

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Cllr C Silverlight
Perry House
Blackmoor
West Buckland
Wellington
TA21 9LH
Tel 01823 663109
email: ccsilverlight@googlemail.com

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

www.westbuckland.org

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall.

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

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

150/02/23. To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bellamy. Apologies were received from PCSO Bramley.

151/02/23. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

152/02/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 31/01/23 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

153/02/23. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). None.

154/02/23. Democratic Period. No members of the public present.

155/02/23. Update on broadband issues. Airband engineers have now surveyed the local area in preparation for work to begin. Cllr Ms Drury reported that she had spoken to the engineers carrying out the surveying and it was obvious to her that they didn't know where houses were, they were just following telegraph poles and not taking into account underground cables. Yesterday, 27th February, BT Openreach engineers were in the area surveying poles with a view to updating and replacing poles. They found 3 poles they didn't know existed and were unaware of underground cables. It appears that if your property is not beside the road, they don't know you exist. Cllr Ms Drury also reported that the 4G signal had plummeted in the last 4 weeks. Equipment on a local mast has been tilted to improve the signal on the motorway side. At a cost of £100 an aerial team is being sent out to try and improve the signal for her. She is still waiting to hear back from Matt Barrow, CDS Stakeholder Engagement Officer, regarding a site visit he agreed to organise. During a Teams meeting between Matt Barrow, Cllr Ms Drury and the Clerk he said it was unlikely the copper system will be turned off in 2025.

156/02/23. Reports

a) **County Councillor.** No report.

b) **District Councillor.** No report.

c) **Police.** PCSO Bramley was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting as he was on a rest day. In an email he said there had been 3 incidents reported to the police since the last parish council meeting.

- 31st January, criminal damage at a property in Blackmoor. One person arrested and charged.
- 1st - 2nd February, criminal damage Calways Lane area. Unknown person had scattered 30-40 roofing tacks on the driveway of the property.
- 21st February, criminal damage Morrishes Farm, West Buckland. Unknown person has scattered about 100 nails on the driveway causing a flat tyre to a vehicle.

It is unknown if the second and third incidents are related but it is concerning that someone has done this. The incident at Morrishes Farm is particularly worrying as the vehicle had picked up a nail unknown to the driver and then driven on the motorway with children on board. The police are concerned that someone has done this with, and the possibility of, causing an accident with potentially fatal consequences. Avon and Somerset police are asking for anyone with any information contact policer on 101 Ref number 5223043454. There have been no reports of ASB from the Parish.

The parish has no beat surgery currently in West Buckland. PCSO Bramley asked if the Parish Council think there is a need for one and if so which day and time do they feel would be best to carry this out?

157/02/23. Planning:

a) **To consider any planning applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting: 46/23/0001** Removal of Condition No. 13 (limitation of sales) of application 46/21/0005 on land off Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support the application because other businesses on the business park are selling retail goods.

46/23/0002 Erection of a bat roost building as mitigation for concurrent Class Q application at Catsbear Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council do not support the application as they are concerned about the choice of the new site and consider the proposed bat roost will be of limited efficacy - The implementation and effectiveness of bat roost mitigation and compensation measures for *pipistrellus and myotis* spp. and brown long eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) included in building developments projects completed between 2006 and 2014 in England and Wales. Collins J. H., Ross A. J., Ferguson J. A., Williams C. A. & Langton S. D. (2020).

46/23/0003/CQ Prior approval for proposed change of use from 2 No. agricultural buildings into 2 No. dwellings (Use Class C3) and associated building operations at Catsbear Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland. Comment: The access to the dwellings is unclear.

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

46/22/0023 Erection of detached garage with alterations to driveway at Meadow Bank, Silver Street, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) Consultation Notification – Somerset Council Statement of Community Involvement. With the formation of the new Somerset Unitary Council from April 2023 there is a need to produce a new single SCI for the whole of Somerset. The new SCI will set out how Somerset Council will involve communities, organisations and other interested parties in the planning process. The consultation runs from 1st February to 16th March 2023.

d) Any other planning matters. The levelling of a site at Foxmoor Business Park was being carried out in preparation for the erection of a building approved in 2021.

158/02/23. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC. Clarification is need as to whether the roundabout under Junction 26 of the M5 is included in the plans to resurface the road between the roundabout and Chelston roundabout.

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

c) Update on repairs to fingerpost sign on Buckland Hill. No update.

d) To note planned road closures in March. Notice has been received of 2 temporary road closures from 13th March for 5 days. Sawyers Hill will be closed to allow Wales and West Utilities to carry out gas connection works.

e) Any other highways matters. No other highways matter. Ruggin Road will be closed to allow Wessex Water to replace a valve.

159/02/23. Finance:

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

Mrs J Larcombe - £185.22 Clerk's salary and expenses for February (Payment ref: 2223/41)

HMRC - £155.22 PAYE for February (Payment ref: 2223/42)

£340.44 will be transferred from the Instant Access Account to the Current Account.

It was agreed to accept the quote from S, W & T Council for cutting the grass on the playing field and emptying the dog bin.

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

The current account balance is £1,000.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £28,568.72.

c) To review the Annual Business Risk Assessment. Agreed.

d) To review the effectiveness of internal controls and internal audit.

Councillors considered the document circulated by the Clerk and agreed the internal controls are effective. They also agreed that the internal audit was effective.

e) Appointment of Internal Auditor. It was agreed to appoint Karen Ward to carry out the internal audit for 2022-23.

160/02/23. Update on installation of EV charging point. Cllr Nutt reported the contractor had contacted him to let him know that wholesaler hadn't delivered the EV charging point and it was unlikely it would be delivered by 2nd March when it was planned to install it. They are still planning to go ahead and do the wiring and will come back and mount the charging point when it arrives, which they hope will be by 10th March.

161/02/23. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspections. The goal posts are still being used despite the nets being removed but the area around them will need to be reseeded in March. It was decided to put tape around the goal posts.

b) To consider a request from West Buckland Primary School and PTFA to use the playing field for their Summer Fair on Saturday June 24th.

Councillors agreed to the request subject to proof of public liability insurance and a risk assessment. Should the field be very wet due to rain, cars will not be able to park on the field.

c) Replacement of swings and kick wall and grant application to Awards for All. Cllr Silverlight and Cllr Ms Drury reported that they had been to Heatherton Park and East Nynehead Playing Field to look at the quality of play equipment supplied and installed by Darren's Den. They were happy with what they saw. It was agreed to make an application to Awards for All. As there will be a 2 to 3 months waiting period it was agreed to order the swings and a kick wall.

162/02/23. Footpaths: any footpath matters. The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by someone who wanted to know who to contact to try and get a Bristol 2 in 1 gate installed on a public right of way crossing their land. She had contacted Dave Mitton, West Buckland's Parish Paths Liaison Officer, who had told her the position where the gate is required is in Wellington Without parish. Mr Mitton would like to give a footpaths report at the Annual Parish Meeting if it is held at the end of April.

163/02/23. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

164/02/23. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions). No urgent business.

165/02/23. To agree the date and arrangements for the Annual Parish meeting. It was decided to hold the APM before the Parish Council meeting on 25th April.

166/02/23. To agree the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 28th March 2023.

Signed:
Chair

Date: