

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th March 2019 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: PCSO V Henderson and one member of the public.

166/03/19. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs C Hannath. Cllr Thorne had advised he would be late arriving for the meeting.

167/03/19. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures of interest.

168/03/19. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 26/02/19. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

169/03/19. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. Due to ground conditions being very wet, members of the Grand Western Archery Club were unable to park on the playing field when they held their event at the Village Hall on March 17th

Cllr D Lacey joined the meeting.

170/03/19. Police Report. PCSO Henderson introduced herself to Councillors and explained that PCSO Baker had been promoted and she would be replacing her. As PCSO Baker had been needed right away in her new position there had been no opportunity for a hand over and PCSO Henderson is trying to catch up and complete jobs that were started previously. Cllr Silverlight introduced himself as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Blackmoor. Lindsey Stone, who organised Neighbourhood Watch with Avon & Somerset Police, has now left and how she will be replaced is not known. PCSO is a Hate Crime Champion within Avon and Somerset Police.

PCSO Henderson left the meeting.

171/03/19. Democratic Period. There were no questions.

172/03/19. Planning:

a) To consider any Planning Applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting:

46/19/0005 Relocation of stable block and erection of additional stable block in field to the south of Highwood Barn, Sawyers Hill, West Buckland.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council feel the application lacks clarity and note that a Design and Access Statement would have helped to inform councillors about the application. The Council is unclear whether the applicants will be running a business from the site as this would require a change of use. The proposed new access track has poor visibility in the right hand direction when exiting.

46/19/0006 Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the erection of a dwelling in the garden to the side of Fairway, Orchard Gardens, West Buckland.

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the granting of conditional approval.

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

46/18/0033 Variation/removal of Condition No 2 (Development to be carried out in accordance with approved plans) of application 46/17/0050 for West Buckland Stores, 2A Dyers Close, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) To note a planning application withdrawal - 46/18/0031 Erection of an agricultural and woodland management building at Old Lake Cottage, Ruggin, West Buckland. Noted.

d) Any other planning matters. There were no other planning matters.

173/03/19. Highways.

a) Matters arising from previous meeting/s. Cllr Silverlight will investigate purchasing paint to refurbish the finger post sign which was repositioned at the top of Buckland Hill.

b) To note any highway defects to report to SCC. No defects noted for reporting. There is a large pothole at the Silver Street end of Dyers Close but it has already been marked for repair.

c) To consider information from Wellington Town Council regarding installing a litter bin on the B3187 within West Buckland parish and to consider whether this Council should contribute towards the purchase costs. It was agreed that West Buckland Parish Council would pay the £350.00 purchase cost of the bin to be sited in West Buckland Parish. The Clerk will find out whether this could be paid from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) held by the Council. It was suggested the new Parish Council (from 7th May 2019) should discuss purchasing litter bins for the other bus stops in West Buckland parish.

d) Any other highways matters. The Clerk has been contacted by email by a Community Liaison person for Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd who are carrying out the highway improvements at Junction 25. The Council will receive newsletter regarding the progress of the work.

174/03/19. To receive reports from:

a) County Cllr. A written report was circulated by email (Appendix A).

b) Police. PCSO Henderson gave a report under item 170/03/19.

c) Village Hall. A report will be circulated.

e) Any Other Reports. There were no other reports.

175/03/19. Finance

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

West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £32.00 room hire (Chq no 1437)

Mrs J Larcombe - £310.83 Clerk's salary and expenses (Chq no 1438)

b) Update on changing from NatWest to Unity Bank. The change will be made once the Precept has been received as the current bank details were given when the precept was requested. Payments will continue to be approved in the same way and will need to be authorised online by two councillors. It was noted that Peter Lacey, former SALC County

Secretary, fought to change national legislation so that Councils could make online payments.

176/03/19. Playing Field

- a) **Any matters to report from inspections carried out during the previous month; any actions taken or to be taken as a result.** There were no matters to note.
- b) **Any other matters to note.** The playing field is waiting for its first grass cut.

177/03/19. Footpaths: any footpath matters brought forward. No matters brought forward.

178/03/19. Update on promoting the Parish Council Election on May 2nd. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council has done what it can to promote the Parish Council elections. The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 3rd April at 4pm. Nomination Forms can be taken to the Deane House between 10.00 and 16.00.

179/03/19. Correspondence and items of interest. The following correspondence was noted:

National Audit Office consultation on the New Code of Audit Practice, which is due to come into force by 1st April 2020. NALC will be responding and are asking for responses by 30th April. It was agreed to support the three points that NALC are highlighting:

1. The difficulty for smaller councils of the potentially high and disproportionate cost on a small authority when a concerted number of electors decide to raise a high number of minor/technical objections of a vexatious nature.
2. That there should be the inclusion of a principle relating to proportionality in respect of smaller authorities, especially where the authority has an annual budget / turnover below £25k and is potentially exempt (i.e. smaller and subject to the Smaller Authorities' Transparency Code); &
3. Agree retention of the current bullet under clause 5.4 that the auditor should consider "the costs of dealing with the matter, bearing in mind that these are borne by the taxpayer" where to a smaller council the costs of an audit investigation could cost more than the council's annual precept.

Cllr Mrs Blogg spoke about her concerns about the sustainability of the RBL Remembrance wreaths and the possibility of re-using them while giving an annual donation to the RBL. Cllr Mitton will follow this up with them.

180/03/19. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. There was no urgent business.

181/03/19. Date of the next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th April 2019, after the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7.30pm.

Appendix A

- Transformation – SCC has started to redesign and refocus its way of working under a ‘Transforming SCC to Improve Lives’ programme. It is an inspiring new programme of work that will see the council reprioritise everything it does and change many of the ways in which it works. It has a number of main themes. The first is about prevention – the idea being to prevent demand coming forward and work earlier with communities so that people can live better more fulfilled lives. The second theme is focusing on commissioning, so that it can design better services for the future. The third is all about digital transformation, which will change the way the council provides services and interacts with customers. The chief executive is keen that people understand this is not a traditional restructuring of the council but is about the same people doing things differently and being more proactive rather than delivering a reactive service.
- Junction 25 – Cllr Thorne attended the official launch of the development by contractors Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd. The contractors have held two drop-in sessions for people to meet them and ask any questions. They are also employing a community liaison person to be a point of contact and keep everybody informed of progress and issues. The SCC’s officers are also meeting with affected parish councils. 200 trees have been translocated to West Monkton. He has queried why local parish councils were not sounded out and have been promised that they will now be offered any further trees if they want to take them.
- Broadband – A briefing has finally been issued on Connecting Devon and Somerset/Gigaclear. Bottom line is that nothing has been decided yet as to whether Gigaclear can deliver what it now says it wants to do by 2022 so more time is needed to assess the proposals. CDS say they need more assurances from Gigaclear and have told them that they won’t wait indefinitely – but have not said how long they will wait. There is some indication from Government that funding will be extended to 2023 – which makes him think that Gigaclear won’t deliver by 2022.
- Flooding – A new website has been launched for reporting incidents of flooding of properties past and present. The SCC has a duty to keep a record of any flooding which happens in Somerset. This information helps communities receive professional advice and provides much evidence to support funding applications for a wide range of flood mitigation measures, to help reduce flood risks. Property-related flooding can now easily be reported whether it is historical or current. You can upload supporting evidence, such as videos and photographs. The site is <https://swim.geowessex.com/somerset>. It is soon going to be rebranded as ‘FORT’ -Flood Online Reporting Tool.
- Adults with Learning Difficulties – A monthly peer support group has just been started in Taunton Library. It is being run by People First Dorset who have successfully run similar sessions in Yeovil. The group offers an opportunity to make new friends, access support and information, gain new skills and confidence, and practice independent living skills. More info is available from People First Dorset by emailing office@peoplefirstdorset.org.uk.
- Stay Strong Stay Steady – SCC has been working with Age UK Somerset to support important research on how to provide services to reduce risk of falls and to run Stay Strong Stay Steady classes which provide an opportunity to meet others while building and maintaining strength, balance, and confidence in movement which are invaluable in helping people live independently as they age. More information is at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/our-services/ageing-well-exercise-sessions/stay-strong-stay-steady>.
- Home First – This initiative is working well to reduce delayed transfers of care, as they are known - patients going home from hospital – and in December achieved the best results of any Westcountry local authority.
- Chairman’s Award – Nominations are now open for the annual Chairman’s Awards for Service to the Community. Deadline is Tuesday 7th May, and the awards ceremony is Thursday 4th July. This is the link for making nominations www.somerset.gov.uk/chairawards and more info is available from Carol James by emailing CDJames@somerset.gov.uk.