

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 29th September 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, C Rayson and C Silverlight.

In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

72/09/15. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were received from PCSO's S Cridlin and L Fyne.

73/09/15. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. Cllr Silverlight declared a personal interest in planning application 46/15/0035 because the applicant is a neighbour.

74/09/15. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 25/08/15. With the addition of the comments to planning applications 46/15/0027 and 46/15/0028 the minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

75/09/15. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered by the agenda. Cllr Mitton will be attending the TDBC Code of Conduct training on 30th September.

76/09/15. Democratic Period. There were no members of the public present.

77/09/15. Planning:

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

46/15/0035 Conversion of garage into granny annexe and erection of replacement garage with workshop at Perry Barn, West Buckland Road, West Buckland. Applicant Mr S Loveridge. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objection to the granting of approval for this application.

b) To receive results from planning applications determined by TDBC. There were no decision notices.

c) Any other planning matter. TDBC will be holding a Planning Training session on December 8th. Details of the content will be announced closer to the date.

TDBC held a training session in September but the Clerk only received a few days' notice. Cllr Mitton reported that he had attended the training because he had heard about it from a different source. Of interest to the Council was the section on Permitted Development Rights for Agricultural Buildings. This is a prior approval process and is time limited to 56 days. If a decision is not made in 56 days it is deemed that approval is given.

Considerations are: transport and highways; noise; flooding and the design of the exterior. Consideration must also be given to whether the design and siting make it impractical to

change use from agricultural. Case law will be needed to fully determine this class of application. Buildings have to have been in agricultural use in 2013. The size of the building cannot be changed but doors, windows and floors can be added. The existing structure has to support the roof structure. Planning should be asked where the onus lies to prove the agricultural use.

78/09/15. Highways.

a) To report on work carried out by the SCC Highway Department and to receive reports on work that is needed. 30 mph speed limit signs have been out up in Ford Street but residents are not happy that national speed limits apply to the lanes leading off the restricted section of road.

b) Matters arising from previous meetings

i) Oak tree at Church Drive. The overhanging branches have been removed. Cllr Mrs Blogg has been trying to find out who planted the tree and thinks that it was probably the late Sue Morrish when she was Tree Warden. It was planted to stop people from parking on the grass when a larger number of people were attending a service at the Church.. It has been suggested that the tree should be removed.

ii) Ditch at Lee Park – update. County Cllr Henley met with Cllr Mrs Hannath to look at the ditch and discuss the problems that are caused when the vegetation is not cut back on a regular basis. He has contacted TDBC and SCC but needs to follow this up.

c) Any other highways matters. No other highways matters.

County Cllr Henley joined the meeting

79/09/15. To receive reports from:

a) County Cllr. It was agreed to add this report at this point. Cllr Henley said loneliness is the theme for this year's Health and Wellbeing Grants and he is meeting Denis Cottle to discuss an application from the Friendship Club. There are seven schools in Cllr Henley's ward and he is visiting them all. West Buckland is one of the two schools he still has to visit. There is a concern that funding for free school meals for Key Stage 1 children could be withdrawn. It was noted that this had been raised with Rebecca Pow MP at the SALC AGM and she had given a sharp response saying that this decision had been a sop to the Liberal Democrats when there was a coalition government and that lots of parents could afford to pay. Cllr Mitton said he would be following this up with her. The government would like to see all schools convert to academies by the end of its five year term.

a) Police. A Police Report for August was circulated by email. There has not been an update regarding Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. Cold callers have been going around the village and the Police called on Cllr Mrs Blogg to inform her about this. PCSO Cridlin has circulated an email with some useful information about cold callers. Cllr Silverlight has put up the Neighbourhood Watch signs passed to him at the last meeting.

b) Village Hall Committee. Cllr Mrs Blogg reported that the committee had met as usual on the first Wednesday of the month. The kitchen worktops, sinks and taps have been replaced. As the kitchen had to be emptied an audit of crockery and cutlery was carried out. Monthly checks will be carried out on the First Aid box to ensure it is complete. It was decided to purchase a post box for the exterior wall - not only for mail but to save hirers postage as cheques can be left in the box.

c) SALC AGM. Cllr Mitton reported that it had been a lively meeting. There were presentations from Rebecca Pow MP and Cllr John Osmond, Leader of SCC. Cllr Osmond reported that SCC has made cuts of £100million but there are further cuts of £60million to come. There are restrictions on raising revenue to balance the budget. There are plans to build more schools in the County. There will be improvements to the highways structure on the A358 and then the A303 although that will not be until 2020. Councils had submitted questions for Cllr Osmond to answer and replies to these will be sent to Councils. 90% of

Somerset now has broadband and there are plans for Devon and Somerset to have 95% coverage by 2017. BT said they would be able to manage 91.5% coverage if they were given an additional £40million funding. Some of the parishes in Cllr Henley's ward have very slow broadband and have been left in limbo. In some places fibre optic cables were laid down up to ten years ago but there are no plans to show where. Cut backs to bus services were criticised. Chard Town Council raised the issue of the railway station in South Chard which is there but hasn't been opened. There is still money in the Health and Wellbeing Grant budget and this money has to be spent on health. These grants are better scrutinised now than they were and this is done by independent Public Health Officers. Rebecca Pow MP gave a presentation on what it is like to be a new MP. The TDBC and West Somerset DC areas form the west area for SALC and this area is represented on the County Committee by Cllr Mitton, Jean Allgove (a former Clerk to West Buckland Parish Council) and Loretta Wedlock. Cllr Mitton was elected as Chair of SALC for the coming year and Mrs Allgrove was elected as President. The updated constitution was agreed subject to a referral back to the County Committee about the election of the Chair being held at the AGM. The Chair has been elected by the County Committee.

Cllr Henley left the meeting

d) Code of Conduct Training 3rd September. Cllr Silverlight reported that this had been a well run and relaxed training session which he felt was useful for new councillors to attend. The session had been led by Bruce Lang, Deputy Monitoring Officer for TDBC/West Somerset District Council. Another session will be held on 30th September and other councillors will be attending.

The SALC training session Cllr Silverlight had been booked to attend was cancelled at the last moment due to illness. Another date is being arranged for this session and it will probably be held at West Buckland Village Hall on November 25th. The signed cheque for the training had not been posted and is being held by the Clerk.

e) Any other reports. The Planning Working Group of the Taunton Deane Partnership is looking at rural deprivation and Cllr Mitton asked councillors to let him know if they have any information. He explained this was not just financial deprivation but also deprivation due to lack of services and facilities and he will write something for the November Parish Newsletter.

80/09/15. Finance

a) Receipt of annual grant from TDBC. The Clerk informed councillors that the annual grant of £1705 for the Playing field, Churchyard and footpaths has been received from TDBC.

b) To agree and authorise payments. It was resolved to make the following payments:
Stump Solutions Ltd - £60.00 removal of branches from Oak tree at Church Drive (chq no 1288)

West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £24.00 room hire (chq no 1289)

The Clerk reported that an invoice has been received from Heathfield Garden Contractors but the total and VAT are incorrect. It was agreed that a cheque for the correct amount would be signed and the Clerk would ask for a new invoice. Once the correct invoice is received the signed cheque will be sent in payment.

Heathfield Garden Contractors - £432.00 grass cutting and strimming (chq no 1290)

Mrs J Larcombe - £224.17 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 1291)

It was agreed to purchase a Remembrance Wreath and Cllr Mrs Blogg will organise this.

c) To agree the Churchyard Grant for West Buckland PCC. Cllr Rayson declared a personal interest as a Churchwarden. It was resolved to give a grant of £1000 to West Buckland PCC towards the upkeep of the Churchyard (chq no 1292).

Cllr Rayson will find out how much the PCC spent on grass cutting this year in time for the

Council's discussion about the budget for 2016/17.

81/09/15. Playing Field. Any other matters to note. The hedges haven't been cut yet but it is hoped this can be done soon. New swing seats have been ordered. Cllr Mitton suggested that councillors go to look at Wellington's Multi Use Games Activity (MUGA) and explore funding.

82/09/15. Footpaths

a) Notice of authorisation of 2 metal field gates in respect of Public Rights of Way WG 14/30 & WG 14/31. As stiles cannot be put in and it has been agreed that gates may be put in instead.

b) Any matters brought forward. No matters brought forward.

83/09/15. To discuss budget planning for 2016/17 and the next two years. Councillors discussed where additional funding might be required and the following points will be considered at future meetings:

- Outdoor gym equipment for the playing field,
- A MUGA for the playing field,
- A defibrillator for the village,
- Additional cutting of vegetation on verges, junctions and the roundabout under the motorway junction,
- Collection of litter from the lay byes on the road from the motorway towards Wellington,
- Exploring joint working with other councils using contractors

84/09/15. Correspondence and items of interest. The following correspondence was noted:

Clerk & Councils Direct – September 2015

Somerset Waste Partnership – changes to collection dates for Christmas and New Year

Information on the Wheels to Work initiative

The new notice board has been well received, as has the new timetable for the bus.

85/09/15. Any other urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. No urgent business.

86/09/15. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th October at 7.30pm.