

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr's Mrs M Blogg (Chair), D Lacey, Mrs S Drury, D Mitton, J Nutt and C Silverlight.  
**In attendance:** County Cllr J Thorne, District Cllr R Habgood, and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**191/07/20. To accept apologies for absence.** There were no apologies.

**192/07/20. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Mitton declared a personal interest in the payment to SALC (item 169/07/20 a) as Chairman of SALC.

**193/07/20. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 30/06/20.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**194/07/20. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.** Planning appeal APP/W3330/W/20/3240206 – the planning inspector was due to carry out a site visit on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**195/07/20. Democratic Period.** No members of the public present.

**196/07/20. Planning:**

**a) To consider any planning applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting.**

**46/20/0014** Erection of a single storey detached garage at 6 Castle Cottages, Ham, Wellington. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the granting of approval.

It was noted that the road into Castle Cottages is unadopted but this is not a planning consideration.

**46/20/0017** Replacement of garage with garage and carport, erection of single storey extensions to the front and side and erection of fencing at Greenside, West Buckland Road, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the granting of approval.

**b) To receive decisions from planning applications determined by SWT Council.** No decisions reported.

**c) Update on planning enforcement cases.** Details of alleged planning breaches reported at the last meeting have been emailed to SWTC Planning Department and reference

numbers have been given to the Clerk. Cllr Silverlight was unhappy that the Council had not received a response regarding the lack of planning approval for the camp site and the Clerk was asked to chase this up with the Planning Enforcement Officer.

**d) Notes from House of Somerset Consultation Meeting – to record.** Notes from the meeting held via Zoom on the 7<sup>th</sup> July have been circulated by email.

**e) Any other planning matters.** There were no other planning matters.

#### **167/07/20. Highways.**

**a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC.** Cllr Lacey has reported some potholes but no repairs have taken place.

**b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work.** There has been more flooding near the Village Hall, following heavy rain. Cllr Thorne will follow this up with SCC.

**c) Update on fingerpost sign repairs.** West Country Blacksmiths Ltd have been informed that their quote has been accepted and the order has been acknowledged. Cllr Silverlight said he would like to look at the fingerpost sign at Manleys to see if the bolts can be undone. If it can be dismantled repairs could be organised. Cllr Mrs Drury would like to paint the fingerpost sign at Ruggin but as there need to be 2 people present there are Covid-19 implications.

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

#### **168/07/20. To note any written reports from:**

**a) County Cllr.** A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Thorne referred to the £1 million Community Climate Change Fund, due to be launched in August. All town and parish councils will receive an info pack in August telling them about the fund and how to bid. A first tranche of bids will be accepted in September and a second window will be opened, probably in November, for those councils who have not been able to prepare a scheme any quicker. Cllr Thorne is concerned about how much money will be left by November. Those councils which get in first are likely to get most of the money. Schemes could include solar panels for village halls or getting people to cycle.

Cllr Thorne left the meeting.

**b) District Cllr.** Cllr Habgood reported that there had not been much change since last month. The Local Plan has been with the Inspector for 9 months but it can take up to 18 months before they are ready to report back. The Investment Strategy is being reviewed and discussed. Cllr Habgood is an observer on the committee and most meetings are held in Part 2. He remains concerned about SWTC's lack of engagement in the One Council for Somerset proposal and feels there should be more discussion. The building of housing in North Taunton is progressing well and SWTC have done a great job with the placement of people who lived in the area that is being redeveloped. The work required to repair the coastal edge at Blue Anchor and between Blue Anchor and Watchet is causing anxiety.

**c) Police.** The Police report for June was circulated by email at the beginning of July. There were 156 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat for the month of June 2020. This does not include calls involving Wellington Town. 8 calls involved Wellington Without. The calls were for a RTC, abandoned vehicles, found property and domestic. A call was received for a theft from a motor vehicle. There was a reminder to ensure your vehicle is locked, parked if possible under a light source and anything suspicious reported by phoning 101. There were 17 calls to police for ASB across the whole of the rural beat in June. This included 1 for Wellington without for tractor driving.

Cllr Mrs Blogg noted there had been some negative comments about policing in the

Wellington Weekly and felt in some cases they were incorrect or unjustified.

**169/07/20. Finance:**

**a) To agree and authorise any payments including the SALC Affiliation Fee for 2020-21.** Cllr Mitton declared a personal interest in the payment to SALC as Chairman of SALC.

It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mrs J Larcombe - £303.64 Clerk's salary, home working expenses for July, Zoom monthly subscription (Payment ref: 2021/08).

SALC - £311.00 annual affiliation fee (Payment ref: 2021/09).

£614.64 will be transferred from the Instant Access account to the Current account to return it to £500.00.

**b) To agree to sign the Certificate of Exemption.** The receipts and payments for 2019-20 were both below £25,000. It was unanimously agreed to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

**c) To receive the Internal Auditor's Report.** To be reported to the next meeting.

**d) To agree the Annual Governance Statement.** This was unanimously agreed.

**e) To agree the Annual Accounting Statement.** This was unanimously agreed.

**f) Comparison of Spending v Budget for April – June 2020.** The report was noted and there were no questions.

**170/07/20. Playing Field**

**a) Update on the reopening of the play area and any issues arising.** The play area has been reopened and signs have been displayed to warn users about the dangers of Covid-19 and the precautions they should be taking when using the equipment.

**b) Any matters arising from routine inspections of the play area.** Cllr Nutt has started his routine inspections of the play area again now it has reopened. He reported that the goal posts were starting to work loose and this will be monitored. He is storing the goal post net supports. Two were removed, with some damage, by people using the field while the play area was closed. The others have been removed for safe keeping. Cllr Silverlight will empty the bin in the play area on a regular basis.

The provision of PPE was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Lacey will purchase two boxes of nitrile gloves for Cllr Nutt and Cllr Silverlight to use when they are carrying out these tasks. The invoice will be sent to the Clerk and a repayment will be made to Cllr Lacey.

A member of the public has reported cracks in the wall by the basketball post. It is understood that the wall was reinforced when it was built. The Annual Playground Inspection is due and the wall will be checked.

Cllr Mitton left the meeting during this item due to problems with his connection. He joined the meeting again at the end of the item.

**c) To discuss adding equipment to the play area.** Cllr Mrs Drury suggested adding a concrete table tennis table to the equipment in the play area to provide something for older children and adults to use. She is obtaining three quotes and the cost is expected to be about £2,500 plus VAT. Residents will be consulted using the Parish Council Facebook page and comments will be allowed for the post.

**d) Any other playing field matters.** It was agreed to book the usual contractor to cut the hedges of the playing field and other locations around the village.

**171/07/20. Update on the future production of the Community Newsletter.** The Clerk has

suggested that the PCC and Parish Council put together a joint request for a volunteer to produce the Community Newsletter but has heard no more. The PCC would like the Parish Council to take responsibility for the newsletter if a volunteer is found.

**172/07/20. Update on Parish Councillor Vacancy.** There was no update as no information has been received from SWTC despite a reminder from the Clerk to the Monitoring Officer.

**173/07/20. To agree the Council's response to the SALC LGR Review.** Any response needs to reflect the local view. All West Buckland councillors are volunteers who already have busy lives and would not be able to take on more. There was also a view that if parish councils felt they were empowered they might be more interested in getting involved, at present they deal with the minutiae and often feel they are not listened too. While a small parish does not have the resources to take more on but it could consider working with other parishes as a part of a local network. A LGR would give the possibility of joining together with another parish or parishes.

The Town Clerk for Wellington Town Council has contacted the clerks for parishes of Wellington Without, Sampford Arundel, Langford Budville, Nynehead and West Buckland to invite representatives to a virtual meeting for a shared discussion about aspirations (or indeed concerns) for the possible new regime. The invitation will be accepted and Cllr Mitton and the Clerk will represent West Buckland.

Cllr Habgood said the Council was not alone in its views and it would be silly to say all town and parish councils should take on more. Larger councils might want to take on more but the feedback to SALC from smaller councils needs to be listened to. He added well done for having the conversation.

**174/07/20. Correspondence to note.** There was no further correspondence.

**175/07/20. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** The Village Hall Committee are holding their AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> August and the Parish Council, as a hall user, has been asked to appoint a representative to sit on the committee. This verbal request was received after the agenda for this meeting was published. Fewer organisations are using the hall now so there are less people on the committee. If the Parish Council appoints a representative to the Village Hall Committee, they will need to become a Charity Trustee, registered with the Charity Commission. There were no volunteers to become a representative and this will be discussed again in the future when a new councillor is co-opted.

**176/07/20. Date and arrangements for the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held via Zoom on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman

Date