

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### MINUTES

#### **The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 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 and C Silverlight.

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

**145/02/20. To accept apologies for absence.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs L Peace.  
Apologies were received from County Cllr J Thorne.

**146/02/20. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** There were no disclosures.

**147/02/20. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28/01/20.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**148/02/20. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.** There were no matters arising.

**149/02/20. Democratic Period.** The owner of Pulse Gym apologised for opening his community gym before applying to change the Use Class for the property it is in and for any issues caused. A retrospective application for Change of Use has been submitted and registered. He said that lots of people from West Buckland were using the gym and explained the planned opening hours. The original consent for the property included a parking area and turning circle for large lorries and this has been included in the retrospective application. The parking area is being used by some parents who park and walk their children to the Primary School.

**150/02/20. Police Report.** PCSO Henderson reported that she had not been able to attend the February Beat Surgery due to an emergency. She has publicised a bike marking event which will be held at Bradford-On-Tone Village Hall. Shifts are changing in April and new dates will be given for the Beat Surgeries. PCSO Henderson's blogs are being enjoyed by the councillors in the parishes she covers. A Police Report for January was circulated by email at the start of January.

PCSO Henderson left the meeting.

## **151/02/20. Planning:**

- a) To consider any Planning Applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting.**

**46/19/0037** Formation of menage for private use at Cordings Farm, Silver Street, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the granting of approval.

**46/20/0001** Erection of 1 No. 3 bed detached house with garage and formation of access in the garden to the side of Llantarnam, Chelston Nurseries, Nursery Lane, Chelston  
Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the granting of approval.

- b) To receive decisions from planning applications determined by SWT Council.**

**46/19/0034** Change of use of former village shop store into 1 No. one bedroom dwelling at 2a Dyers Close, West Buckland (resubmission of 46/19/0015).

Decision: permission refused. The decision was made by the SWTC Planning Committee and was against the Planning Officer's recommendation.

**c) SWT Issues & Options Consultation.** Cllr Mitton and Cllr Nutt had looked at the consultation information. Cllr Mitton questioned the sustainability of new development. At present building regulations do not allow the level of insulation that eco friendly houses need to be carbon neutral and building regulations will not change until 2025. He questioned why SWTC had declared a climate emergency if they could not achieve the actions needed. Public transport is also an issue. Cllr Nutt noted plans for a large development near Trull and industrial development either side of the roundabout at Chelston. All councillors were advised to have a look at the consultation.

**c) Any other planning matters.** Cllr Mrs Drury said the SALC Responding to Planning Applications training session that she had attended had been marvellous and she had learnt what she needed to know. She felt the Q & A session had been spoilt by other councillor attendees with an over emphasis on issues in their own parishes.

The Clerk has been contacted by a parishioner who is concerned about alleged breaches of planning conditions on a site adjoining his property. The parishioner also has concerns about the way the planning application was dealt with by TDBC. The Parish Council did recommend refusal for this application which was then approved by the Planning Officer despite there being the number of objections that normally meant a decision is made by the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee then retrospectively approved the application. The Clerk and Cllr Mrs Drury will arrange to meet with the parishioner to look at the issues in more detail.

## **152/02/20. Highways.**

- a) Matters arising from previous meeting/s.** There have been lots of potholes but Highways are responding when they are reported.

- b) To note any highway defects to report to SCC.** Potholes have been filled in at Catsbeer but there is now a large one that needs to be repaired.

**c) Report from site meeting to discuss clearing the silt from under the bridge at Sawyers Hill.** Cllr Mrs Blogg reported on the meeting with Josian Lebrun, SCC Flood Risk Management Engineer. Cllr Nutt also attended the meeting. Following the meeting Mr Lebrun was supplied with the details for the riparian owners that would need to be contacted and asked for permission to carry out the required work. Mr Lebrun has since emailed to say he had contacted the Bridges & Structures Manager regarding maintenance of the bridge, The structure was maintained four years ago at a cost of £70,000. They will be sending a bridges inspector out soon to carry out an inspection of the bridge as this work needs to be co-ordinated and the involvement of the Bridges & Structure Team is imperative, Mr Lebrun has refrained from contacting the other riparian

owners until he receives an update from the Bridges Team and confirmation that maintenance will be on their programme. This will prevent any unnecessary effort or works made by adjoining landowners in the event that SCC bridges team are unable to carry out maintenance under the structure for any reasons.

**c) Any other highways matters.** The Chair has received a letter from the Group Managing Director of Wellington Motors regarding the major increase in the number of vehicles parked on the Summerfield Way road into Chelston Business Park in recent months. Vehicles are parking opposite the entrance to the business and he has concerns about the safety of clients exiting the business. He would like SCC to agree to put double yellow lines on the opposite side of Summerfield Way to the business. Councillors agreed that this is an issue and agreed to support the request for double yellow lines. The Clerk will contact SCC and inform County Cllr Thorne about the issue.

**153/02/20. To receive reports from:**

- a) County Cllr.** A written report was circulated by email.
- b) District Cllr.** No report.
- c) Police.** Dealt with under item 150/02/20.
- d) Any Other Reports.** No other reports.

**154/02/20. Finance:**

- a) To agree and authorise any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:  
Cllr Mrs S Drury - £30.15 mileage expenses to attend planning training course (Payment ref: 1920/30)  
Cllr C Silverlight – refund for cost of ticket to Trees for Somerset event and mileage expenses for attendance (Payment ref: 1920/31)  
Mrs J Larcombe - £318.25 Clerk's salary and expenses (Payment ref: 1920/32)  
The Clerk reported she had received an invoice from SWTC for the grass cutting but the Council had been charged for 12 cuts when there had only been 11 cuts. She had also received an invoice for emptying the dog bin which was also incorrect. The Council had been charged for emptying the bin twice a week when the contract was for emptying the bin once a week. It was agreed they could be paid when the invoices were corrected.
- b) To consider spending v budget 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.** The report was noted and there were no areas of concern.
- c) Appointment of internal auditor for Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.** It was agreed to appoint Karen Ward who has carried out the internal audit for the last two years.

**155/02/20. Playing Field:**

- a) Any matters to report from inspections carried out during the previous month and any actions taken or to be taken as a result.** It was noted the damaged slat in one of the seats in the playing field has still not been replaced.
- b) To receive SWTC quotes for cutting the Playing Field and emptying the dog bin.** SWTC has quoted £102.24 per cut, an increase of £28.28 (38.2%) from 2019-20. Twelve cuts are planned for. The quote for emptying the dog bin is £5.40 for a once weekly collection. This is an increase of 37p per collection (6.9%). It was agreed to accept the quotes once the invoices for 2019-20 are correct.
- c) Any other playing field matters.** Due to the wet weather this winter the field is so wet that people cannot use it.

**156/02/20. Footpaths: any footpath matters brought forward.** On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 old footpaths and bridleways that are not recorded on a Council's Definitive Map of Rights of Way may

cease to carry public rights. People can ask for footpaths that are not recorded as defined to be considered to be recorded as defined. SCC has a ten year waiting list of paths waiting for consideration. Councillors were not aware of any paths in the parish that are not on SCC's Definitive Map of Rights of Way.

**157/02/20. To discuss correspondence regarding the Community Newsletter.** The PCC Treasurer has emailed the Clerk to say that as a church they have also been thinking about the magazine and where perhaps they go for the future. The cost of printing the newsletter is around £530 and the church currently is struggling to meet its commitments to the diocese. They wonder whether the content is of much interest to the parish as a whole, given the number in the congregation. There are sufficient people to deliver it at present but he agrees that going forward the number will decrease. As time goes by it is becoming more of a community newsletter as opposed to a church newsletter. The idea of getting it emailed was recognised as a good idea but the PCC would have to be mindful of GDPR and who could hold and administer the database. At this point in time he doesn't know anybody within the church who would want to undertake this job. The PCC has been toying with the idea of asking the Parish Council if they would like to take it over and run it as a genuine community newsletter with the church just being one of the contributors. He acknowledged that what the Parish Council has said makes a great deal of sense but he is not sure that at this time the church is in the position to undertake the change that would probably be required, which is why he is looking at someone else to take it on. Unofficially a member of the PCC told a councillor that the email from the Parish Council had not been well received. The Parish Council acknowledged that change is difficult. At this point no formal application for funding has been received.

**158/02/20. To discuss how the Parish Council can determine whether loneliness is an issue in the parish.** Councillors discussed the opportunities for people to socialise in the parish and noted these include the Friendship Group and the Pub Night. The Pub Night brings in a lot of people and the Friendship Group has a large membership, but these also include people from outside of the parish. Councillors recognised that it is difficult to identify some of the people who are lonely and often they do not want to be part of a large group. The Church cream teas were an opportunity for lonely people to come and have a chat. Cllr Silverlight said he had not detected anyone in his area who was lonely. Cllr Mrs Drury said that everyone in Ruggin knows each other and most households look out for each other. Men in Sheds is a group for men to meet and socialise and some men in the parish might be interested in being part of something like this. The Taunton Model Engineers model railway being built in the parish could be another opportunity. The Community Council for Somerset Village Agent Scheme covers West Buckland and the Village Agent can find out who needs support and signpost them to it. Details of the scheme will be publicised on Facebook and the parish website. Cllr Mrs Drury suggested the Council could organise an opportunity for people to meet for tea and cake at the Village Hall with transport being arranged for those who need it. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**159/02/20. Correspondence and items of interest.** The Hospital of John Popham should have two representatives from West Buckland on its board which overviews the management of the John Popham Flats in Wellington. Cllr Mrs Blogg is one of the representatives and is willing to continue when she retires from the Parish Council. Another representative needs to be found and it doesn't need to be a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Mitton offered to be the second representative but he could fill one of the Wellington representatives vacancies if someone from West Buckland comes forward.

**160/02/20. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions).** The JCB's that were parked in the field at the front of the Foxmoor Business Park have been sold at auction and are being moved.

**161/02/20. Date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st March 2020.