

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 30th June 2015 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr's Mrs M Blogg (Chair), D Lacey, Mrs C Hannath, D Mitton, J Nutt and C Rayson

**In attendance:** Two members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**18/06/15. To accept apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from PCSO S Cridlin, PCSO L Fyne and Mr C Silverlight.

**19/06/15. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** There were no disclosures of interests.

**20/06/15. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 19/05/15.** The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

**21/06/15. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.** There were no matters arising.

**22/06/15. Co-option of two councillors.** The Council received four applications for co-option to fill the two vacancies on the Council. Details of the four candidates were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Following a paper ballot David Mitton and Charles Silverlight were co-opted onto the Council. The other two candidates were thanked for their interest.

**23/06/15. To appoint a representative to attend the quarterly SALC Area Meetings.** Cllr D Mitton was appointed as the Council's representative to attend the SALC Area Meetings.

**24/06/15. Democratic Period. Members of the public will be allowed to speak for up to three minutes.** The members of the public did not wish to speak.

#### **25/06/15. Planning:**

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

46/15/0019/CQ Prior approval for a proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Class 3) at Emerald Vale Nurseries, Stoford Lane, West Buckland.

Applicant: Mr I Phillips.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to this application.

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Applicant: Mr I Phillips.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to this application.

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

46/15/0004 Variation of Condition No 4 of application 46/12/0007 to extend the time limit to complete highways works until November 2015 at Blackdown Garden Centre, 2 Hockholler, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/15/0010 Erection of a two storey extension to the rear of Talavera, Manleys Farm Residential Education Centre, Calways Lane, West Buckland (as amended by plans received 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015). Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/15/0018/CJ Prior approval for the installation of 192 roof mounted solar panels on the south west elevation of the Chelston Depot Building Gerbestone Lane, M5 Junction 26, West Buckland. Decision: prior approval granted.

**c) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the parish.** The Chair and the Clerk will be attending a meeting at The Deane House on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to find out about CIL meaningful proportion and how this effects the parish. The Council has received a CIL payment of £421.88 from planning application 46/14/0020 demolition of nissen hut and double garage and erection of detached dwelling with erection of 2 garages relating to Hillfields and Orchard View, West Buckland.

**d) Any other planning matter.** Despite permission being refused for planning application 46/15/0006 Erection of fence to front elevation at Byland Cottage, Wellington Road, West Buckland (Retention of works already undertaken) the fencing has not been removed and a lower piece of fencing has been erected against the A38. This will be brought to the attention of the TDBC planning department.

**26/06/15. Highways.**

**a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on work that are needed.** It was reported that there is a pothole by the entrance to the older Village Hall car park.

**b) Matters arising from previous meetings**

**i. Problems with signs at the top of Buckland Hill.** It appears that a replacement 'this road is not suitable for HGV' sign was erected at the top of Buckland Hill but has already been knocked down. The verge at the junction is overgrown and the visibility is poor. In the future the Council might need to consider paying grass cutting on verges at junctions and the roundabout at Junction 26..

**ii. Speed warning sign on A38.** The Clerk has emailed SCC to ask why the speed warning sign on the A38, close to the Blackbird Inn, is not working but has not received a reply.

**c) A38 highways issues and the Parish Council's view on action it should be taking.** The inquest into the fatal accident at Willowbrook in December 2014 has ruled that it was an accident. Blackdown Garden Centre now has until November 30<sup>th</sup> to arrange for the turn off lane to be created and the existing entrance moved. At the next meeting the Council will discuss whether they should be taking any action on the A38 highways issues.

**d) Any other highways matters.** The nearly empty salt bags have been removed from Buckland Hill.

The Council has received a copy of a letter sent to the SCC highways department by Mr Hammond, Blackmoor, regarding the ongoing issue raised last year about HGVs cutting up from M5 Junction 26 to the top road via Buckland Hill, using Bussels Farm Lane. The letter says accidents have meant additional vehicles using this road because of diversions and recently there have been a number of serious accidents on the road at the top of Ford Street. Advisory signs, warning drivers about the cross road have been knocked down and as a result this is now poorly sign posted. This busy route takes most of the road traffic from Wellington on to the Blackdowns (due to it being the widest route locally) and needs urgent attention to replace the signs to ensure this dangerous junction is adequately signposted.

He also says that as a result of increased traffic and heavy vehicles, the road that runs up the bank at the top of Buckland Hill has moved significantly and has sunk at least 5 inches

over the last year and is continuing to deteriorate, is in danger of giving way, and will put road users at risk if not addressed promptly. Mr Hammond owns a large transport company in Somerset and has offered his time to engage in a forum within the transport community with a plan to come up with a policy that all can work with to help deliver safer transport in these rural communities whilst respecting the need to plan deliveries and routes to overcome the challenges within this area of outstanding natural beauty. Mr Hammond says he has evidence that HGV's are still using this route on a daily basis. The Clerk has asked to see this evidence and is waiting to receive it.

Councillors noted that although there are signs warning that the road is not suitable for HGV's there is no restrictions for weight or size. It was thought that one particularly large HGV carries an MRI scanner for horses and regularly travels to veterinary premises in this area. There are a number of businesses in the area that have goods delivered by HGV's.

#### **27/06/15. To receive reports from:**

- a) Police.** The Police Report for May was circulated by email in early June. There are reports that two girls have complained about being followed
- b) Village Hall Committee.** Cllr Mrs Hannath reported that the worktops in the kitchen will be replaced during August. The new booklet of walks in the parish has been printed but the price has yet to be agreed.
- c) Any other reports.** No other reports.

#### **28/06/15. Finance**

- a) To agree and authorise payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:

South and West Internal Audit - £90.00 internal audit (chq no 1276)

Heathfield Garden Contractors - £648.00 (£540.00 + £108.00 vat) grass cutting and strimming (chq no 1277)

West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £40.00 room hire (chq no 1278)

Mrs J Larcombe - £224.58 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1279)

- b) To discuss the report from the Internal Auditor.** Julie Snooks of South and West Internal Audit carried out the internal audit on June 4<sup>th</sup>. There were no areas of non-compliance. She did note that one of the Council's suppliers was charging vat but not including their vat registration number on their invoice. Mrs Snooks advised that the Council should insist this is completed. The annual return has now been sent to Grant Thornton and they have confirmed that it has been received.

- c) Pensions automatic enrolment legal duties.** The Council has received a letter from the Pensions Regulator stating that the law on workplace pensions has changed. Under the Pensions Act 2008 every employer with at least one member of staff must automatically enrol those who are eligible into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it. An 'eligible jobholder' is aged between 22 and state pension age and currently has earnings above the trigger amount of £10,000. Employers also have obligations to 'non-eligible jobholders' and 'entitled workers'. The Clerk falls under the category of entitled worker as she earns less than £5,824. Entitled workers can require the employer to arrange for them to join a pension scheme. The scheme does not have to be a qualifying scheme and the employer does not have to contribute to it. The staging date for the Council is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. The letter required the Council to nominate a contact by 31<sup>st</sup> July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Clerk has completed an online form to say that she will be the contact. The Clerk said she would not require the Council to arrange for her to join a pension scheme. A written record will be kept on file to show that the Council has made the offer and it was declined.

## **29/06/15. Playing Field**

**a) Update on work ordered for the Play Area/Playing Field.** TDBC DLO has not painted the swings and climber yet. It was reported that a councillor has been told by a couple of parishioners that they don't want boring old swings if equipment is to be replaced. It has already been decided that money will not be spent on equipment this year and a notice board will be purchased instead.

**b) To discuss providing permanent dog fouling warning signs at the playing field.** The Clerk brought a copy of a poster advising people that 'There is no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy', and asking people to pick it up. Copies of this poster will be laminated and put on display. It was felt that the problem was not so bad during the summer. Another tactic that has been suggested is to spray the dog excrement a bright colour to make people take more notice of the problem caused by not picking up after their dogs. The dog trainer who hires the hall might be willing to help with this.

**c) Any other matters to note.** Cllr Mrs Blogg has handed the checklist for the inspections of the play area from January to June to the Clerk.

**30/06/15. Footpaths: Any footpath matters.** The Village Hall Committee has updated the booklet of walks in the parish and copies have been printed. Cllr Mrs Hannath reported a problem on Footpath 14/31.

**31/06/15. Evaluation of Parish Website and any actions required.** The Clerk has contacted SALC to see if there had been any further information about funding to help councils with a precept under £25,000 comply with the transparency requirements. There has not been any further information about this funding. The Clerk advised that she felt the Council could comply with the requirements using the Parish Council page on the parish website. It was agreed to look at the website again once there was some news on funding.

**32/06/15. Community Litter Picks: feedback from item in newsletter and any actions required.** Following the item in the newsletter two people have said they are interested in helping with a litter pick. As they have young children the litter pick would need to be in an area that is safe for children. It was suggested that Wellington Town Council might be willing to loan equipment.

**33/06/15. BT Phonebox; feedback from information in newsletter, information on getting a phonebox removed and any actions required.** The phone box in West Buckland does not take cash and anyone using it would need a phonecard, except for making an emergency call. A consultation about requesting its removal has been carried out through the newsletter. No one has asked for it to be retained and two people have said it would be a good idea to get it removed. The box is lit at night in an area where there is no street lighting and it takes up space on the pavement making it difficult for wheelchairs and prams/pushchairs. There is good mobile phone reception in the area. The Clerk will contact PCSO Cridlin to check that the Police have no objections to the phone being removed. If they have no objections it was agreed that the Council would ask BT to remove the phonebox.

**34/06/15. Correspondence and items of interest.** The following correspondence was noted:  
SALC – information about an additional training course for new councillors and details of a day long course on setting up & managing a suitable IT environment in local councils. The Clerk felt that the Council would have no problems in managing its requirements in light of the requirements of the transparency code.

**35/06/15. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** The Council has for a number of years provided volunteers to collect the admission charge for the Village Fete. Cllr Mrs

Blogg is putting together a rota of councillors to cover the duty at this year's fete. The Clerk advised that as there is a newly elected council it should decide whether it was willing to carry out this duty on a regular basis.

**36/06/15. Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.