

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th March 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: the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

167/03/23. To receive apologies for absence. No apologies received.

As Somerset West and Taunton Council will be abolished on 1st April and Cllr Habgood will no longer be West Buckland's district councillor it was agreed to thank him for all his support to the parish.

168/03/23. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

169/03/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28/02/23 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.

170/03/23. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). No matters arising.

171/03/23. Democratic Period. No members of the public.

172/03/23. Update on broadband issues. Cllr Ms Drury is still waiting for Matt Barrow, CDS, to arrange the site meeting he promised to organise for her during a Teams meeting in mid-February. In an email she sent to him on 28th February she once again explained the problems she and others are experiencing which have now been exasperated by the tilting of equipment on the 4G mast which has made the signal virtually unusable in Ruggin and nearby areas. Faye Cross, a new Community Liaison Officer for Airband, has emailed to introduce herself and to offer to attend a Parish Council meeting. It was agreed to invite her to the Annual Parish Meeting or, if she is not available then, a Parish Council meeting.

173/03/23. Reports

a) County Councillor. No report.

b) District Councillor. No report.

c) Police. No report.

d) SALC Chairman's training session. Cllr Silverlight reported there had been 11 attendees and it had been a useful session. He felt the Parish Council runs well. It could be a useful training session for a vice-chair.

174/03/23. Planning:

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

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

46/21/0035 Erection of 4 No. dwellings, following prior approval, with associated works at Silver Street Farm, Silver Street, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/22/0022 Demolition of outbuildings and erection of replacement Public House at Merry Harriers, Forches Corner, Clayhidon as amended by agents email of 6 March 2023 and additional drawing numbers 22/0918M, 22/0918F and 22/0918N. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) To note that 46/22/0011 demolition of bungalow and erection of 1 No. dwelling and garage at Catsbear Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland (revised design – reduced scale / change to finish materials) was due to be considered by the SWT Planning Committee on 27th March. The Planning Officer recommended approval for this application and it was approved unanimously by the Planning Committee with a number of conditions. Cllr Paul watched online as the application was being discussed and he reported the new dwelling will have an agricultural occupancy condition and there will not be any permitted development rights for the future. The applicant could have extended the existing bungalow under permitted development rights.

d) Any other planning matters. It was noted that application 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 has been withdrawn.

175/03/23. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC. The sign to West Buckland on the roundabout under the motorway has been knocked over. This is the responsibility of National Highways.

There has been a new area of flooding near Thomas Joineries because the culvert is not being kept clear.

Highways to be asked when the surface of Calways Lane will be repaired. This is the most reported area for potholes in the parish.

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

c) Update on repairs to fingerpost sign on Buckland Hill. The sign has still not been repaired and the Clerk will contact Kate Brown again.

d) Any other highways matters. Cllr Ms Drury reported that she had checked up and the roundabout under the motorway is included in the upgrade of Queen Elizabeth Way. The Council will need to ensure that the wild flowers and wildlife on the roundabout are protected.

176/03/23. Finance:

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

Mrs J Larcombe - £185.22 Clerk's salary and expenses for March (Payment ref:

2223/44)

HM Revenue & Customs - £155.22 PAYE (Payment ref: 2223/45)

Somerset Association of Local Councils - £30.00 Being a successful Chairman training (Payment ref: 2223/46)

Somerset West & Taunton Council - £384.05 Grass cutting x 2, emptying dog bin Quarter 4 (Payment ref: 2223/47)

£718.49 will be transferred from the Instant Access Account to the Current Account

Bank charges of £18.00 will be taken from the Current Account on 31st March. Since the last meeting a payment of £3,516.00 has been made to W & E Electrical Services Ltd (Payment reference 2223/42) for the EV charging point and a payment of £1,665.18 has been made to Darren Greenslade Landscape Gardener (Payment ref: 2223/13) as a deposit for the kick wall. £5,181.18 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.

Since the last meeting there have been no receipts.

The current account balance is £1,000.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £23,047.10.

177/03/23. Completion of the installation of the EV charging point. The EV charging point has been installed on the side of the village hall and is live. Cllr Nutt completed an hours training before he set it up to be used. The charge will be 83p Kw per Kw hour. Cllr Nutt warned there would be charge for waiting time.

178/03/23. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspections. Due to the recent rainy weather the field is very wet. There were no other points to note from the inspection.

Arrangements were made to level and reseed the muddy area in front of one of the goal posts. It was agreed that Cllr Paul would purchase some course washed sand and grass seed and put in an expense claim. The cost is expected to be about £66.00. The waste/recycling bin in the play area needs to be moved out of of the play area. Arrangements will be made for the new picnic bench to be installed in the playing field.

The Clerk reported that the new swings and kick wall have been ordered.

b) To note the successful application for a new, free, basketball net. The Clerk applied for a new net for the basketball hoop through Basketball England and that has been provided free of charge. Arrangements will be made to put the net on the hoop.

179/03/23. Footpaths: any footpath matters. No footpath matters.

180/03/23. Correspondence. The following correspondence was noted:

Somerset Association of Local Councils – Meeting and AGM on 29th April. No one volunteered to attend.

Cllr Ms Drury reported that a parishioner had approached her to complain that the Parish Council had not organised anything to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Parish Council has not received any requests from parishioners and none of the councillors are able to organise anything. Cllr Nutt reported that Lee Park are holding a party which they are organising themselves.

181/03/23. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions). No urgent business.

182/03/23. To agree arrangements for the Annual Parish meeting on 25th April. The APM will be held at 7.30pm, before the Parish Council meeting. The Clerk will check whether the main hall can be used. The Chair will present an annual report and the Clerk will give a financial report for 2022-23. Dave Mitton, West Buckland's Parish Paths Liaison Officer, would like to give a report. Under item 172/03/23 it was agreed to invite Faye Cross, Community Liaison Officer for Airband. The County Councillors will be invited along with the Village Hall Committee, PCC, Taunton Model Engineers and the school.

183/03/23. To agree the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 25th April 2023 and will be preceded by the APM.

Signed:
Chair

Date: