

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall.

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

In attendance: County Cllr R Henley, District Cllr R Habgood, two members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

16/05/22. To accept apologies for absence. There were no apologies.

17/05/22. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

18/05/22. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 10/05/22 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

19/05/22. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). There were no matters arising.

20/05/22. Co-option of Councillors to fill vacancies on the Council. No applications received.

21/05/22. Democratic Period. The members of the public asked for the Parish Council's support for their planning application, 46/22/0005. Their previous application, 46/20/0023, was refused by the planning officer despite 5 letters of support and no objection from the Parish Council. The applicants felt that the decision should have been made by the SWT Planning Committee, rather than the officer, because of the level of support. One of the reasons given was that the site is in an unsustainable location with no bus service and limited facilities nearby. There is now a petrol station and shop at Westpark 26, which is close to the application site. Councillors suggested making a complaint to SWT regarding the way the previous decision was made. It was also suggested that a complaint could be made to Rebecca Pow MP.

Cllr Habgood joined the meeting.

After being briefed on the conversation Cllr Habgood said he would discuss the

comments with officers.

22/05/22. Update on broadband issues. Time frames for Airband to provide full ultrafast fibre to the premise are slipping. The Economic Development Officer (Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement) at Devon County Council on the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme has emailed SALC to make parishes in Somerset aware that the Mobile Boost Scheme has been extended to December 2022. CDS may be able to help businesses or households struggling with poor indoor mobile coverage. The Mobile Boost Scheme offers vouchers towards technology to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in “not-spot” areas. Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1200 towards the cost of one of a number of mobile signal booster options from a registered supplier. The value of the voucher will be dependent on the type of technology most suitable for the premises. Suppliers will be able to advise on the most appropriate option. Businesses and residents will be required to make a contribution to cover the cost of installation. For more information and to apply visit:
[Connecting Devon and Somerset - Mobile Boost Scheme](#)

23/05/22. Reports

a) County Councillor. Cllr Henley was congratulated on being elected to the County Council. He explained that Cllr Sarah Wakefield, the other ward member, was on holiday. They will send monthly reports, which will include what they are doing in the community as well as what is happening at SCC and updates regarding the local government reorganisation. Cllr Henley is particularly keen to try and improve bus services. They have both attended induction training and one meeting. Cllr Henley has been appointed as the Associate Lead Member for Public Health. Since his election to SCC he has stepped back from his role at SWT. He said he was looking forward to working with the Parish Council over the next 5 years.

b) District Councillor. Cllr Habgood noted the elections had taken place and portfolio holders had been appointed. Following the elections, he was keen that councillors take up Code of Conduct training. Platinum Jubilee celebrations are planned in Vivary Park over the bank holiday weekend. He noted that highways are putting out wider and wider road closure dates and then are not doing the work and everyone gets frustrated. SWT has held its annual meeting and is starting its last 12 months. They will do all they can to hand over safely to Somerset Council in April 2023.

c) Meeting organised by Wellington Town Council to meet with Somerset Unitary Team. Cllr Nutt attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and his written report was circulated prior to the meeting. It is possible that there will be 7 committees responsible for making planning decisions and planning decisions would be taken away from town and parish councils. Cllr Habgood said he didn't know how many planning committees there would be but no one wants decisions made miles away from the area. There will be no choice about which Local Community Network the town and parish councils will be put in. Cllr Habgood said he hoped that SALC and the parishes will be listened to. The Clerk has been trying to attend the short, fortnightly LGR meetings which are held virtually on Teams. Some of the future meetings have been cancelled.

24/05/22. Planning:

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

46/22/0005 Erection of 1 No. 3 bed detached house with garage and formation of access in the garden to the side of Llantarnam, Chelston Nurseries, Nursery Lane, Chelston (resubmission of 46/20/0023).

Comment: West Buckland Parish Council supports the granting of approval for this application.

b) To receive decisions from planning applications determined by SWT Council. No decisions received.

c) Any other planning matters. The House of Somerset application, 46/20/0016, has been withdrawn because the owners of the site have withdrawn their permission for the proposed development to be built there. Chelston has been extended as far as possible but there are still people wanting units.

Councillors noted Blackdown Garden Centre has been purchased by a company that owns a large number of garden centres and they were concerned that a planned multi million pound refurbishment will generate considerably more traffic. The company have said that they want to increase annual turnover from £1million to £10million. The additional turning lane on the A38 that was a condition of the approval of the last additional building on the site has never been added. Cllr Habgood will follow this up.

There has been no further information from the Enforcement Officer regarding the campsite at Buckland Farm.

The members of the public left the meeting

25/05/22. Highways.

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

b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work. There was no update and all work remains outstanding. The Clerk will give details of the outstanding work to Cllr Henley.

c) Update speed check. There has been concern about the siting of a black box if this was put up to record vehicle speeds. Details of better sites have been passed to Kate Brown.

c) Any other highways matters. Cllr Bellamy was concerned that there is still a pub car park sign on the A38 even though the Blackbird is no longer a pub and is now a bed and breakfast. The Clerk will ask for the sign to be taken down. The original sign for the Blackbird was 'listed' and before the pub closed the Parish Council had agreed to give a grant towards the cost of refurbishing it. Cllr Habgood will make enquiries about where this sign has gone.

Cllr Henley left the meeting.

26/05/22. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments: Mrs J Larcombe - £332.24 Clerk's salary, mileage and expenses for May (Payment ref: 2223/08)

Nigel Richards - £50.00 grass cutting (Payment ref: 2223/09)

No receipts since the last meeting.

Since the last meeting a direct debit payment of £35.00 has been made to the Information Commissioner's Office (Payment ref: 2223/10)

The current account balance is £718.62 and the Instant Access Account balance is £30689.64. £413.62 will be transferred from the Instant Access Account to the Current Account

b) To minute the gifting of the solar panels and LED lighting to the Village Hall. It was agreed that the solar panels and LED lighting installed in the village hall, purchased with the SCC Climate Emergency Fund Grant, are now transferred to the ownership of the West Buckland Village Hall Trust.

It was reported that the village hall's electricity bills have reduced by 85% but some committee members were unaware that they would not be receiving income from a feed in tariff as these have stopped. The owner of the company that installed the panels will attend their next committee meeting to explain to them the benefits to them of the installation of the solar panels.

27/05/22. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspection. There were no points to note. SWT has replaced the bin in the play area with a general waste and recycling bin but it has not been moved to where the Parish Council wanted it moved.

b) To discuss damage caused to the goal posts and the surfacing around the swings. 15th and 18th May some of the clips holding the nets on the goalposts were ripped off and the pegs pinning it to the ground were pulled out. The pegs have been picked up and put back but the clips have not been replaced yet. Some more of the surfacing around the swings has been pulled up. Cllr Nutt is trying to get some advice on how to deal with this.

c) Any other matters. Cllr Silverlight reported on the email advice he had been given from the Communications Department of the Civil Aviation Authority regarding the request to land a helicopter on the playing field. There are no specific regulatory requirements to consider. The landowner of the site must give permission for the aircraft to use the site. It is the pilot's sole responsibility to ensure safety levels are not compromised when taking off or landing. Specifically, the pilot must ensure that the aircraft does not endanger the safety of any people or property. Qualified pilots will be well aware of this responsibility. Cllr Habgood commented that a helicopter could be landed on a site 14 times a year without planning permission.

28/05/22. Footpaths: to discuss any footpath matters. Following the end of John Thorne's term of office as a county councillor he had belatedly received the following information from Rob Coate of SCC's Rights of Way team in response to his queries on what was happening with footpath WG 14/14: Re WG 14/14 I understand that the District Council is in receipt of an application to divert WG 14/14.

29/05/22. Correspondence. The following correspondence was noted:
Taunton Model Engineers – invitation to visit their site at Stoford Lane on 10th and 11th June to see what has been done since they purchased the site 3 years ago.

30/05/22. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions).
Cllr Nutt had downloaded information about SWT's Electrical Vehicle Charging Point Grant. This will fund 50% of the cost of installing an EV charging point. The Parish Council does not own a building and has no access to an electricity supply.

Cllr Nutt will attend the next village hall committee meeting to speak to them about installing one in the village hall car parking areas.

31/05/22. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 28th June 2022.
Cllr Ms Drury gave her apologies.

Signed:
Chair

Date: