

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th May 2013 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 and C Rayson.
In attendance: the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

01/05/13. Election of Officers

a) Chairman. Cllr Mrs M Blogg was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Hannath and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Biffen. Cllr Mrs Blogg was unanimously elected as Chairman and signed the Acceptance of Office form.

b) Vice Chairman. Cllr D Lacey was proposed by Cllr Mrs M Blogg and seconded by Cllr C Rayson. Cllr D Lacey was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman. Although Cllr Lacey was not at the meeting he had agreed to be nominated for this position.

02/05/13. To appoint a representative to attend the quarterly SALC Area Meetings. It was agreed to appoint Cllr Mrs M Blogg. She said that SALC is suggesting that two councillors attend the meetings but no one else from the Parish Council was willing to attend. The Clerk is planning to attend but will be coming after another meeting. Cllr Mrs Blogg said that the meetings would not be the same without Peter Lacey leading them. Cllr Mrs Blogg will chair the meeting and District Cllr Mrs Jean Allgrove, a NALC representative for SALC, will assist her.

03/05/13. To appoint a representative to the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed to appoint Cllr Mrs C Hannath.

04/05/13. To agree the councillor responsible for the parish website. It was agreed that Cllr D Lacey would be responsible.

05/05/13. To appoint a Parish Paths Liaison Officer. It was agreed to appoint Mr Peter Taylor again. Cllr Mrs Blogg will email him to ask if he is willing to continue as the PPLO.

06/05/13. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr D Lacey. Apologies were received from District Cllr C Hill.

07/05/13. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. Cllr Mrs Biffen disclosed a pecuniary interest in item 12/05/13 a) as she has an expenses claim. She also disclosed a personal interest in planning application 46/13/0012 because her husband is a partner of the company that are the agents for the applicant.

08/05/13. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 30/04/13. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

09/05/13. Matters arising from the minutes. Cllr Rayson has forwarded the email regarding the Churches Together in Wellington & District meeting on June 25th at which David Keen will speak on new housing developments. Cllr Rayson will find out more and attend if necessary. It was noted that this meeting is on the same night as the next Parish Council meeting.

10/05/13. Planning:

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

46/13/0012 Alterations to vehicular access and formation of hardstanding parking area on land formerly known as Dukes Cottage, Ford Street, Wellington. Applicant: Mr J Bradford. Comment: The Parish Council has no objections. Cllr Mrs Biffen declared a personal interest.

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

46/13/0006 Erection of single storey rear extension at Georges Farm, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) Planning Enforcement issue reported to the Parish Council. A parishioner has contacted the Parish Council to report their concerns about the vast amount of inert waste that has been imported onto Gerbestone Farm in what they consider to be an industrial scale. They say this material has had a very marked effect on the landscape and questioned whether there has been a contravention of planning guidelines. The matter has been reported to Mr Hardy, TDBC Enforcement Officer, who has informed the Council that planning enforcement looked into this last year when District Cllr Bishop raised some queries about the importation of soil etc. Mr Ling said it was to do with constructing an earth bund in connection with the landscaping proposals for the chicken houses. He confirmed that he has the requisite licences from the Environment Agency to transport inert waste material. Mr Hardy will contact Mr Ling to see how much more soil is to be imported and suggested that if the amount appears to be excessive it might be worth contacting the Environment Agency.

d) Any other planning matters. Alebar Farm has been sold at auction and the purchaser is believed to be a local person.

11/05/13. Highways.

a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on repairs that are needed. A stash of tyres has been dumped in a lay by near Trees Farm on Buckland Hill.

b) Update on repairs to damaged signs. There have been no repairs yet. Cllr Mrs Blogg has spoken to Mr Titcombe who wasn't aware of the damaged signs. She explained how the sign could be placed in a position where it wasn't so likely to be damaged again. He will follow this up with Mr Quick.

c) Petition regarding traffic measures for HGV's and other work to be carried out in the Blackmoor area. Mr Hammond had sent copies of letters from concerned residents about the traffic issues in Blackmoor to Mr Titcombe. A copy of Mr Titcombe's response has been sent to the Council. He has agreed to erect advisory 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs at the top of Buckland Hill to deter this type of vehicle from using this route as a shortcut to the motorway. He said there was nothing highways could do about the excessive speeding as it is up to the individual driver to drive with due care and attention at all times. The verge problem is a problem throughout the county and is not necessarily caused by HGV's but often by extra-large agricultural vehicles. Again highways cannot do anything to prevent this happening.

A timber lorry recently damaged a tree east of Calways and damaged the edge of the road between Budgetts and Manleys where there was already a subsidence problem.

- c) **Flood Mitigation Fund – to consider whether the Parish Council should make an application for funding.** The Chairman and Clerk looked at Stoford where there had been flooding following periods of heavy rain. It is believed that the stream has been dredged previously but the house that had been flooded is not in West Buckland parish. It was agreed not to make an application to the fund.
- d) **To note whether any work has been carried on trees on Buckland Hill following Correspondence from Parish Council to SCC.** Nothing has been done and the Council is still concerned.
- e) **Update on obtaining highways permission to site a plant container by the finger post.** Cllr Lacey is still trying to obtain permission.

12/05/13. Finance

- a) **To agree and authorise payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:
Mrs J Larcombe - £165.80 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1191)
Ken Abraham - £150.00 internal audit (chq no 1193) The Clerk explained that this charge was higher than last year because the charge is based on last year's figures which were higher because the slide was purchased.
Cllr Mrs C Biffen - £56.83 expenses for Annual Parish Meeting (chq no 1194). Cllr Mrs Biffen declared a pecuniary interest and left the room while the expenses claim was agreed.
SALC - £20.00 contribution towards memorial planter for Peter Lacey (chq no 1195) Cllr D Mitton, Chairman of SALC, has written to Town and Parish Councils to ask them to make a contribution towards a permanent memorial for Peter Lacey. The family would like the memorial to be a planter sited on the verge by Forge Cottage, West Buckland. It was suggested that councils contribute £10 using the General Power of Competence or s.164 Public Health Act 1875. The Parish Council agreed to contribute £20 and to make up the money required if necessary because Peter was a respected member of the West Buckland community.
It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the Village Hall room hire charge of £12 for the SALC Area Meeting which will be held on Thursday 27th June 2013.
- b) **To agree to renew membership of the Community Council for Somerset.** It was agreed to renew the Council's membership at a cost of £35.00 (chq no 1192)
- c) **To review the Council's insurance schedule prior to payment of annual premium.** The Council reviewed the insurance schedule. The Clerk had spoken to the brokers about the Hirers Liability part of the schedule because the Council does not hire out anything and was told this was a core part of the policy and couldn't be removed. The initial quote from Came & Company had been £735.95 but this had been reduced to £650.00. The payment of £650.00 was agreed (chq no 1190). A representative of Came & Company will meet with the Clerk and Chairman before renewal next year to look at the policy.
- d) **Internal Audit Report.** The internal audit has been carried out and the written report will be posted to the Clerk. Mrs Julie Snooks who carried out the audit advised making the value of the assets shown on the return the same as shown on the insurance schedule. This was agreed and the amount shown will be £42,988.
- e) **Timing of work on the War Memorial.** Mr Crossman will carry out the work on the War Memorial later this year and if by any chance it is showing any signs of weathering by next year he will be happy to tidy it up for the 100th anniversary of the start of the first World War.

13/05/13. Playing Field.

- a) **To agree the replacement of the picnic table in the play area.** This was deferred to the next meeting.
- b) **Registration of transfer of land for additional car parking for Village Hall with land registry.** The Clerk has found a larger plan to use for the plan and a scale rule for the measurements.

b) Grass cutting and repairs to spring on gate from the new car park to the playing field. Cllr Lacey has advised the contractor about cutting the playing field before the fete. Rospa had told the Council that the play area inspection would be carried out in March but a letter has now been received to say it will be carried out in June. The Clerk has contacted Rospa to ask why the date had been changed and was told there had been confusion between West Buckland in Devon and West Buckland in Somerset. Devon inspections are carried out in March and Somerset inspections in June.

14/05/13. Footpaths.

a) To receive any update from our PPLO. None

b) Any Other Footpath Matters. None.

15/05/13. Parish Councillor Vacancy – to inform the Council of the process of filling the vacancy. Notices from TDBC advising of the vacancy have been displayed on the noticeboards. If there is no request for an election the Council will be able to co-opt someone and posters will be put on the noticeboard and something in the newsletter. There is still two years until the next election so the Council needs to fill the vacancy.

16/05/13. Update on provision of postal services etc at the Village Shop. This has been shelved for the time being and no direct action is being taken.

17/05/13. To receive feedback on the Annual Parish Meeting. It was recognised that a lot of time had been put in by Cllr Mrs Biffen to try and get more people to attend the APM. A lot more representatives had attended and there had been 35 people in addition to the councillors, clerk and Police. Cllr Mrs Biffen said the reports had been very good and the displays had been beyond expectation and had been appreciated. She didn't feel she had the support of the Council to push harder and the death of Peter Lacey had made her feel it wasn't the time for a celebration at that point. The feedback from those attending was very positive. There is too much work in putting the displays together to expect people to do it every year. Cllr Mrs Blogg said people do not always read what is happening when events are advertised. The reports will be put on the website individually under village organisations. The Clerk will scan them and send to Cllr Lacey.

18/05/13. Correspondence and items of interest (including information circulated by SALC). The following correspondence was noted:

TDBC – What's on in the Heart of Somerset June 2013 and Summerfest Posters.

Avon & Somerset Police Crime Commissioner Newsletter

SALC Policy Consultation – Further Reforms on Community Infrastructure Levy

SALC Policy Briefings: The Queen's Speech 2013 and Mobile Connectivity in England: simplifying the planning process.

NALC Chairman's update on meeting with DCLG Minister.

19/05/13. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. It was noted that reports had not been included on the agenda. A Police Report for April had been received earlier in the month. Cllr Mrs Hannath reported on behalf of the Village Hall Committee that there is a new cooker in the Village Hall kitchen and new door handles on the fire doors.

20/05/13. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th June 2013 at 7.30pm.