

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's C Silverlight (Chair), Ms S Drury, S Bellamy, J Nutt and A Paul.

In attendance: County Cllr R Henley and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

134/01/23. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies received from County Cllr Mrs S Wakefield.

135/01/23. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures of interests.

136/01/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 04/01/23 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

137/01/23. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). No matters arising.

138/01/23. Democratic Period. No members of the public present.

139/01/23. Reports

a) County Councillor. Cllr Henley spoke about the decision on Local Community Network areas. Three options went out to consultation but these were all binned. 18 LCN areas have been proposed and West Buckland is in LCN Area 12 – Wellington and Wiveliscombe Parishes with Ashbrittle; Bathealton; Bradford-on-Tone; Chipstable; Fitzhead; Halse; Langford Budville; Milverton; Nynhead; Oake; Sampford Arundel; Stawley; Wellington; Wellington Without and Wiveliscombe. These parishes are in the Blackdown and Neroche Electoral Division, Upper Tone Electoral Division and Wellington Electoral Division. The LCNs will be set up from April and there will be equal voting rights for all parishes with all parishes having a voting member. Wellington and West Buckland are the only parishes in Area 12 that are in Cllr Henley's electoral division. The proposed LCN Terms of Reference can be found on the SCC website. West Buckland Parish Council will still be a member of the Blackdown Hills Parish Network. Cllr Henley asked if councillors were happy with the LGN group they were in. Night buses have been reintroduced in Taunton. He reported that he has written to

SCC and First Bus as this is the ideal opportunity to route some buses through West Buckland. He has also written to SCC about the dangerous crossroads on the A38 at Worlds End.

Cllr Ms Drury reminded Cllr Henley about the ongoing concerns about the lack of plans to provide superfast broadband to some properties in the Ruggin area of the parish. She has emailed Rebecca Pow MP once again, on the anniversary of her first email to the MP. Copper cable is due to be removed in 2025 and there is no 4G to fall back on. There is a very real risk that some Ruggin residents will have no form of communication.

Cllr Henley left the meeting.

b) District Councillor. No report.

c) Police. No report.

140/01/23. Update on broadband issues. Covered under item 139/01/23 a).

141/01/23. Planning:

a) To consider any planning applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting. No new applications received.

46/21/0037 Application for Outline Planning with some matters reserved, except for access, for the erection of a commercial development comprising of Class E g(, i), ii) and iii), Class B2 with trade counters, food and drink uses (sui generis), other sui generis uses, access and associated infrastructure, parking, landscaping and drainage on land at Chelston Heath, Wellington. Karen Wray, Planning Officer, had emailed the Clerk to inform the Parish Council that the Highway Authority had now submitted their final comments having requested further information from the applicant. The Highway Authority had raised no objection to the application subject to a legal agreement to secure a Travel Plan and dedication of a land parcel and off-site highway works (which include cycle infrastructure and site accesses). A number of planning conditions will also be imposed should permission be granted. National Highways have also fully assessed the proposal and confirm they do not raise any objection. She asked for confirmation if this now satisfied the concerns of the parish council regarding traffic levels using Chelston roundabout.

Comment. West Buckland Parish Council feel that creating an additional left hand turn lane at the roundabout will improve traffic flow and will address the Council's concerns. If this application is approved it should be subject to the offered land being gifted to SCC and should be written into the S106 agreement. The Council would like to see this additional left hand lane being created and in operation before the units are occupied.

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

46/22/0019 Erection of an agricultural building to serve as a grain store and associated operational development including creation of a consolidated yard area on land aHamlands, Chelston. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/22/0021/LB Replacement of tiles at Ham Farm, Asham Lane, Ham, Wellington. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) Any other planning matters. It was reported that lots of levelling is being

carried out at Foxmoor Business Park, on the area where it had been planned to site the House of Somerset.

142/01/23. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC. There was concern about flooding on the roundabout under the M5 at Junction 26. Drains on the hill above the roundabout have become blocked and water is running down the road when there is heavy rain. The loose kerbstones around the roundabout remain an issue and line markings have worn and need to be renewed. Councillors hope the road surface around the roundabout and the kerb stones will be replaced as part of the scheme to replace the concrete road surface between there and the Chelston roundabout. The roundabout itself has become a small nature reserve and it is hoped that area will not be damaged when work takes place.

Cllr Ms Drury told councillors she had reported 17 potholes and 3 floods and they had been dealt with in 48 hours. This included some on Calways Lane.

The 30mph repeater signs on Sawyers Hill are still hidden in the hedge.

The SLOW and 20mph warning signs painted on the road close to the school have worn away and need repainting.

The rubble strips on Silver Street which warn motorists they are approaching a 30 mph speed limit have worn smooth.

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

The missing signs at the entrance to France Lane, which warned motorists about the ditch on the side of the road, have still not been replaced.

c) Update on repairs to fingerpost sign on Buckland Hill. The arm is still broken. The Clerk will contact Kate Brown to find out what is happening about replacing the arm.

d) Any other highways matters. No other highways matters.

143/01/23. Finance:

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

Mrs J Larcombe - £185.52 Clerk's salary and expenses for January (Payment ref: 2223/38)

HMRC - 155.82 PAYE for January (Payment ref: 2223/39)

Cllr Ms Drury declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following payment and took no part in the decision on payment.

Cllr Ms Drury - £18.45 mileage claim for collecting fruit trees from the nursery (Payment ref: 2223/40).

£359.19 will be transferred from the Instant Access Account to the Current Account.

The Clerk reported that a payment of £243.98 had been made to SW & T Council Since the last meeting for grass cutting on 1st November and dog bin emptying Quarter 3 Payment ref: 2223/37).

£243.98 was transferred from the Instant Access Account to the Current Account.

b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank account balances. There have been no receipts since the last meeting.

The current account balance is £1,000.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £28,92.91

144/01/23. Update on ordering of EV charging point. A revised quote of £3,516.00

(including VAT) has been received from W & E Electrical Services for the EV charging point. The quote has been accepted and the planned installation date is 2nd March 2023. The original quote in June 2022 was £3,240.00. The increase to the Council is £230.00.

145/01/23. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspections. The nets have been removed from the football goal posts and the supports are bent. People from outside of the area are reported to have been using the field because the nets had been left up and the areas around the goal posts are very muddy. These areas will need to be reseeded when the weather improves. It was agreed that Cllr Paul could purchase sand and grass seed for this.

The siting of the new accessible picnic table was discussed and it was agreed that it should be sited near to the area where the WI play Golf Croquet. The Clerk will ask the WI whether they are planning to play golf croquet on the playing field this year.

b) Replacement of swings. Councillors considered the quote from Darren's Dens for the swings. Cllr Ms Drury and Cllr Silverlight will have a look at the equipment this contractor has installed for Bradford-on-Tone Parish Council. He has also been asked to give a quote for a new kick wall. An application for funding will be made to Awards for All.

c) Planting of fruit trees. The fruit trees were planted on 18th January and are looking good.

146/01/23. Footpaths: any footpath matters. No footpath matters.

147/01/23. Correspondence. The following correspondence was noted:

SALC – Clerk and Councillor training sessions. The Clerk will book a place for Cllr Silverlight on the 'Being a successful chairman' course on 15th February. Invitation from West Buckland Primary School to Community Coffee Afternoons on 1st and 8th February - Cllr Silverlight and Cllr Ms Drury will attend.

148/01/23. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions). No urgent business.

149/01/23. To agree the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 28th February 2023. Cllr Bellamy gave his apologies.

Signed:
Chair

Date: