

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Mrs M Blogg (Chair), D Lacey, S Bellamy, Ms S Drury, D Mitton, J Nutt and C Silverlight,

**In attendance:** Cty Cllr J Thorne, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**312/04/21. To accept apologies for absence.** There were no apologies.

**313/04/21. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** There were no disclosures.

**314/04/21. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 30/03/21 as an accurate record.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

**315/04/21. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.** There were no matters arising.

**316/04/21. Democratic Period.** The member of the public had attended to explain the variation in hours for planning application 46/21/0009. He would like to open for an additional hour in the evening and two at the weekends for open gym, there will be no additional classes.

**317/04/21. Planning:**

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

**46/21/0006** Amended Plans Erection of entrance lobby and temporary cabins for office and MRI with alterations to car park and internal reconfiguration at Cave Veterinary Services, Georges Farm, West Buckland Road, West Buckland. The parish Council had no further comment.

**46/21/0009** Variation of Condition No. 03 (hours and days of working) of application 46/20/0002 at Pulse Gym, Unit 2 Morrishes Farm, West Buckland Road, West Buckland  
Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the application.

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

**46/21/0005** Erection of industrial unit for use as workshop, store and sales space (Class B2) with associated trade counter, parking and works on land off Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Decision: conditional approval granted.

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

The member of public left the meeting.

### **318/04/21. Highways.**

**a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC.** The Clerk has received an email from a resident whose wife has to use a mobility scooter and has difficulty when she gets to the end of Dyers Close where she has to go into the road and then go outside the parked cars to go towards the Village Hall and Playing Field. This can be particularly dangerous for her, especially at night if they are going to the Village Hall. The Parish Council have been asked if they would request that Highways consider lowering the kerb where the footpath ends near Frog Lane. Especially if they are going to carry out the proposed works at the end of Dyers Close to drop the kerb. Cllr Silverlight asked if CIL funds could be used for this if Highways are unwilling to pay for it. The Clerk asked if item c) could be discussed before looking at this. The Council supported this request, and the Clerk will contact Highways and ask for this to be considered.

**b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work.** No update.

**c) Response from SCC on suggestion for a 20 mph zone in the village.** Kate Brown, Traffic Engineer, has told the Clerk that the rough approximate cost for a village the size of West Buckland could be around £8k which includes the cost of advertising the Traffic Regulation Order and installation of signs and lines. The Parish Council would be expected to pay for this. Cllr Silverlight questioned whether this would be value for money as it wouldn't be enforced. Cllr Nutt said there was already a 20mph limit around the school and Lee Park. Cllr Drury asked whether it would be cheaper to extend the 20mph limit back to the Village Hall. Cllr Mitton asked Cllr Thorne about SCC's policy on Speed Indicator Devices (SID). He explained that highways used to have SIDs but when they came to the end of their working lives a couple of years ago they could not afford to replace them and it is now up to parishes to buy or rent their own SID. Highways can help parishes with advice on how and where to do so. Pitminster Parish Council have bought their own SID, and are currently discussing buying a second one, and they could be approached to hire it out to West Buckland. Highways do have devices to carry out speed checks over a period of days. Cllr Drury said the Truvelo system was very good. It was agreed that Cllr Thorne would ask Highways so carry out a speed check. Once councillors have the data it will inform the decision on what needs to be done. If there is no speed issue that can be fed back to parishioners.

**d) Any other highways matters.** Cllr Bellamy warned councillors that there had been a spate of thefts of catalytic converters from diesel cars. His had been stolen when his car was parked in the Park and Ride carpark at Silk Mills.

Cllr Silverlight, Cllr Ms Drury and Cllr Nutt have painted the finger post sign at Manley's Farm. Cllr Nutt was bitten by a tick when they were doing this. The new arm now needs to be put on and Cllr Lacey will help with this.

The damaged section of the parapet of Steart Bridge has moved. This has been reported to Highways and is now in the works list for repair.

### **319/04/21. To note any reports from:**

**a) County Cllr.** A written report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

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

**c) Police.** No report.

**d) SALC Local Government Reorganisation Event.** Two virtual meetings were held. One for West Somerset councils and one for East Somerset Councils. One Somerset and Stronger Somerset were represented at both. Cllr Mitton said that whether people like it or not there will be a change to unitary as both proposals are recommending it. The NALC

comment has been circulated. The District Councils suddenly announced that they wanted to pursue a vote on which proposal was supported by the public. David Fothergill, Leader SCC, said he needed to think about it. Cllr Silverlight asked if it would include a 'do nothing' choice. Cllr Thorne replied that it will be unitary in one form or other. The Secretary of State has said the District Councils should not be doing this and will need to answer to council tax-payers for incurring a £1.4million cost. The Secretary of State will base his decision on the quality of the responses from the consultation. It was noted that the consultation did ask for a narrative response.

### **320/04/21. Finance:**

**a) To agree and authorise any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments: Mrs J Larcombe - £311.39 Clerk's salary and expenses (Payment ref: 2122/01)  
Cllr C Silverlight - £25.01 paint for fingerpost signs (Payment ref: 2122/02)  
Nigel Richards - £45.00 grass cutting (Payment ref: 2122/03)  
SWT Council - £174.53 grass cutting at playing field and dog bin emptying (Payment ref: 2122/04)

The Clerk reported that the 2021-22 Precept of £9,694 has been received.

Bank balances on 27.04.21: Current account - £10,219.00, Instant Access - £20,876.97. £9,138.07 will be transferred from the Current account to the Instant Access account to return the Current account to £500.00.

It was agreed that Cllr Silverlight could purchase more paint for painting fingerpost signs.

**b) To note signing of Funding Agreement for SCC Climate Emergency Grant and acceptance of quote for project with Village Hall (solar panels & LED lighting).** The Funding Agreement has been received and has been signed by the Clerk.

Cllr Ms Drury, Cllr Bellamy, Cllr Nutt and the Clerk met virtually to discuss the quotes received for the solar panels and LED lighting and agreed that the quote from ARC Solar was the one that should be accepted. The Village Hall Committee have agreed with this and the quote will be accepted.

### **321/04/21. Playing Field**

**a) Any points to note from the regular inspections.** There were no points to note from the inspections. Cllr Nutt would like to paint the goal posts in the next couple of weeks.

**b) Any other Playing Field matters.** SWT employees came to the playing field looking for a deer corpse that had wrongly been reported to have been on the field.

Cllr Nutt will collect the goal nets from Cllr Mrs Blogg. Cllr Mrs Blogg also has the uninflated footballs that came with the goal posts and Cllr Ms Drury has the table tennis bats that came with the concrete table tennis table. There was some discussion on how these could be loaned out, but no decision was reached.

**322/04/21. Footpaths: to discuss any footpath matters.** Cllr Mitton reported that he had been in touch with SCC Rights of Way regarding the proposed diversion of Footpath T29/33 and T29/34 at Reaphay. He did this in his Parish Path Liaison Officer role. He has now arranged a meeting with the landowner regarding the issues that need to be addressed. He reported that he had looked at all the footpaths around Gerbestone Manor and written reports. He will be meeting with the warden. He is planning to do checks on the footpaths in Blackmoor and Ruggin next. Councillors were told that there are differences between how the paths are shown on the footpath map and where they actually are. Cllr Ms Drury reported that nuisance fires are regularly being lit on Buckland Hill. It is of particular concern at present as the area is tinder dry because there has been little rain during April. Aerosols are being put on the fires, adding to the danger. Cllr Ms Drury has been in touch with the Forestry Commission, Fire Brigade and the Police and she is hoping

CCTV cameras will be put up.

**323/04/21. Broadband issues in parts of the parish**

- a) **An update on schemes to improve broadband speed in the parish.** No update.
- b) **Broadband survey.** Cllr Nutt will present a written report next month. He said carrying out a survey was a complicated process.

**324/04/21. Policies:**

- a) **Co-option.** The Person Specification will be changed to Desirable Criteria and the policy will then be brought back to the next meeting for agreement.
- b) **Communication.** No draft ready for consideration. Cllr Silverlight asked for clarification about parishioners contacting him to raise issues. Parishioners can contact councillors but if it is about something that needs a decision to be made it needs to come to the Council. Anonymous communication or people wanting to remain anonymous will be addressed in the policy.

**325/04/21. Correspondence:** There was no further correspondence.

**326/04/21. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** No urgent business.

**327/04/21. Arrangements for 2021 Annual Parish Meeting.** This will be held before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and will commence at 7.30pm. This will be a face to face meeting which will need to adhere to Covid regulations.

**328/04/21. Date and arrangements for the next meeting (Annual Meeting) on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** This will follow the Annual Parish Meeting and will be held in the main hall of West Buckland Village Hall. The Clerk and Cllr Mitton will complete a risk assessment for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:  
Chair

Date: