

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's C Silverlight (Chair), S Bellamy, D Mitton and J Nutt.

In attendance: County Cllr J Thorne, two County Council election candidates and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

193/04/22. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ms Drury and Cllr Lacey.

194/04/22. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

195/04/22. Presentation. Cllr Lacey and Cllr Mitton have both decided not to stand for election and will be leaving the Parish Council. Cllr Mitton was presented with a card and small gift by Cllr Silverlight who thanked him and said his expertise would be sorely missed. Cllr Lacey was unable to be presented with his card and small gift as he had given his apologies due to illness. He was thanked in his absence for all that he done for the Parish Council over the last fifteen years and Councillors agreed that he would also be sorely missed.

196/04/22. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29/03/22 as an accurate record. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

197/04/22. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

198/04/22. Democratic Period. Ross Henley introduced himself and Sarah Wakefield and explained they were both standing in the County Council elections on May 5th for the Blackdown and Neroche Ward. Two councillors will be elected which means the councillors will be able to split the ward. He said they both had useful skills and were campaigning for a better bus service, including bringing back a service to West Buckland. He assured Councillors they would attend meetings if they were elected. Mr Henley mentioned his work with Somerset West and Taunton Council around neurodiversity.

199/04/22. Update on broadband issues. It was noted that in his written report Cllr Thorne

had reported on his meeting with Jurassic Fibre, a commercial company rejected by Connecting Devon and Somerset as not having done enough to prove themselves to be a viable proposition. Since then, Airband, who were given the contract for this area, still has to connect a single premise in the division, while Jurassic have rolled out their commercial network across many communities, including Taunton, Wellington and Ruishton, and now have 85,000 live connections! The work which is being done by Jurassic is cutting across the CDS areas and in effect will make them less viable for Airband, but CDS is continuing with its plans regardless, meaning that millions of pounds of public money is likely to be wasted. There was a recent report in the media about another parish in the Blackdown Hills that is struggling to get a decent broadband service and are frustrated with CDS. Cllr Ms Drury has written to Rebecca Pow MP again about the risks to Ruggin

County Cllr Thorne joined the meeting.

The members of the public left the meeting

200/04/22. County Councillor Report. It was agreed to bring this item forward on the agenda. Cllr Silverlight told Cllr Thorne that his support for West Buckland Parish Council had been first rate and much appreciated. Cllr Thorne told councillors that Somerset Bus Partnership are asking all candidates to sign up to their manifesto before the County Council elections and have said they will publish the names of the candidates who have before the elections. Cllr Thorne said he hadn't been given enough financial information and didn't feel he could sign up. The small number of contested town and parish elections in the SWT area was noted.

Cllr Thorne left the meeting.

201/04/22. Planning:

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

43/22/0048/CLA Notification for prior approval for the installation of 1 No. 15 metre high Phase 8 monopole C/W wraparound cabinet at base and associated ancillary works on land at West Buckland Road, Wellington. Councillors acknowledged that they were not experts in the field but there were concerns about the mast's close proximity to a children's' nursery.

b) Pre-application consultation: proposed 5G Telecommunications Installation for H3G UK. Type of Installation: proposed 15.0m Phase 8 monopole and associated ancillary works. West Buckland Road, Wellington, TA21 8YA. NGR: 315570, N: 120877. The planning application has been received.

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

46/21/0029/CLA Notification for prior approval for the installation of 1 No. 18 metre high Phase 8 monopole C/W wraparound cabinet at base and associated ancillary works on land at West Buckland Road, Wellington. Decision of no decision made.

46/21/0033 Erection of spray shed at SRK Scaffolding, Haywards Lane. Decision: conditional approval granted.

d) Any other planning matters. Parishioners had contacted a councillor to raise their concerns about the change of use of a field at Buckland Farm, to campsite. A toilet block and compostable toilets are being constructed. The Parish Council has not received notification of a planning application and the matter has been passed to planning enforcement. Planning enforcement issues can be reported online using a link on the SWT website.

202/04/22. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC. No work reported as being required.

b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work. Calways Lane continues to be a mess and there are still traffic cones everywhere. The Clerk was asked to find out what is happening. There was concern that some vehicles are still going into the ditch. There is also outstanding work to be done to the kerb at Dyers Close. It was reported that Highways have concreted the bottom of the ditch in France Lane to make the water run better. They have put some traffic cones out as a warning but the warning sign has still not been replaced. They are also taking some action regarding a subsiding bank on the boundary of a property opposite the school. The drainage repairs for Silver Street should not be forgotten.

c) Update on requests to Highways for a speed check and 40 mph speed limit request. Kate Brown has apologised for not coming back to the Parish Council sooner. She has been out on site and driven the route in both directions. She feels that the 20 mph limits proposed are mostly sensible but does have some concerns about speeds coming into the village from the motorway direction so needs to check what the current average speeds are before confirming if this is something that is feasible. As regards the 40mph section again she needs to obtain some speed readings at a couple of straight sections along this stretch. She has emailed a colleague to ask if he can obtain some speed readings. Speed data would be back with two to three weeks. As she has mentioned previously, to change a speed limit is a timely and costly exercise and needs to be agreed by the police. A Traffic Regulation Order has to be advertised and people are able to raise objections, so it's a good idea to ensure that local residents are on board with any suggested changes before a TRO is advertised. SCC also has to bear in mind the Department for Transport guidance regarding the setting of speed limits. Once she has the speed data she will email the police to get their views and then come back to the Parish Council with what is feasible and the cost if appropriate so that the Parish can consider if this is something they would fund. A very rough calculation could be around £6k for the village element and possibly another £3k for the 40mph section if that is feasible. Timescale wise could take between 6-12 months for installation, again if evidence backed up the change in limits and police agreed and no objections.

d) Any other highways matters. The Clerk was asked to chase up Highways about the cones that the school has put out. There were removed for the holidays but have been put back out now a new term has started.

203/04/22. To note any reports from:

a) County Cllr. This was brought forward on the agenda as item 200/04/22

b) District Cllr. No report.

c) Police. No report.

d) LGR Advisory Board. No further update.

e) Any other reports. SALC will shortly have a directors meeting ahead of the signing of a contract with SCC to deliver a new, pioneering health and wellbeing programme for town and parish councils in Somerset. Two members of staff will be recruited to deliver the scheme.

204/04/22. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mrs J Larcombe - £316.94 Clerk's salary and expenses for April (Payment ref: 2223/01)

Somerset West & Taunton Council - £346.32 Grass cutting x 2 and emptying dog bins Quarter 4 2021-22

Broxap Street Furniture - £31.66 fixings to attach the nets to the goalposts (Payment ref: 2223/03)

Nigel Richards - £50.00 Grass cutting (Payment ref: 2223/04)

Cllr Simon Bellamy - £18.90 mileage claim (Payment ref: 2223/05). Cllr Bellamy declared a pecuniary interest and left the room while his payment was agreed.

b) To note any receipts and the bank account balances. The following receipts were noted: SWT - £5,378 the first half of the precept

HMRC - £198.53 VAT refund

SALC - £1,245.00 Reconnecting Communities Grant

Bank interest - £13.22

The current account balance is £7,531.53 and the Instant Access Account balance is £24,421.93.

£6,267.71 will be transferred from the Current Account to the Instant Access Account.

c) Arrangements for internal audit. The Clerk has everything ready for the internal audit and this will be completed before the next meeting.

d) Accounts for 2021-22 – to note ahead of formal approval at the next meeting. Councillors discussed the accounts and agreed to earmark £2,000 from general reserves to complete the fingerpost project and £2,000 to add to that already earmarked for playground equipment.

205/04/22. Playing Field-

a) Any points to note from the regular inspection. The bench close to the hall is coming to the end of its life. The family who put the bench there will be asked if the plaque could be transferred to one of the benches that the Council has got the funding to purchase and the old bench removed.

b) Update on the ordering of a tree and planting. This was deferred to the autumn. The Clerk suggested asking the contractor who cuts the grass whether he could help with the planting of the tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and the fruit trees. Cllr Lacey was thanked for replacing the plaque by the Diamond Jubilee tree in the playing field.

c) To agree the purchase of 2 benches using Reconnecting Communities Grant. It was agreed to give Cllr Ms Drury and the Clerk power to decide which benches to purchase and to place the order.

d) Report on consultations to support application for funding for new play equipment. Smart Survey is being used to carry out an electronic consultation. 47 responses have been received to date and the consultation ends on 30th April.

e) To note the painting of the goal posts and installation of new nets. Cllr Silverlight and Cllr Ms Drury were thanked for painting the goalposts and putting

on the new nets.

- 206/04/22. Footpaths: to discuss any footpath matters.** Cllr Mitton will send his footpath reports to the Clerk when he is no longer a councillor and was happy to be invited to meetings. The Council will look for a Parish Paths Liaison Officer to take over from Cllr Mitton and he will put something together to explain the role. There was concern about tape across Footpath WG 14/30 and how easy it was to use the handle to open it to cross through.
- 207/04/22. To agree to adopt the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct.** It was agreed to adopt. The LGA will be reviewing this document annually.
- 208/04/22. To note the Uncontested Parish Council Elections 5th May 2022 and agree procedure for co-option.** Four nominations were received for seven seats and Charles Silverlight, Simon Bellamy, Sarah Drury and John Nutt were elected unopposed. The co-option process to fill the three vacant seats can commence after 5th May and this will be advertised on Facebook, the website and noticeboard.
- 209/04/22. Correspondence.** There was no further correspondence.
- 210/04/22. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** It was reported that there is a field on the edge of the village for sale with a price guide of £75,000. Residents are concerned about possible development. This field is not included in the Local Plan as an area for housing development but the Local Plan is out of date and the consultation process for a new one has been delayed by Covid. There is a risk if the planning authority does not have a five year housing supply.
- 211/04/22. Date of the next meeting.** The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 10th. In a year when there is a Town and Parish Council election the Council is required to hold this meeting within 14 days of May 9th when Councillors commence their term of office. Rather than having a seven week gap between meetings it was agreed to hold another meeting on May 31st.

Signed:
Chair

Date: