

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 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, at West Buckland Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's C Silverlight (Chair), Ms S Drury, S Bellamy, Mrs B Moore, J Nutt, A Paul and M Wilson.

In attendance: PCSO S Bramley, Somerset Cllr R Henley and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe

120/01/24. To receive apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr Wakefield, Somerset Council.

121/01/24. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. No disclosures.

122/01/24. To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 28/11/23 and 03/12/23 as accurate records of the meetings. The minutes of both meetings were agreed as accurate records and they were duly signed by the Chair.

123/01/24. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). No matters arising.

124/01/24. Reports

a) Police Report. PCSO Bramley had nothing to report; he said it was quiet at the moment. Cllr Ms Drury reminded him that a parishioner had contacted him during lockdown about getting a Community Speedwatch Group up and running and asked if anyone come forward. No one has come forward.
Cllr Bellamy told PCSO Bramley that someone working at the school was parking a van on the junction of France Lane and blocking visibility. The person concerned has been warned about this by PCSO Bramley and he will follow this up.
Cllr Mrs Moore reported that visibility is being blocked for vehicles trying to turn right at the A38/Silver Street junction by signs being placed at the front of the Worlds End. PCSO Bramley said he would look into this. He encouraged the Parish Council to keep pressing Somerset Council to do something about this junction.
There was a complaint about a noisy motorbike driving through the village in the early morning. This will be mentioned to the traffic section.
An offer was made to loan the Parish Council a hand held speed camera if they wanted to check speed.

PCSO Bramley left the meeting.

b) Somerset Council Report. No report.

124/01/24. Democratic Period. No members of the public present.

125/01/24. Planning:

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

46/23/0020CQ. Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations to the barn at Huntspath Farm, Blackmoor. Comment: no objections.

46/23/0014/T Application to carry out management works to 10 oak trees, 8 beech trees, one willow and a group of young beech trees (within hedgerow G4) included in Taunton Deane Borough (West Buckland No.2) Tree Preservation Order 2022 on land to the west of Meadows, Chelston Heathfield, Wellington Road, West Buckland (SWT69). No comment.

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

46/23/0013 Demolition of lean to to the rear with erection of replacement extension at 13 Castle Cottages, Ham, Wellington. Decision: conditional approval granted.

46/23/0017 Variation of Condition No's 02 (approved plans) and No. 03 (time limit) for the time limit of the road widening scheme to be extended to 31 December 2024 at Blackdown Garden Centre, West Buckland. Decision: conditional approval.

c) Any other planning matters. No other planning matters.

126/01/24. Update on broadband issues. The Clerk reported that Matt Barrow, CDS Stakeholder Engagement Officer, had agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting on 30th January. As Cllr Ms Drury is unable to attend that meeting the Clerk will ask if he can attend the meeting on 27th February instead. Cllr Ms Drury briefed Cllr Wilson in case the date couldn't be changed so that he could question Mr Barrow about the issues she has been trying to follow up with him with little success.

127/01/24. To decide whether to go ahead with a Housing Needs Survey with Somerset Council. The Clerk reported on the meeting she had had on Teams with Amy Green and Jo Humble from the Somerset Council Development Enabling Team. The survey can be carried out by the team or it could be carried out by the Community Council for Somerset (CCS). The team has access to some funding that can be used if the survey is carried out in house and the cost to the Parish Council will be minimal. CCS are likely to charge £500 - £1,000, which the Parish Council would have to pay. They would also ask the SC team for some of the information for the report. The question in Part One about how much rent people in the parish are paying can be optional. Carrying out a HNS would provide up to date information about housing need in the parish. Should planning application 46/23/0018 be refused and the applicant appeals the decision, the results would be considered by the inspector. It will also be useful if there are any more

applications for development. There is also the risk that it might encourage plans for development. A copy of the results of a HNS survey carried out for West Bagborough had been circulated to councillors to give them an idea of what they Information they could expect from the survey. It was agreed to carry out a HNS in conjunction with Somerset Council with the question about the amount of rent being paid made optional.

128/01/24. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SC. At the top of Buckland Hill the fence is broken and fly tipping is taking place. Cllr Silverlight will contact the Forestry Commission.

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

c) Any other highways matters. No other highways matters.

129/01/24. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments: West Buckland Village Hall Trust - £114.00 meeting room hire (Payment ref: 2324/45)

HM Revenue & Customs - £23.40 PAYE for December (Payment ref 2324/46)

Since the last meeting a payment of £66.96 has been made to Mousehole Nurseries for sand and grass seeds (Payment ref: 2324/43) and a payment of £325.54 to Mrs J Larcombe December salary and working from home Allowance (Payment ref: 2324/42).

A transfer will be made from the Current Account to the Instant Access Account to bring the balance back to £1,000.00.

b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank account balance. Since the last meeting 2 receipts have been received from Hydra EVC Ltd, income from the EV charging point - £9.65 and £10.90.

Bank interest of £133.75 has been received.

The current account balance is £1,092.02 and the Instant Access Account balance is £18,184.53

c) To discuss and agree the budget for 2024-25. Discussions continued on the budget but Somerset Council still haven't supplied information about the responsibilities they would like the Parish Council to take on. Cllr Henley will follow this up.

The deadline for submitting the precept request has been extended until 2nd February. The budget will be finalised on 30th January when it is hoped to have the final figures.

d) To agree the precept for 2024-25. Carried forward to the next meeting.

130/01/24. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspection. No points to note.

b) Update on repairs to self-closing gates. No update.

c) To decide whether to provide dog poo bags. Following discussion about the pros and cons it was agreed not to provide free dog poo bags at the playing field.

131/01/24. Footpaths:

a) Update on problems on Footpath WG14/11. Because the fencing has made the path narrow it has become very muddy due to the amount of rainfall this winter.

b) Any other footpath matters. It was reported that electric fencing is blocking Footpath 14/15. This should be reported on the PROW section of the Somerset Council website.

132/01/24. Update on borrowing the thermal imaging camera from the BHPN to carry out simple heat loss surveys of parishioners' properties. No update. The Clerk will follow this up.

133/01/24. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

134/01/23. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions). No urgent business.

135/01/23. To note the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 30th January 2024.

Signed:
Chair

Date: