

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 25th August 2015 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, C Rayson and C Silverlight.

**In attendance:** PCSO L Fyne, County Cllr R Henley, and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

It was agreed to bring the following items forward to the start of the meeting.

#### **53/09/15. Reports**

**a) Police Report.** PCSO Fyne introduced herself to the Council. She covers a large area and shares this beat with PCSO Cridlin. She reported there had been a bad accident on the A38 at Rumwell earlier in the evening. There have been break-ins to outbuildings at Blackmoor and tools were stolen from one. An alarm was triggered in another and nothing was taken. She said noise often stops burglaries. PCSO Fyne referred to the other points in the Police Report for July, which had been circulated by email. There were 44 logs for the month, including 4 road related incidents. One of which was a report of young people acting dangerously over the M5 motorway bridge in West Buckland. Other problems included anti-social behaviour in West Buckland and various agencies are dealing with this ongoing problem.

Cllr Mrs Blogg asked whether the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was still operating. The Parish Council holds ear marked reserves for this scheme and paper records were passed to the Council when the main co-ordinator in West Buckland gave up. PCSO Fyne agreed to contact Lindsey Stone, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the force to find out how many co-ordinators were left in West Buckland. There is still a scheme in Lee Park. Cllr Silverlight is a co-ordinator for the Blackmoor area and asked PCSO Fyne to make sure he was on the email list for the monthly Police Report and other information. There was concern that people in the parish thought they were still covered by the scheme because there are still signs in the village. People covered by a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme have been able to claim a discount on their home insurance and might still be claiming this not knowing there is no longer a scheme. Following discussion councillors felt his was the responsibility of the insurers.

PCSO Fyne left the meeting.

**b) County Cllr Report.** Cllr Henley reported that the work to remove silt from under the bridge at Sawyers Hill has been completed. The basic cut of hedges and verges has been completed but this did not include the roundabout under the motorway. He asked whether there was a problem with weeds growing in pavements in the parish as this is causing

problems in some parishes. Councillors told him West Buckland does not have a lot of pavements so this is not causing a problem. Cllr Henley is hoping to be able to support any applications from the school and pre-school for funding from the Health and Wellbeing budget. There has been a cut of £1.2million from the Public Health budget for clinics such as alcohol abuse and sexual awareness etc. He felt this was short sighted as NHS money is ring fenced. He has supported an appeal against the decision of TDBC to refuse to allow holiday accommodation at Gerbestone to be used for permanent accommodation. Cllr Hannath reported that the ditch in Lee Park has not been cleared this year and the secretary of their Lee Park Residents group has found it very difficult to speak to the officers at TDBC who are responsible for this work by phone. There has been no response to emails. Cllr Henley agreed to meet Cllr Hannath to look at this.

Cllr Henley left the meeting.

**54/09/15. To accept apologies for absence.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr D Mitton.

**55/09/15. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr D Lacey declared a pecuniary interest in item 63/09/15 a) because one of the payments due to be made is to a company of which he is a director. He also declared a personal interest in planning application 46/15/0026 because he knows the applicant.

**56/09/15. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28/07/15.** The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**57/09/15. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.** There were no matters arising.

**58/09/15. Democratic Period.** There were no members of the public present.

**59/09/15. Planning:**

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

46/15/0026 Erection of agricultural shed on land off Haywards Lane, Chelston, Wellington.

Applicant: Mr A Hale. Cllr Lacey declared a personal interest.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council felt there was a lack of information about the agricultural need for this shed. The Council has no objection to this application being approved as long as it is only used in connection with agriculture and, if it is approved, asks for a condition limiting its use to agriculture.

46/15/0027 Erection of additional workshop/car valeting building at Wellington Motors, Taunton Vale House, Summerfield Way, Chelston Business Park, West Buckland.

Applicant: Mr M Finn.

46/15/0028 Erection of roof over yard area at Lower Ruggin Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland. Applicant: Mr M R Lee.

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

46/15/0022/CQ Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Use Class C3) and associated building operations at Sawyers Hill, West Buckland. Decision: Prior approval granted.

**c) Any other planning matter.** No other planning matters.

**60/09/15. Highways.**

**a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on work that is needed.** The speed warning sign on the A38, opposite The Blackbird, is now working for traffic heading in the Wellington direction. Cllr Silverlight was briefed about the history of highways issues on the A38 in the parish.

**b) Matters arising from previous meetings**

**i. Pothole at entrance to Village Hall car parking.** This has been repaired.

**c) Any other highways matters.** A bench has been put beside the bus stop in front of Willowbrook Nursery. It has been placed there in memory of the lady who used to run the shop at Willowbrook Nursery.

The lower branches of the Oak tree on the triangle at Church Drive are getting lower and will soon make it difficult to cut the grass on the triangle. It was agreed to ask David James, a local tree surgeon, for a price to remove the branches. While the Council has agreed to pay for this work to be done it is not taking responsibility for this tree.

**61/09/15. To receive reports from:**

**a) Police.** See item 53/09/15 a).

**b) Village Hall Committee.** The committee has received a £500 grant from the Mayors' Fund. The refurbishment of the kitchen has been carried out and the new fridge/freezer has arrived. The Chairman and Treasurer of the Village Fete Committee have resigned and the committee are trying to find new members.

**c) Any other reports.** There were no other reports.

**62/09/15. Playing Field**

**a) Update on work ordered for the Play Area/Playing Field.** The existing concrete base of the basketball post has been removed and a more substantial concrete base has been put in. The area will be covered with tarmac once conditions allow.

The hedge on the inside of the play area has been cut back and the cuttings have been removed. The rest of the hedges have not been cut yet because of the wet ground conditions.

**b) To discuss an offer to donate an Oak tree for planting in playing field.** It was agreed that the Council could not accept the donation as there was nowhere suitable to plant it.

**b) Any other matters to note.** It was noted that an email had been received from Wicksteed stating that they have increased the guarantee on the paint finish of their equipment from 6 years to 7 years.

**63/09/15. Finance**

**a) To agree and authorise payments.** Cllr Lacey declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room. It was agreed to make the following payments:

SALC - £20.00 training session charge (chq no 1284) Note: the cheque has not been sent as the session was cancelled. The session is expected to be re-arranged,

Greenbarnes Ltd - £1390.42 new noticeboard (chq no 1285)

R W Gale Ltd - £1392.00 work to site new noticeboard and re-erection of the basketball post in the playing field (chq no 1286).

Mrs J Larcombe - £230.41 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1287)

Cllr Lacey re-joined the meeting.

A letter has been received from Taunton and District Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Council for the grant of £75.00.

**b) To agree a Councillor, other than Chairman or cheque signatory, to verify bank reconciliations.** It was agreed that Cllr Silverlight will verify the bank reconciliations.

**c) To review the Financial Regulations noting recommendations from the Clerk and Cllr Mitton.** The amendments to the Financial Regulations recommended by the Clerk and Cllr Mitton were agreed.

**64/09/15. Footpaths – any matters brought forward.** Mr Stanworth will cut the footpath at Haywards Lane during September.

**65/09/15. Training – to note and discuss training opportunities.** Cllr Silverlight is booked to attend the SALC training session ‘Being a Good Councillor – the Essentials’ on the 26<sup>th</sup> August. He has also booked to attend the TDBC Code of Conduct training on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Cllr Rayson and Cllr Mrs Blogg will attend the Code of Conduct training session on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**66/09/15. Neighbourhood Watch – to discuss funding and documentation held by the Council.**  
This item was discussed during item 53/09/15 a).

**67/09/15. SALC AGM**

**a) To discuss who will represent West Buckland on September 26th.** Cllr Mitton will represent the Council. Cllr Mrs Blogg will attend as Chairman of the Council.

**b) To decide whether the Council has any questions for Cllr John Osman. Leader of SCC.** It was agreed to ask the following questions:

- Should SCC be allocating a budget for Health and Wellbeing grants when there have been cutbacks in so many important areas? This money appears to often be given to organisations that have adequate funds already and does not appear to be demonstrating best value.
- With cutbacks to the cutting of verges, hedges and roundabouts the Parish Council is considering whether it needs to take on some responsibility for this. What support and guidance will SCC be giving to councils to help them take on more responsibilities Other counties are offering training to volunteers, will SCC be considering this.

**68/09/15. Update on request to remove phone box.** BT will ask their Commercial Field Officer for the area to consult with TDBC regarding removal, ultimately, they have the power of veto over whether a kiosk can be removed. It is a 90-day consultation process so it will be a while before BT know. If they can remove the kiosk, it will probably take another 4-6 months before it is actually recovered because it is not a quick process and involves a power disconnection by the regional power company.  
The Clerk has confirmed that the Council are not interested in taking ownership of the kiosk under BT’s adopt a kiosk scheme.

**69/09/15. Correspondence and items of interest.** The notice board on the wall of the shop has now been given to Julie who runs the shop.  
As part of budget planning for 2016/17 and the following years the Council will have a discussion about the needs of the parish. There will also be some consultation with parishioners.  
There was no correspondence brought forward.

**70/09/15. Any other urgent business at the Chairman’s discretion.** There was no urgent business.

**71/09/15. Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.