

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES

These minutes will be agreed at the Parish Council meeting due to be held on 26th November and might be subject to slight amendments

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 29th October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, at West Buckland Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's C Silverlight, Ms S Drury, S Bellamy and A Paul

In attendance: Somerset Councillors R Henley and S Wakefield and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

64/10/24. To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs B Moore.

65/10/24. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. Cllr Silverlight declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 73/10/2 because he had submitted an expense claim.

66/10/24. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24/09/24 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.

67/10/24. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). No matters arising.

68/10/24. To continue to discuss broadband issues in the parish. Cllr Silverlight reported that he had received a reply to his correspondence to Gideon Amos OBE MP about the issues around the poor broadband service for parts of West Buckland. Clive Pierce, Case Worker, wrote to update Cllr Silverlight on the MP's campaign to resolve issues with high-speed broadband roll out in rural areas of his constituency. He is going to follow up the earlier exclusion from the Project Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. Mr Amos is campaigning to resolve impediments to progress in places where Airband Community internet Ltd is the contracted installer and has joined forces with fellow Somerset MPs, Sarah Dyke and Adam Dance, to highlight failures of oversight and contract management. In their joint letter to the Minister for Data Protection and Telecoms, they criticize the local government partnership, Connecting Devon and Somerset, and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's executive agency, Building Digital UK,

for the dereliction of their duties to “hold contractors to account” and to “keep those customers suffering the consequences informed”. Mr Amos has sought and secured a commitment from the government, for a Minister to meet with the MPs whose Somerset constituents are still waiting for high-speed broadband connections and he will organize the promised meeting with the Minister at the earliest opportunity. Invitations will be extended to the chairs of the affected parish councils, including West Buckland.

His exchange in the House of Commons with the Parliamentary under-secretary for Housing, Communities and Local Government was reproduced verbatim in the email to Cllr Silverlight. Mr Pierce added that the MP remains committed to expediting high-speed broadband roll out in all areas of his constituency, and holding those responsible for this shambolic situation to account until satisfactory remediation is achieved for everyone concerned.

69/10/24. Democratic Period. No members of the public present.

70/10/24. Reports

a) Somerset Council. Cllr Henley apologised for not attending the last meeting and explained he was doing mental health trauma training. He reported that he had attended the opening of Wellington Library following a £1,000,000 investment. Wellington Sports Centre has reopened following a £500,000 investment. When he attended the LCN Highways Working Group meeting he was able to swop notes on bus services. The no 20 bus service run by Dartline has a good turnaround time at Seaton and could come into West Buckland. He would like to meet with them to discuss this.

Cllr Wakefield will follow up her enquiries about travellers living on the edge of the parish without planning as some residents have concerns.

b) Any other reports. No other reports.

It was agreed to bring forward the Highways item to allow Cllr Henley and Cllr Wakefield to hear the discussion about SIDs..

71/10/24. Highways.

c) c) To continue the discussion on purchasing SIDs and consulting parishioners about increasing the coverage of the 20mph speed limit in the village. Cllr Silverlight asked each councillor for their view on purchasing SIDs in the first instance. All councillors were in agreement with doing so. Information on traffic speed will be able to be obtained from the SIDs and councillors will know whether there is a problem with speed in the village. It is expected that two SIDs will be needed and the cost will be £5,000 to £6,000. The first of two CIL payments of nearly £2,000 has just been received and the second payment will be received in April. This CIL funding can be used towards the purchase of the SIDs. The first step will be to engage with Kate Brown and agree sites.

Cllr Henley thinks they work and should be tried. If the Parish Council starts talking about the need for extending the 20mph speed limit it will have the evidence. Cllr Wakefield thought you had to show the speed of vehicles was above 20mph. One of the things she has picked up is that children have to walk down to the Worlds End to catch a bus to secondary school and there are no footpaths for much of the way. A bus coming through the village would be helpful. There was a bus service but it is no longer operating. It was suggested the Parish Council could ask on their Facebook page how many children have to walk to the bus.

Cllr's Henley and Wakefield left the meeting.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SC. Some of the work agreed with Kate Brown, Highways Traffic Engineer, in August has been completed but some is still outstanding. The Clerk will write to her and thanks her for the work that has been completed and ask her when the rest of the work will be carried out. The 20/30mph sign by Peacocks Cottages keeps getting knocked which causes the sign to fall down the pole. Cllr Ms Drury has been reporting this when it happens.

Cllr Paul reported that a bag of carpet underlay had been fly tipped on Ruggin Road. Previously garden tools have been dumped on Buckland Farm Road.

b) To receive an update on outstanding highways work (Kerb at Dyers Close and drainage in Silver Street. No update.

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

72/10/24. Planning:

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

45/24/0007 Replacement of garage, with ancillary accommodation to first floor and part of ground floor, and demolition of storage buildings at Millers Farm, West Buckland Road, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections.

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

c) Any other planning matters. The Somerset Council Local Plan early engagement exercise which runs until 17th November includes collecting information to inform their Settlement Assessment and considering options for their Open Spaces, Built Sports and Playing Pitch Strategy.

73/10/24. Finance:

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

Mr N D Richards - £770.00 Grass cutting in village, cutting inside of hedge in play area and cutting vegetation on footpaths (Payment ref: 2425/39)

Cllr C Silverlight - £37.60 expenses claim for hammarite paint and paint brushes (Payment ref: 2425/40)

Mrs J Larcombe - £409.67. Councillors agreed to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the recent pay award. Clerk's salary for October, backpay 1st April – 30th September 2024 plus expenses (Payment ref:2425/41).

HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE for October (Payment ref: 2425/42)

Somerset Council - £121.99 dog bin emptying 1st July to 30th September.

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance - £135.17 monthly charge for playing field grass cutting (Payment ref: 2425/44)

Since the last meeting a payment of £70.00 was made to N D Richards for grass cutting (Payment ref 2425/37) and a payment of £135.17 was made to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance for cutting the playing field (Payment ref: 2425/38). A bank service charge of £18.00 was paid from the account on 30th September.

A transfer will be made from the Current Account to the Instant Access account to

bring the balance back to £1,000.00.

It was agreed to make a donation of £50.00 to the Royal British Legion (Payment ref: 2425/45).

b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank accounts

balances. Since the last meeting there has been the following receipts:

Somerset Council - £1,947.81 1st instalment of CIL payment planning application 46/21/0001, site adjacent to Fairway, Orchard Gardens.

The current account balance is £2953.21 and the Instant Access Account balance is £21,917.40

c) To note the receipt of the first of two CIL payments and to discuss how they might be used. The receipt of £1,947.81 will be used towards the cost of purchasing and installing speed indicator devices (SIDs). The

d) To receive a report of Budget v Actual for 01.04.24 – 30.09.24. The report was noted. There were no areas for concern.

e) Bank reconciliation 30.09.24. The bank reconciliation was checked against the bank statements by Cllr Paul and Cllr Bellamy.

74/10/24. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the annual and regular inspections. The inside hedge of the play area has been cut. The rubber tiles around the roundabout are getting slippery. Cllr Silverlight and Cllr Bellamy will arrange to meet to spray them with a solution of Wet and Forget to clean the tiles.

Councillors noted how well the field is looking. Cllr Silverlight has received a complimentary comment about it.

b) Any other playing field matters. No other playing field matters.

75/10/24. Footpaths: any footpath matters. Mr Richards has cut the vegetation back on Haywards Lane, the footpath at Crownhill and the footpath that runs behind the Church.

76/10/24. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

77/10/24. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions).

Members of the Parish Council were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Helene Perry, the active Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Silverlight will attend the Remembrance Day commemoration at the War Memorial on November 10th.

78/10/24. To note the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 26th November 2024.

Signed:
Chair

Date: