

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st July 2012 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

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

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

**36/07/12. To accept apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from District Cllr C Hill.

**37/07/12. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda.** None.

**38/07/12. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 26/06/12.** The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**39/07/12. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.

**40/07/12. To adopt the new Code of Conduct and Completion of new Register of Interests Form.**

It was proposed by Cllr Lacey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Blogg that the Code of Conduct, as circulated, be adopted. This is the version as put forward by the Somerset Monitoring Officers. It was agreed to adopt this Code of Conduct. (copy included in Minute Book).

There was general concern about some of the information that has to be provided on the Register of Interests Form, in particular that which has to be provided for partners and spouses, as the forms have to be included on the Council's and TDBC's websites. This was felt to be a personal infringement, particularly for partners and spouses. Following the adoption of the Code of Conduct councillors have 28 days to complete the form.

Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct it was agreed to make the following revisions to the Standing Orders:

#### **SO 1**

y) If a meeting is not quorate the Council shall have the option to delegate business to the Clerk

#### ***New SO 7.***

a) All councillors shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.

b) All councillors shall undertake training in the code of conduct within 6 months of the delivery of their declaration of acceptance of office.

c) Councillors with a disclosable pecuniary interest must leave the room or chamber during the relevant item of business, unless permitted to remain following the grant of a dispensation.

d) Councillors with an interest in relation to any item of business being transacted at a

meeting may (i) make representations, (ii) answer questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being transacted but must, thereafter, leave the room or chamber, unless permitted to remain following the grant of a dispensation .

e) Following a written request to the Proper Officer of the Council (the Clerk), the Council may grant a member a dispensation to participate in a discussion and / or vote on a matter at the meeting even if s/he has any form of interest (disclosable pecuniary, other) if the Council believes that the number of members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would impede the transaction of the business; or it is in the interests of the inhabitants in the council's area to allow the member to take part; or it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. The grant of a dispensation is automatically delegated to the Clerk and any dispensation may permit the councillor to speak, or to speak and vote.  
***New SO 25 to replace entirely old SO 25 (Power of well-being)***

#### **25. Power of General Competence**

a) Before exercising the power of general competence, a meeting of the full Council shall have passed a resolution to confirm it has satisfied the prescribed statutory criteria required to qualify as an eligible parish council.

b) The Council's period of eligibility begins on the date that the resolution under standing order 25 (a) above was made and has to be renewed by Council Resolution at the annual meeting of the Council that takes place in a year of ordinary elections.

c) After the expiry of its preceding period of eligibility, the Council continues to be an eligible council solely for the purpose of completing any activity undertaken in the exercise of the power to promote well-being which was not completed before the expiry of the Council's preceding period of eligibility referred to in standing order 25(b) above.

#### **41/07/12. Planning:**

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

4/46/12/0021 Variation of operational hours, Poole Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Applicant: Somerset County Council. Comment: the Parish Council has no objections.

46/12/0022 Erection of single storey front and side extension at 6 Budgetts, West Buckland.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs J Newby. Comment: the Parish Council support the granting of planning permission.

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

46/12/0013 Installation of 16 no ground mounted solar panels in the garden of Crosses, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/12/0014 Erection of single storey extensions to the joinery workshop at Morrishes Farm, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

**c) Any other planning matters.** Mr Gideon Sumption has informed TDBC that he would like to change the name of Foxmoor Business Park to Wellington Gateway now there is a new access road. The Council was informed that Wellington Town Council is not in favour of the name change. It was agreed not to support the request for a name change and to ask that the name remains Foxmoor Business Park. It was noted that the name had previously been changed to Foxmoor Business Park from Foxmoor Nurseries.

It was noted that advertising signs for a local business have appeared on the northbound side of the M5 between junctions 26 and 27 and along the concrete link road between the M5 and Wellington. This will be reported to Planning Enforcement at TDBC.

Cllr James reported that the management works to a Willow tree at Chelston Business Park, as agreed as part of planning application 46/12/0010/T, has not been carried out properly and the branches have been put in a ditch, which could cause flooding. Reports will be made to TDBC Planning Department and the Environment Agency.

#### 42/07/12. Highways.

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

**b) Landscaping at the Worlds End.** There was concern that the newly planted Laurel hedge at the Worlds End will impede visibility once it grows. Mr Peake, Highways Area Manager, has called into the premises and expressed his concerns that once this hedge starts to grow visibility would be further impeded at the junction effecting not only people travelling, but customers to the Worlds End Pub exiting the establishment. Highways will keep an eye on the situation and if necessary a repeat visit will be made to the Worlds End requesting their co-operation regarding the planting. Councillors noted that SCC is spending money to improve the safety of this junction and it was felt that if this hedge is allowed to grow as planted, the junction will become more dangerous. If the hedging remains the Council will contact Highways again.

**c) Response from TDBC regarding advertising signs by the highway.** Cllr Mrs Blogg has sent a letter to highways expressing her concerns that some signs advertising the Village Fete were removed whilst other advertising signs have not been removed. SCC has said signs should not be up on highways verges without permission and they would like signs to be put up no more than one week ahead of an event.

**d) Any other highways matters.** It has been agreed that the Parish Council will take over the grass cutting at Peacocks Close and this will be removed from highways cutting schedules.

#### 43/07/12. To receive reports from:

**a) District Cllr.** None.

**b) Cty Cllr.** None.

**c) Police.** The following was noted from an email report circulated at the beginning of July. For the Monument beat there were forty calls to the police in June. Nine calls were traffic related. Two calls were members of the public who were suicidal and seven were to report suspicious people or incident's and seven assisting other services such as TDBC fire or ambulance service. On 13<sup>th</sup> June at Wellington Hill there was an assault causing ABH. This started as a verbal argument between members of the same family who share a large house together. The argument escalated resulting in bruising to victim. Investigation is ongoing. On June 18<sup>th</sup> a theft was reported from a car at the Monument car park. An unknown offender smashed a rear passenger window and opened car door and removed a rucksack from behind the passenger seat. West Buckland 25<sup>th</sup> June. There were three reports of four double glazing salesmen – Safe Style UK – calling in a No Cold Calling Zone. A Police Officer attended and gave words of advice following which the salesmen left.

Operation Tornado: new measures to combat metal theft were rolled out across the South of England on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Spearheaded by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Operation Tornado has been launched across the south after being trialled successfully in the North East of the country. Estimated to cost the UK approximately £1billion a year, metal theft is increasing nationally due to the global rise in metal prices, resulting in, inconvenience and expense to thousands of people and in some cases causing risk to life. All affected industries are working together with the police to tackle the problem at a national level. With the aim of deterring would be thieves, Op Tornado makes it easier to trace sellers of stolen metal through an identification scheme, constricting the market in which thieves can operate and making it more difficult to sell-on stolen goods. In the South West, the operation will see cross-border collaboration with Avon and Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Constabularies working together to target metal thieves. Scrap metal yards across the region have been asked to sign up to the scheme over the last six weeks. From the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, anyone going to a yard to sell metal are asked for evidence of identity in the form of a passport, national identity card or photo driving licence, supported by proof of address such as a recent utility

bill. Operation Tornado is already in operation in other parts of the country having been trialled successfully earlier in the year in Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland. These three police areas have seen a significant drop of approximately 60% with Durham achieving a 74% reduction, in the levels of opportunist metal theft, without seeing a rise in other opportunistic crime types. Officers across the region are also working with dealers to gather intelligence, and encourage the reporting of suspected thieves. Anyone with information about illegal activities in their area can contact their local policing team by calling 101.

**d) Village Hall Committee.** Plans for the car park are going ahead. The pre-school are concerned about the temporary fencing that is used to separate the car park and the hard surface area at the rear of the village hall and are asking for concertina style fence. They are worried that children could be abducted.

**e) Any other reports.** None.

#### **44/07/12. Finance**

**a) To agree and authorise payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:  
Playsafety Ltd - £90.00 Rospa play area annual inspection (chq no 1154)

Heathfield Garden Contractors - £570.00 grass cutting and strimming (chq no 1155)

Mrs J Larcombe - £136.81 Clerks salary and expenses (chq no 1156)

**b) To consider Spending v Budget April – June 2012.** This was deferred until the next meeting.

**b) To agree additional signatories for the Council's bank account.** It was agreed that Cllrs D Lacey and Mrs C Hannath would be added to the bank account signatories.

**d) Consultation Document on the repeal of Local Government Act 1972 section 150(5) [signature of cheques by two members of council thus allowing for internet banking].** Deferred.

#### **45/07/12. Playing Field**

**a) Update regarding transfer of land for additional car parking for Village Hall.** The Clerk is trying to prepare a scale plan.

**b) Hedge cutting.** Heathfield Garden Contractors will be asked to cut both sides of the front hedge. Cllr Lacey will try to find a contractor to cut the rest of the playing field hedges and the hedge at Steart Lane with a flail hedge trimmer.

**c) Repairs to picnic table.** Cllr Mrs Blogg reported that she had asked Roger Marwood for a quote to repair the picnic table but he has gone ahead with the repairs without supplying a quote. The Parish Council has not received an invoice yet.

**d) Play Area Inspection Report from Rospa.** The report has been received and includes photos of each piece of equipment which could be useful for insurance purposes. There is nothing in the report that needs to be done immediately. The basketball post was reported as damaged but the risk was low. Cllr Lacey will look at this. It was also reported that the type of chain swing attachment for the swing has in some cases been associated with chain detachment and should be monitored and checked on a regular basis. Cllr Lacey has explained to Cllr Mrs Blogg how this should be monitored. The inspection did not mention the problem with the picnic table.

#### **46/07/12. Footpaths.**

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

**b) Dyke clearance at Lee Park.** Cllr Mrs Hannath reported that she had contacted Nick Whitmore at TDBC and he had confirmed that TDBC are responsible for clearing the dyke and only do this in October. Recent hot weather has meant that the water that has stayed in the dyke has become unpleasant and Lee Park residents are going to clear the dyke themselves. The fly tipping has been cleared.

**c) Any Other Footpath Matters.** None.

**47/07/12. Hedge trimming for Silver Street Green.** See item 45/07/12 b).

**48/07/12. To inform the Council about the licence to sell alcohol at the Village Shop, possible Post Office facilities and vandalism.** Yvonne West is now ready to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at the shop. The shop needs to open for longer hours to increase footfall. It is hoped that some Post Office facilities could be provided from the shop and Cty Cllr Henley has been asked for support in applying for this. There has been some vandalism to the plastic grill outside the shop. PCSO Bramley has been dealing with this problem and has spoken to the young people who are believed to be involved.

**49/07/12. Correspondence and items of interest.** The following correspondence was noted:  
TDBC – Hearts of Somerset Events 2012  
MDDC – Planning Act 2008, Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, consultation on draft charging schedule.  
Councillors were reminded about the SALC Code of Conduct training on 16<sup>th</sup> August at West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**50/07/12. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** The lettering on the War Memorial has become very faded and is in need of refurbishment. Cllr Mrs Blogg has downloaded some grant forms to apply for funding. She will contact some monumental masons to get quotes for the work.  
Cllr Lacey gave his apologies for the August meeting.

**51/07/12. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th August 2012 at 7.30pm.