

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Mrs M K Blogg
4 Peacocks Close
West Buckland
TA21 9JY
Tel 01823 663378
email margaretblogg@btinternet.com

Clerk – Mrs J Larcombe
6 The Old School
Chapel Street
Tiverton
EX16 6ND
Tel 01884 252647
email westbucklandclerk@gmail.com

www.westbuckland.org

Councillors you are summonsed to attend a Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held via Zoom on Tuesday 27th October 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, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe

216/10/20. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were received from PCSO V Henderson.

217/10/20. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. No disclosures.

218/10/20. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29/09/20. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

219/10/20. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

220/10/20. Democratic Period. The member of the public did not wish to speak.

221/10/20. Co-option of a Councillor. Information provided by the two people who had expressed an interest in being co-opted had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors decided to invite both applicants to the next meeting to explain why they want to become a councillor and to answer questions councillors might have. Both candidates should be asked the same questions. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form will be sent to both applicants so the successful applicant can sign the form in front of the Council and join the meeting.

222/10/20. Planning:

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

46/20/0015 Erection of 8 No. three storey dwellings with associated works on the car park to the Blackbird Inn, Wellington Road, West Buckland (retention of part works already undertaken).

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council recommends that this application is refused for the following reasons:

- Over development of the site
- The design of the dwellings is not in keeping with other dwellings in the area
- The access is unsuitable taking into account the garden centre on the opposite side

of Hockholler Lane

46/20/0021 Erection of an agricultural building to serve as a machinery store with associated operational development to include formation of a consolidated yard area on land at Hamlands, Chelston. West Buckland Parish Council resolved not to comment on this application.

b) To note 46/20/0020 CQ Prior Approval for proposed change of use from 3 agricultural barns to 4 dwellings (Use Class 3) and associated building operations at Silver Street Farm, Silver Street, West Buckland. Although the application is on the SW&T website the Parish Council has not been notified about the application as a consultee. The application was noted.

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

46/20/0014 Erection of a single storey detached garage at 6 Castle Cottages, Ham, Wellington. Decision: conditional approval granted.

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. Decision: conditional approval granted.

d) To note the Somerset West and Taunton Council Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Reports are now available. The consultation has concluded, and the report summarises the comments received. This is part of the process of developing the Local Plan.

e) To inform councillors about a virtual training session for Parish Councils on Tuesday 10 November 2020. The first part of the session is an introduction to the Planning Process and councillor's Role as a Ward Member. The second part is a briefing regarding Phosphates on the Somerset Levels and Moors.

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

223/10/20. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC. Nothing reported.

b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work. An email has been received from Gwyn Hughes, Assistant Highway Service Manager (AHS), regarding the flooding problem in Silver Street. The current situation is that after the initial flooding report on the 19th August, the AHS attended and identified a blocked gully which he requested to be cleaned out under a safety callout. On the 21.08.20 SCC's contractors attended and replaced a seized gully lid and cleaned out the gully. This did not clear the blockage, so a jetter was ordered and it was reported back that although the system was slowly emptying, no outfall could be located, and it needed further investigation. SCC has no records of this system, but the AHS believes that the drainage system outfalls into the Wessex Water foul water system. He has liaised with Wessex, but they have no records either. As a result of this, the AHS has requested a CCTV survey of the system to get a better idea what the problem is and where the system outfalls. This was submitted in mid-September and their contractors have 3 months to complete the works. To date these works have not been completed, so he still does not have a definitive answer to feed back. Mr Hughes assured the Council that SCC will pursue this to a successful conclusion. It is believed the CCTV inspection will cost about £700.

c) To note temporary road closure on West Buckland Road on 10th November 2020 until 11th November 2020 between the hours of (08:00 - 15:30) enable Wessex Water to permanently reinstate carriageway patch. The temporary road closure was noted.

d) Update on fingerpost sign refurbishment. Cllr Silverlight, Cllr Mrs Drury and Cllr Nutt had a site meeting last week to plan the work to paint the finger post sign at Ruggin. It is hoped to do this next week. A risk assessment has been carried out and the paperwork

has been submitted to SCC and acknowledged. Cllr Silverlight will check that it has been approved. Cllr Lacey will loan signage and cones.

e) Any other highways matters. The trailer that had been left in the lay by close to Foxmoor Business Park has been removed and had not been abandoned, which the Council had been worried about. Cllr Nutt contacted South West Computer Recycling Ltd and was told it belonged to a customer of theirs. The trailer was removed soon after the phone call. PCSO Hallett, who has been working with PCSO Henderson, was very helpful and checked the chassis number of the trailer to try and find the owner.

224/10/20. To note any reports from:

a) County Cllr. A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Thorne reminded the Council about the Climate Emergency grant funding and the two windows for applications. He urged the council to apply during the first window as he is concerned most of the funding will be allocated during this period. Cllr Mitton said he had attended the SALC virtual Climate Change meeting where councillors had been told £0.5million had been allocated for each application period. Cllr Thorne said he had been told by the Leader of SCC that he wanted the funding to be used as soon as possible. His view is that he does not feel that officers are referring to councillors.

Cllr Mitton said he did not agree with Cllr Thorne's comments in his report about One Somerset and Stronger Somerset: he has attended two meetings, and each has different parts that he doesn't agree with.

b) District Cllr. Cllr Habgood reported that there had been a multi vehicle accident at the Worlds End junction of the A38. This is known to be a dangerous junction and he will try to collect some data as it is accident statistics that help it to move up the scheme for improvements. It is possible that there could be an extension to the scheme to pedestrianise East Street, Taunton. Barriers stop traffic using this road between 10.00am and 4.00pm. A SW&T Full Council meeting was held last night to discuss their Climate Emergency Strategy and the Resilience Action Plans have now been passed. It is now about getting it delivered. The next Planning Committee meeting has been cancelled. A number of applications have issues with run off going into the Somerset Levels and causing problems with Phosphate run off. These are expected to be mitigated. An e-scooter hire scheme trial is being carried out in Taunton. Anyone hiring one needs a full driving licence and the cost is £1 plus 10p per minute. SW&T are supporting small businesses in Minehead, Taunton and Wellington by offering them the use of Shopappy, an e-commerce app, free for a year to help them offer online shopping or services. Work has started on sea defence work between Blue Anchor and Watchet. Dredging has started again in Watchet harbour. One Somerset and Stronger Somerset business cases have been submitted. He expects there to be little change to the One Somerset business case but more substantial changes to the Stronger Somerset one. Cllr Habgood has been following up on a complaint about the lack of grass cutting on an area of open space at Cobb Castle. He has researched the ownership of the land and the maintenance agreement. He noted the Local Plan Consultation report.

c) Police. The Police Report for September was circulated by email in early October. There were 146 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat for the month of September. There were 13 calls for anti-social behavior.

d) Wellington Town Council and adjoining Parish Councils meeting. A meeting held on 14th October had been attended by Cllr Mitton and the Clerk. Cllr Mitton reported that very little had been decided and the meeting had focussed more on getting to know each other. He was concerned that there had not been any representation from Welling Without Parish Council for the second time so there had not been a complete picture of the councils around Wellington. All councils within the Wellington Network Partnership need to be equal and he felt that if Wellington Town Council facilitate the meetings the chair should

come from one of the parishes. There could be mileage in economy of scale for contracts such as grass cutting and this needs to be talked about before services are devolved.

225/10/20. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. Cllr Silverlight declared a pecuniary interest in his expense claim and took no part in the agreement to pay it.

It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mrs J Larcombe -£313.89 Clerk's salary, home working expenses for October, printing and Zoom subscription (Payment ref: 2021/17)

Cllr C Silverlight - £37.44 black Hammerite paint 2 x 750ml (Payment ref: 2021/18)

Mr J Stanworth - £475.00 trimming footpaths, areas in Peacocks Close and Church Drive, Silver Street Green etc. Cutting the grass around the war memorial (Cheque no 300004)

b) To agree a donation to The Royal British Legion for Remembrance. It was resolved to donate £50.00. This was an increase of £20 from 2019/20 in recognition of the difficulties RBL are experiencing in fund raising due to Covid-19.

c) To note spending compared to budget Quarter 2 2020-21. The report was noted and there were no concerns.

226/10/20. Playing Field

a) Any points to note from the regular inspections. It was noted that the roundabout needs greasing. Cllr Lacey will attend to this. Cllr Nutt was inspecting the play area when the bin was emptied by a SW&T employee who said he was under instruction to empty both the dog litter bin and the bin in the play area. The Parish Council has only signed a contract with SW&T for the dog bin to be emptied. Cllr Mrs Blogg and the Clerk raised this in a meeting with Duncan Lane of SW&T when the playing field grass cutting and dog bin emptying contracts were being discussed. The Parish Council is only being invoiced for the emptying of the dog bin.

Cllr Nutt said the goal posts need a coat of paint.

b) To consider the purchase of a bench. Three quotations had been obtained. It was agreed to order a bench from Kedel Ltd, the colour to be brown. The cost, including delivery is £231.41. Cllr Lacey will look at the specification to check whether it can be secured with earth anchors or whether it will need to be set into a small foundation of concrete. This cost will be additional.

c) Any other Playing Field matters. It was recorded in the minutes of the Village Hall Committee meeting held on 7th October that the pedestrian gate into the playing field had been knocked off its hinges and damaged by an unknown driver. It has been put back onto its hinges. Councillors queried who is responsible for the fence. The Village Hall Committee carry out repairs and paint the fence.

The hedge around the playing field has been cut but the inside and top of the play area hedge still needs to be cut. The hedge opposite Frogs Lane and the roadside hedge for the play area have also been cut.

The main battery for the defibrillator needs to be replaced in January. A new battery will be ordered through the website.

227/10/20. Footpaths:

a) To report on issues on Footpaths WG14/11, T29/34 and T29/39.

WG14/11 - SCC Rights of Way Department has received a request for the stile in the field below the playing field to be replaced by a gate. Cllr Mitton said it would be the responsibility of the landowner to put in the gate, but the Parish Council could contribute to the cost if they were not willing to pay for it. Stiles can no longer be replaced by stiles and must be replaced by a gate for accessibility reasons.

T29/34 & T29/39 – an application for a diversion order was refused due to an objection and the path is now blocked. Cllr Mitton is following this up with Rights of Way. There have been complaints that the footpath that runs along Gerbestone Manor is blocked and Cllr Mitton will go and have a look.

b) To note confirmed diversion order on part of Footpath WG 14 /31. The Footpath Diversion Order has been confirmed at Perrymeade, Blackmoor, West Buckland. This will satisfy one of the conditions of the planning approval for extensions to Perrymeade.

228/10/20. Response from Village Hall Committee regarding the Parish Council’s decision about the rubbish bin. The Village Hall Committee were disappointed with the Council’s response that they did not wish to undertake responsibility for the bin and would remove it. They have decided that they do not want it removed and will monitor the situation for the next few months. It is understood a committee member is willing to empty the bin.

229/10/20. Climate Emergency Fund: to discuss any possible projects that the Parish Council could apply for funding towards. Cllr Mrs Drury and the Clerk have arranged to meet with the Chair and Vice-chair of the Village Hall Committee to put together an application to apply for funding for solar panels and LED lighting for the hall.

230/10/20. Cancellation of usual Remembrance Sunday arrangements due to Covid-19. The Church Wardens will hold a short service at the memorial where Cllr Silverlight will read out the names of the fallen and there will be a prayer. This will not be publicised to avoid a crowd. Anyone attending will need to observe social distancing. Permission was granted for pebbles painted by children to be placed inside the railings of the memorial.

231/10/20. Update on meeting website accessibility requirement and new draft of wording for Parish Council page. Cllr Mitton has drafted some new wording explaining the duties and responsibilities of the Parish Council. The Clerk will fit this to the website. It was decided to remove all but the last years Community Newsletters. Parish Council minutes before 2014 will be removed.

232/10/20. Correspondence to note. It will cost £55 to obtain a fire report for the recent fire at Poole. Cllr Nutt reported the company concerned had tidied up the site and it was agreed not to purchase a copy. An email with details of training sessions offered by SALC has been circulated by the Clerk. Councillors interested in attending a session can ask the Clerk to book a place for them. Taunton Model Engineers have successfully applied to SW&T for trees from their ‘Trees for Life’ scheme.

233/10/20. Any urgent business at the Chairman’s discretion. There was no urgent business.

234/10/20. Date and arrangements for the next meeting. The next meeting will be held virtually using Zoom on 24th November at 7.30pm.