

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Mrs M K Blogg  
4 Peacocks Close  
West Buckland  
TA21 9JY  
Tel 01823 663378  
email [margaretblogg@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretblogg@btinternet.com)

Clerk – Mrs J Larcombe  
6 The Old School  
Chapel Street  
Tiverton  
EX16 6ND  
Tel 01884 252647  
email [kentisbearepc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kentisbearepc@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.westbuckland.org](http://www.westbuckland.org)

**The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 30th April 2013 in the Main Hall, West Buckland Village Hall at approximately 8.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:** the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

Before the meeting started councillors remembered Peter Lacey, County Secretary SALC and parishioner, who died on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**158/04/13. To accept apologies for absence.** There were no apologies. Cllr Mrs Blogg informed councillors that Cllr G Henley has resigned from the Parish Council due to ill health. In his absence Cllr Henley was thanked for all his work on the council and it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Blogg would write and thank him.

**159/04/13. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** None.

**160/04/13. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 26/03/13.** The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

**161/04/13. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.

**162/04/13. Planning:**

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

46/13/0006 Erection of single storey rear extension at Georges Farm, West Buckland  
Applicant: Dr H & Mrs T Barns. Comment: the Parish Council are concerned whether this extension is in keeping with the dwelling.

46/13/0007 Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling to replace mobile home and erection of a plant store, grading, packing and seed store at Gerbestone Manor Farm, Gerbestone Lane, West Buckland. Comment: The Parish Council are concerned about the size of the dwelling and its close proximity to trees. The Parish Council would like the Tree Officer to consider whether any of these trees are worth protecting with a TPO.

46/13/0009 Installation of 2 no windows to the side at Unit 8, Monument View, Summerfield Avenue, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Applicant: Mr K Poole. Comment: the Parish Council support the application.

**b) To receive results from planning applications determined by TDBC.** None received this month.

**c) Update on planning enforcement for 46/11/0020.** TDBC's Planning Committee has resolved to delay prosecution action until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013. The owner has confirmed that she will be vacating the property by the end of June and it is being marketed by Stags and going to auction on 22nd May. Councillors were concerned about the future use of the site.

**d) Any other planning matters.** Cllr Rayson informed councillors about an email he had received which refers to a paper written for the next Bishop's Council meeting which sets out the Diocese's concern about the exceptionally large increase in housing in Somerset (largest in country) and how the Church could engage with it. David Keen is to speak on much the same issue at a meeting of Churches Together in Wellington & District on June 25<sup>th</sup> in St John's. As this would affect St John's and West Buckland very significantly the Church hope that as many PCC members and others will attend.

### **163/04/13. Highways.**

**a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on repairs that are needed.** None.

**b) Update on repairs to damaged signs.** The signs have not been repaired even though it is a month into the new financial year.

**c) Update on work to be carried out in the Blackmoor area.** Mr Hammond, Orchard Croft, has given Cllr Mrs Blogg a collection of letters from parishioners asking for traffic measures in the Blackmoor area to prevent HGV's using unsuitable routes. This will be added to the May agenda.

**d) Update on flood prevention work at Willowbrook.** Dennis Quick, SCC, has told the Clerk that when it rains heavy, water from the M5 and the Blackdown Garden Centre cause the water level to rise quickly and water cannot get out of the culvert. They have cleared a lot of rubbish such as car parts and plastic out of the watercourse and have removed some tree stumps. SCC have been in discussion with the Environment Agency and the Highways Agency. Structures (SCC) are contributing some money and in early summer SCC plan to remove silt from under the bridge and for another 150 metres, remove about 6 trees from the watercourse and try to alter the line of the stream slightly so that the water gets away better.

**e) Update on trees on Buckland Hill.** Cllr Mrs Blogg has emailed Steve Scrivens, County Arboriculturist, to report the Parish Council's concern about the condition of some of the trees on Buckland Hill (thought to belong to Trees Farm) which are in a poor condition. Some are actually being supported by other trees on the opposite side of the road since they have fallen. She told him that the Parish Council fear that it is only a matter of time before they drop in the road and understand that the Occupiers Liability Act does stipulate what action should be taken and where responsibility lies. Mr Scrivens has replied by email thanking Cllr Mrs Blogg for her message and saying that the contents are noted and will be taken into consideration when inspecting the site.

### **164/04/13. Finance**

**a) To agree and authorise payments.** It was resolved to agree the following payments:  
West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £35.00 room hire (chq no 1187)

Mrs J Larcombe - £160.51 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1188)

Somerset Association of Local Councils - £282.68 (chq no 1189)

**b) To approve the Annual Accounts for 2012 – 2013 and the Statement of Governance.** The annual accounts for 2012-2013 and the Statement of Governance were agreed subject to the internal auditor not requiring any amendments to the accounts.

**c) To receive the quote for the emptying of the Dog Litter Bin by TDBC.** It was agreed to accept TDBC's quote of £2.49 + vat per visit to empty the bin near the motorway once per week.

**d) To note the acceptance of the quote for work on the War Memorial.** The Clerk has written to Stooks Memorials to accept the quote for the work on the War Memorial but

hasn't heard from them. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact them to make sure that they have received the letter and to find out when the work will be carried out.

**165/04/13. Playing Field.**

- a) **To discuss the possible replacement of the picnic table in the play area.** Cllr Mrs Blogg showed councillors some examples of picnic tables made from recycled materials which included coloured designs. The size of the footprint of the existing bench will be measured to make sure a new bench will fit before an order is agreed.
- b) **Registration of transfer of land for additional car parking for Village Hall with land registry.** The Clerk is still trying to sort out the scale plan. If she is unable to do it she suggested contacting a former councillor for assistance.
- c) **Grass cutting.** The grass is now being cut. It was reported that the spring on the gate leading from the new car park is not shutting properly. This will be looked at.

**164/04/13. Footpaths.**

- a) **To receive any update from our PPLO.** No update.
- b) **Any Other Footpath Matters.** None.

**165/04/13. Update on provision of postal services etc at the Village Shop.** There is no update. Yvonne is following a similar case which if successful might help her case.

**166/04/13. To note the County Council elections on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.** The election was noted.

**167/04/13. Department for Communities and Local Government short informal survey to learn more about town and parish councils.** On considering the survey it was agreed not to respond as the Council has no experience of clustering.

**168/04/13. Correspondence and items of interest.** The following correspondence was noted:  
SALC – Local Government Pay Negotiations Update  
Western Power Distribution – Power cuts and improving the electricity network  
TDBC/Taunton TIC – Heart of Somerset Events May 2013  
South Western Ambulance Service Newsletter Edition 17  
Glasdon UK Product Leaflet

Cllr Mrs Blogg reported that the speedgun has been returned by the former speedwatch group.

Guests at a wedding reception in the village hall will be allowed to park in the playing field.

Somerset Association of Local Councils would like to have a memorial to Peter Lacey in the village and Somerset parishes will be asked to contribute a nominal amount towards it. His family has been consulted and would like a planter. The best site for this will be near the finger post. As this piece of land belongs to the highways department they will be consulted and asked to give permission.

**169/04/13. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** None.

**170/04/13. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting.** The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th May 2013 at 7.30pm.