

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held Virtually, via Zoom, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 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:** County Cllr J Thorne and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**162/06/20. To accept apologies for absence.** No apologies received.

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") came into force on 4 April and enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until May next year. They also remove the requirement to hold an annual meeting. As there will be no Annual Meeting Cllr Mrs Blogg has decided to defer her retirement for the time being and will continue as Chair. Prior to the start of the 28<sup>th</sup> January meeting Cllr Mrs Peace warned the Council she might not be able to attend Parish Council for a few months for work and personal reasons and offered to resign. It was decided that it would be better for her to take time to make the decision and, if she decided to do so, it would be better if she resigned in April or May when Cllr Mrs Blogg planned to retire. Cllr Mrs Blogg asked Cllr Mrs Peace if she still wanted to resign and she said she did not. Cllr Mrs Blogg said she was surprised to hear that as she had received a report that Cllr Mrs Peace had spoken to a member of the public and, during the conversation, had allegedly made allegations about the way she was being treated by the Council and had spoken of her poor opinion of the Council. Following a discussion about the allegations Cllr Mrs Peace resigned. Cllr Mrs Blogg asked the Council if they accepted her resignation and it was accepted. Cllr Mitton abstained from the decision.

**163/06/20. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** There were no disclosures.

**164/06/20. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 25/02/20.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. They will be signed by the Chair at a future date.

**165/06/20. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.** Cllr Silverlight referred to the item on the February minutes that said loneliness will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. This referred to the meeting planned for 31<sup>st</sup> March, which could not be held. Cllr Mrs Blogg said that when the country was coming towards the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, loneliness would be discussed again to look at strengthening support

for members of the community who were experiencing loneliness or who might do in the future. During the lockdown volunteers have been recruited to contact and talk to people who have been on their own.

**166/06/20. Democratic Period.** There were no requests from members of the public for an invitation to join the meeting.

**167/06/20. Planning:**

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

**46/10/0010** Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of Hopkins Farm, Gerbestone Road, West Buckland.

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

Councillors noted one comment made on their behalf since the last meeting.

**46/20/0009** Change of use from Class A1 & A2 to Class D2 (Assembly & Leisure) at Unit E, Monument View, Summerfield Avenue, Chelston Business Park.

Comment made by Clerk in conjunction with Chair and Vice-chair. West Buckland Parish Council's only concern is the provision of adequate parking for the number of clients using the facility.

The following application has been withdrawn:

**46/20/0001** Erection of one three bed detached house with garage and formation of access in the garden of Llantarmam, Chelston Nurseries, Nursery Lane, Chelston.

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

**46/19/0037** Formation of menage for private use at Cordings Farm, Silver Street, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval.

**46/18/0014** Change of Use from horticultural to a B1 (C) and a B8 (Storage only) use at Sellick Nurseries, Chelston, Wellington. Decision: Conditional approval.

**46/20/0002** Change of Use of Workshop (Class B2) to fitness gym (Class D2) at Unit 2, Morrishes Farm, West Buckland (Retention of works already undertaken).

Conditional approval.

**c) Any other planning matters.** Councillors considered a Footpath Diversion Application for footpath WG 14/31 Perrymeade, Blackmoor, West Buckland. The diversion is necessary to comply with a condition of the approval for planning application 46/19/0025 for an extension at Perrymeade. It is planned to build an extension to the property over the existing footpath. The Council has no objections to the proposed diversion.

It was reported that the outbuildings at Alebar Farm have been improved and might be being used as residential accommodation.

There was also the same concern about the use of outbuildings at Moon Farm.

A ménage has put in at Crossways Farm but no planning application has been seen.

The Clerk will report these matters to Planning Enforcement.

**168/06/20. Highways.**

**a) Matters arising from previous meeting/s.** No matters were brought forward.

**b) To note Fingerpost sign damage and repair.** Fingerpost 10 Blackmoor 28434734 has been damaged and Cllr Silverlight was able to trace that the damage had been caused by an employee of Hi-Line Contractors (SW) Ltd. He has contacted the company and they have agreed to pay for the repair to the fingerpost. A quote for the work was obtained from West Country Blacksmiths Ltd and it will cost £735.00 plus VAT to repair. Cllr Silverlight was thanked for his efforts in finding the culprits and obtaining their agreement to pay for the repairs. Arrangements will be made for the work to be carried out. Cllr Nutt will find out

when the foundry can cast the new arm for the repairs to the fingerpost at Budgetts Cross.

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

**169/06/20. To note any written reports from:**

**a) County Cllr.** A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting.

**b) District Cllr.** No report.

**c) Police.** Police Reports for February, April and May had been circulated by email since the last meeting, In April there were 236 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat, an increase of 108 from March. These included 3 calls for Wellington Without for a domestic, possession of a controlled substance and theft of a planted-up tractor tyre. There were 12 calls relating to anti-social behaviour, including 2 for Wellington Without.

In May there were 209 calls into 101 and 99 for the Wellington Rural Beat, including 2 calls for Wellington Without. These calls were for sheep killed by dogs and a break in at Sampford Arundel Cricket Club. There were 14 calls for anti-social behaviour.

**170/06/20. Finance:**

**a) To agree and authorise any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payment: Mrs J Larcombe - £289.25 Clerk's salary (May) and home working allowance (Payment ref: 2021/04).

Annual Insurance Premium – the renewal date for the insurance was 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. In agreement with the Chair, the Clerk had reviewed the policy and agreed to renew the insurance with BHIB Ltd at a cost of £529.02 (Payment ref: 2021/03).

**b) Payments made since the last meeting.** The Clerk reported to the Council on the payments that had been made with the agreement of the Chair, as in the Council's Financial Regulations.

March payments for 2019-20.

Somerset West and Taunton Council - £1290.14 Grass cutting and dog bin emptying. It was agreed on 25.02.20 that payment could be made when the corrected invoices were received. The Clerk confirmed the correct invoices and credit notes had been received (Payment ref: 1920/33).

West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £24.00 room hire January and February. Invoice amended as the March meeting was not held. (Payment ref: 1920/34).

Mrs J Larcombe - £343.25 Clerk's salary, home working expenses, mileage for play area Bank charges of £18.00 were withdrawn on 31.03.20.

meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March and repayment of ICO fee (Payment ref: 1920/35).

There was a transfer of £1706.39 from the Current Account to the Instant Access to return the Current Account balance to £500.

April payments for 2020-21.

Somerset West and Taunton Council - £100.00 uncontested election expenses for May 2019 (Payment ref: 2021/01)

Mrs J Larcombe - £289.25 Clerk monthly salary and home working expenses (Payment ref: 2021/02).

The Clerk reported the 2020-21 Precept of £9891.00 was received from SWTC on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

A CIL payment of £633.10 was received on 16<sup>th</sup> April. This relates to planning application 46/18/0033 – The Flat, 2A Dyers Close, West Buckland.

There was a transfer of £11,424.99 from the Current Account to the Instant Access to return the Current Account balance to £500.

The Current account balance on 31.05.20 - £500.00

The Instant Access account balance on 31.05.20 - £33,985.72

**c) To resolve to pay the Churchyard Grant.** It was agreed to pay West Buckland PCC £1,250.00, the 2020-21 Churchyard Grant. This payment was made earlier than normal, and prior to any grant being paid by SWTC, due to COVID-19 as the Church's income has been reduced during lockdown.

**d) To note 2019 -20 accounts prior to agreement at next meeting.** The Clerk informed councillors these would be circulated following the meeting.

**171/06/20. Correspondence to note.** An email has been received from Nigel Muers-Raby, Director of The House of Somerset, requesting a consultation meeting with the Council to discuss the proposals prior to a planning application being submitted. This meeting will have to be held virtually and the Clerk will suggest they offer two or three dates to choose from. A letter has been received by email from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader SCC, regarding progress with his preferred option for a single 'Unitary Council in Somerset. A business case will be presented at the July SCC Council meeting. Cllr Mitton spoke on behalf of SALC and referred to a report commissioned by SALC, SLCC and other interested parties as a contribution to the debate around local government reorganisation (LGR) in Somerset. The report shows how parishes could contribute and proposes a structure to enable that to happen. Crucially, though, it recommends that parishes must enter into discussions about taking on more responsibilities "by request". Some of the problems in other parts of the South West stemmed from the new unitary "dumping" unwanted services and assets on the parishes. This must not happen in Somerset. The timescale for submitting a business case or proposal to deliver LGR in Somerset to the government is in the next two months. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**172/06/20. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** There was no urgent business.

**173/06/20. Arrangements for the next meeting.** It was agreed to return to holding monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of the month. These will be held virtually, using Zoom as the meeting platform, until the government allow face to face meetings to resume.