 29/34 in the Parish of West Buckland. This proposal will improve the security and privacy at Reaphay Farm as the paths currently run very close to the house and garden.

Comment: The Parish Council supports the proposed diversion. The diverted path needs to be properly signposted using wooden signposts and this should be at the expense of the applicant.

65/08/18. TDBC Great Plastics Debate 14th September – discussion about the issues. Cllr Mitton will attend the debate. Councillors noted the Government's planned consultation on the proposed introduction of a deposit return scheme for single use drinks containers (plastic, glass or metal) to increase recycling rates and slash the amount of waste polluting our land and seas. Cllr Nutt said he was concerned about the large amount of funding the Government is allocating to the scheme. Somerset Waste Partnership is trying to collect more types of plastic for recycling. A milk delivery service selling milk in glass bottles is now being offered in the village.

66/08/18. Parish website – progress with updating. Information about groups and organisations using the Village Hall will be added to the Village Hall page once permission has been obtained to use names, phones numbers and emails. The Clerk said she would prefer people to give their permission using the consent form on the page.

67/08/18. Correspondence and items of interest. The following correspondence was noted: Avon & Somerset Police – a letter was received by email from Chief Inspector Lisa Simpson, Somerset West LPA Commander outlining how neighbourhood policing will be delivered in a slightly different way from 1st October. A link was provided to a short survey which is part of a review on policing engagement in the community being carried out by their Independent Advisory Group.

68/08/18. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. There was no urgent business.

69/08/18. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th September 2018.