

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th August 2019 in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: District Cllr R Habgood, two members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

53/08/19. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were received from County Cllr J Thorne. Cllr Lacey had informed the Chair that he would be late.

54/08/19. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

55/08/19. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 30/07/19. With the removal of is from 40/07/19 the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

56/08/19. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. The Chair reminded Councillors to email the Clerk rather than everyone if they had a question about something discussed at a meeting.

57/08/19. Democratic Period. A resident who lives opposite the school complained about a motorcyclist with a noisy bike who allegedly drives at 50 – 60 mph in a 20 mph speed limit, past her property, at 6.40 am and 5.40 pm on week days. Cllr Nutt backed up the complaint. The Beat Surgery didn't take place last month and there are no plans for one this month so the resident was unable to report it there. The Clerk will report this complaint to PCSO Henderson and ask that it is investigated. It was felt that it shouldn't be difficult because it is happening at the same time every day. It was suggested that other residents who are concerned should complain to the Police.

Cllr Lacey joined the meeting while the next member of the public was speaking.

A resident said he had been informed that the decision to reduce the 50 mph speed limit sections on the A38 between Wellington and Taunton to 40 mph has not been approved because it did not have the support of County Cllr Thorne. He asked when the speed limit reduction would be put in place. Verge cutting has been reduced to one width only which is causing problems with visibility to the left when trying to get onto the A38 from the private lane in which he lives. He said there is also a problem with the height to which hedges are being cut by Highways. The footpath along the opposite side of the A38 is also overgrown. The resident said he had received mixed messages from Highways about cutting the verge

himself. The Clerk will find out who owns the verges on either side of the lane entrance.

58/08/19. Planning:

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

46/19/0027 Relocation of existing modular building at West Buckland Primary School.
Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the granting of approval.

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

46/19/0012 Erection of porch to front of Ham House, Ham Road, Ham.
Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/19/0019 Proposal: Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 46/18/0026 at 2 Holway Cottages, Silver Street, West Buckland.
Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/19/0021 Erection of a single storey extension to the side of 1 Church Drive, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/19/0017 Erection of agricultural and woodland management building at Old Lake Cottage, Ruggin, West Buckland (resubmission of 46/18/0031). This application has been withdrawn.

c) Update on progress with a decision for application 46/17/0053 Removal of Condition No 03 of 46/16/0005 (Restrictions to trading of retail building) at Blackdown Garden Centre, Wellington Road, West Buckland. There was no update. It is now ten months since anything appears to have happened.

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

59/08/19. Highways.

a) Matters arising from previous meeting/s.

- **Verge cutting.** This was discussed under item 57/08/19.

b) To note any highway defects to report to SCC. No defects reported. Gerbestone Lane has been resurfaced and has just been top dressed with gravel for the second time. This is making the surface difficult for motor cycles.

c) Fingerpost sign refurbishment – to discuss quotes. Cllr Nutt had obtained 5 quotes. Councillors felt he had done well to obtain that number of quotes. It was agreed to ask West Country Blacksmiths to carry out a full survey and costing for the finger post sign at Budgetts Cross.

Cllr Silverlight has asked SCC for permission to paint the fingerpost sign at the top of Buckland Hill.

SCC is holding a training session for volunteers who want to get involved in fingerpost sign refurbishment. It was thought that this was the same session that Cllr Nutt and Cllr Silverlight had already attended and not the Chapter 8 training that is required. The Clerk will check. Cllr Mitton said he would attend if it would be useful.

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

60/08/19. To receive reports from:

a) County Cllr. A report was received by email prior to the meeting and circulated. Cllr Thorne has not received a response regarding the Wellesley Hospital issue raised previously.

b) District Cllr. Cllr Habgood reported the TDBC Development Plan is running out of

time. It is still valid but there is a risk of development applications as it nears its end. The process to approve a new plan has started but it will take 18 – 24 months for it to be approved. There will be consultations as it proceeds. Housing numbers have gone down reasonably significantly. There is a proposal for a cycleway between Wellington and Taunton, there is a cycling and walking policy

c) Police. The Police report for July was circulated by email in early August. There were 284 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat for the month of July 2019. There were 15 calls to police for ASB across the whole of the rural beat in July. 0 were for Wellington without. In late August PCSO Henderson will be tutor training new PCSO Alex Potter before he moves to Wellington Town.

d) Any Other Reports. Cllr Nutt will be attending the Taunton & District CAB AGM on September 3rd. Cllr Mitton will attend a meeting at Churchinford on September 10th on Dementia care in the Blackdowns.

Mr Rayson, Village Hall Committee Secretary, has given a copy of their August Committee Meeting minutes to the Chair. Hallmark re-accreditation has been completed and will last for three years. The insurance problem has been sorted out.

61/08/19. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments.

It was resolved to make the following payments and payment sheet 03/2019-20 was signed. SNC (South West) - £474.00 play equipment repairs (1920/13).

Somerset Playing Fields Association - £80.00 play equipment annual inspection (1920/14)
Mrs J Larcombe - £320.00 Clerk's salary and expenses (1920/15)

b) To note the receipt of the Parish Grant from Somerset West & Taunton Council. A grant of £1,705 has been received. This is £800 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard; £170 for footpaths and £735 for playing field maintenance. The Clerk asked Cllr Habgood if he could find out whether SWT plan to pay the Parish Grant next year before the 2020-21 precept is set.

c) Review of spending compared to budget 1st April to 31st July 2019. The report was noted and it was agreed to earmark the £2,000 in the budget for elections in case an election is requested by electors in the future.

d) Annual Review of Business Risk Assessment. The Business Risk Assessment, which has been updated for online banking, was agreed.

e) To confirm closure of NatWest bank accounts. The funds in the Reserve Account have been transferred to the Current Account and the Reserve Account has been closed. A remittance advice for the Parish Grant from SWT was received just as the final transfer to Unity Bank was about to be made. The final transfer is being processed and the Current Account will then be closed.

f) To agree a councillor who is not a bank signatory to check quarterly bank reconciliations. It was agreed that Cllr Mitton will check the quarterly bank reconciliations.

62/08/19. 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 report or actions to be taken.

b) Update on actions from the Playground Inspection Report. The repairs identified in the report have been completed. Further quotes will be obtained for replacement surfacing under the slide.

c) Any other playing field matters. Mr Stanworth will be asked to cut the inside of the playing field hedge as the hedge trimmer leaves a lot of small bits which are sharp and

difficult to tidy up.

63/08/19. Footpaths: any footpath matters brought forward (Not for decisions). Cllr Mitton said that now the bird nesting season had finished he will look at the footpaths to see whether he needs to cut back anything.

64/08/19. To discuss feedback from Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Street sign refurbishment was thought to be a good suggestion.

65/08/19. To agree a Social Media Policy. The draft policy was agreed.

66/08/19. Correspondence and items of interest. The following correspondence was noted:
SCC Road Safety Team offer to hold a 'Route 60' presentation for older drivers. It was agreed to provide a venue, the Village Hall, to host one of these sessions but it was felt that the sessions should be for anyone who was interested. The Clerk will check what advertising materials are provided.
SWT – information about the Electric Vehicle Community Charge Point Fund. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

67/09/19. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions). There was no urgent business.

68/09/19. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th September 2019.

Appendix A:- County Cllr Report

- Members Improving Lives Grant Scheme - a briefing paper with the detail of how this £2k fund will work and the criteria which needs to be met will be sent out shortly.
- Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund – ditto for this £850k fund which is being administered by officers rather than councillors.
- Broadband – Gigaclear submitted its revised plans to Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) on July 31. CDS together with the Government’s Building Digital UK (BDUK) agency are analysing the new proposals in detail to see whether they can form an acceptable and credible recovery plan. I understand the CDS board meets in September and that will be when they make a decision and an update will be issued following the meeting. CDS has made much of the fact Gigaclear has continued to work ‘at risk’ in 31 areas but in response to my queries I have now been told this has so far only resulted in 473 premises being able to receive a service (not 473 connections, I note), a figure which CDS describes to me as ‘disappointing progress’.
- Dementia care in the Blackdowns – County is organising a meeting in Churchinford to bring together the Blackdowns micro-providers at 7 pm on 10th September in the York Inn. It is hoped to strengthen links with parishes and develop awareness both for people to become micro-providers and also about people’s local options. See the Somerset Community Micro-enterprise Directory here https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4G_vxabtN4FaklIZm1Ocm1Najg/view for the latest info on local providers. It was updated this month so has the latest data.
- Emotional and Mental Health Support – Somerset has been granted £1 million over the next three years to deliver EMH support for young people utilising trailblazer mental health support teams across the county. It is part of a national drive to improve emotional support in schools and forms part of the Somerset Wellbeing Framework 'whole school approach' to wellbeing and mental health. Initially, 25 schools will receive support teams to work on campus, and there will also be parent educational programmes provided by the voluntary sector.
- Winter gritting – In the middle of a summer heat wave our highways gritting policy review has been completed and the first deliveries of salt for the coming winter have started arriving at depots. County is investing an extra £200,000 into the service this winter and has taken on board feedback to reassess all the criteria used to determine which roads will be gritted. This means an increase in the precautionary gritting network from approximately 720 miles to 900 miles of road, which will be treated every time ice or snow is forecast, similar to the amount which was covered in 2017-18. A map of the routes can be found at <https://somersetnewsroom.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/winter-service-2019-2020.pdf>
- Free business training - Social enterprises, charities, and co-operatives in Somerset can now sign up for free bespoke training, plus a grant of £1,200. County is supporting the free training between September 2019 and January 2020. SCC is providing match funding of £250,000 which will enable draw down of England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding in recognition of the wider benefits of the programme.
- Reducing flood risk – SCC is bidding for funding for schemes to help the county adapt to climate change by reducing flood risk through natural flood management rather than engineering. The resulting ‘Co-adapt’ project will bring £2.53 million from the European Regional Development Fund into Somerset over the next three-and-a-half years for the projects. The Somerset Flood Action Plan, drawn-up in the wake of the 2013/14 winter floods, included a commitment to develop long-term land management actions to reduce flood risk in the face of climate change.
- Higher education courses – A fantastic new ‘Study Up’ website has been launched to offer a one stop shop for students of all ages to find the right Higher Education course for them here in Somerset: <http://www.studyupsomerset.org.uk>