

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 30th May 2023 at 8.30pm at West Buckland Village Hall.

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

In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

01/05/23. Election of Officers:

a) Chair. Cllr C Silverlight was proposed by Cllr Ms Drury and seconded by Cllr J Nutt. There were no other nominations and Cllr Silverlight was elected unanimously. He accepted the office and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.

b) Vice-chair. Cllr Ms Drury was proposed by Cllr S Bellamy and seconded by Cllr A Paul. There were no other nominations. Cllr Ms Drury was elected unanimously.

02/05/23. To receive apologies for absence. There were no apologies. Cllr R Henley and Cllr S Wakefield had given a Somerset Council report at the Annual Parish Meeting, which had preceded the Parish Council meeting.

03/05/23. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

04/05/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28/03/23 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.

05/05/23. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). There were no matters arising.

06/05/23. Democratic Period. There were no members of the public.

07/05/23. Update on broadband issues. Cllr Paul reported that he had raised the problems experienced by people and small businesses locally who are struggling with poor broadband speeds at a National Farmers Union meeting with Rebecca Pow MP, the Environment Minister. She wasn't impressed with what was happening and took notes and said she would find out the answers. Cllr Paul as a partner in a small local business is struggling to stay compliant with PAYE etc. Cllr Ms Drury told the meeting that at present Starlink is available in a number of rural areas for £99 for the kit and £75 per month for the service, Users only have to give one

month's notice to leave. She has checked her postcode and does qualify for that price.

08/05/23. 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 Somerset Council.

46/23/0004/AGN Application for prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building at Catsbear Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland. Decision – no objection.

Cllr Paul noted the Parish Council is not consulted on PNAG applications and questioned its ability to comment on them. The Clerk said the planning authority only had 28 days to deal with these applications. Although the Parish Council is not a consultee it could comment if it was aware of the application in time.

c) Any other planning matters. Cllr Bellamy asked whether someone planning to submit a planning application for a menage could come and talk to the Parish Council about their plans. The Clerk advised that councillors would not be able to comment on their plans before a planning application was received as that would be seen as predetermination if they did.

09/05/23. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC.

b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work. There are 2 schemes of work that are outstanding. One is the re-levelling, including the back kerbs, around the whole corner/junction from the dropped kerbs in Dyers Close around and into Silver Street. This is unlikely to happen until at least 2024-25. The second is the drainage scheme along Silver Street which could possibly happen in 2023-24. There have been no updates.

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

d) Any other highways matters. Councillors were keen to resume painting the finger post signs. There is one at Ham and one near Alexandra Dunn Racing that they would like to do. Cllr Silverlight will speak to David Lacey about his role as supervisor for works on the road.

10/05/23. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments: Mrs J Larcombe - £336.84 Clerk's salary and expenses (Payment ref: 2324/06)

HM Revenue and Customs - £18.60 PAYE (Payment ref: 2324/07)

Mr N Richards - £60.00 grass cutting (Payment ref: 2324//08)

West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £40.00 meeting room hire (Payment ref: 2324/09)

Since the last meeting a direct debit payment of £35.00 has been paid to the Information Commissioner's Office (Payment ref: 2324/05)

b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank account balances. No receipts since the last meeting. The Current Account balance is £965.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £28,429.66.

c) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor for 2022-23. Deferred to the next meeting.

d) To agree the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23. Deferred to the

next meeting.

e) To agree the Accounting Statement for 2022-23. Deferred to the next meeting.

f) To agree to sign the Certificate of Exemption for 2022-23. Deferred to the next meeting.

11/05/23. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspections. The germination of the grass seed in the goal mouth has been very patchy but nothing more can be done until the autumn now. One of the fruit trees planted earlier this year is not looking healthy. Due to the very dry weather the fruit trees are being watered.

b) Update on installation of new swings and kick wall. The kick wall is in the process of being installed and should be ready to use from next Monday when the fencing will be removed. The wood will need treating every 5 years. The work to replace the swings will start next week.

c) To discuss a request to use the playing field for additional parking for a wedding reception being held in the Village Hall. It was agreed that a specific area of the field would be designated for parking when a request is received. Parking will need to be supervised and it will only be able to be used if it is dry enough. Cllr Bellamy will produce a map which will be added to the Playing Field Policy. The request for additional parking for a wedding reception at the village hall was granted. A request to use the field for additional parking on the 1st June for a funeral at the Church was also agreed.

12/05/23. Footpaths: any footpath matters. Mr Mitton will be looking at the footpath below the playing field as it has been reported that new gates have been put up which limit access.

13/05/23. Representation at Local Community Network Meetings. It was agreed that Cllr Bellamy would be the Council's representative at LCN meetings and Cllr Nutt would be his substitute. The first meeting for LCN Area 12, Wellington and Wiveliscombe, will take place on Thursday 6th July at 6pm at Wiveliscombe Community Centre.

14/05/23. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

15/05/23. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion. None.

16/05/23. To agree the date of the next meeting. The Chair and Vice-chair gave their apologies for the 27th June 2023 and it was agreed to bring the meeting forward to 20th June.

Signed:
Chair

Date: