

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

**The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, at West Buckland Village Hall.**

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

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

**01/05/24. Election of:**

**a) Chair. The elected chair to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Cllr Silverlight was elected as Chair and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form. Proposed by Cllr Ms S Drury and seconded by Cllr A Paul.

**b) Vice-chair.** Cllr Ms S Drury was elected as Vice-chair. Proposed by Cllr C Silverlight and seconded by Cllr A Paul.

**02/05/24. To receive apologies for absence.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr S Bellamy and Cllr Mrs B Moore.

It was reported that Cllr Wilson has resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments. He was thanked for his contribution.

**03/05/24. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** No disclosures.

**04/05/24. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 30/04/24 as an accurate record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

**05/05/24. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only).** No matters arising.

**06/05/24. To continue to discuss broadband issues in the parish.** There was no update. Cllr Silverlight reported that he had not had a reply from Rebecca Pow MP.

**07/05/24. Democratic Period.** No members of the public present.

**08/05/24. Reports**

**a) Somerset Council.** Cllr Henley apologised for not attending the Annual Parish Meeting and explained that he had been working in Lewes that day.

He reported there had been a detailed question and answer session on the lack of broadband at the last Somerset Council meeting, mostly in reference to Ruishton and Thornfalcon. He will forward details to the Clerk.

A resident has raised an issue with grass cutting and maintenance of the open space at Lee Park. Cllr Henley and Cllr Wakefield will find out what the plan is going forward. It was maintained by Somerset West and Taunton Council before Somerset became unitary and it is possible the Parish Council might be approached about taking it on.

Cllr Henley updated councillors on the progress of building a train station in Wellington. Network Rail will provide the basic platform and a car park. On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 planning approval was granted for approximately 200 dwellings and a spine road into the station. He is keen that the railway station is as attractive as possible and is involved in setting up the public square. The Historic Society is

also involved and the previous top of the Wellington Monument is to be incorporated into the design. There are three veins of thought on building of the railway station including one group of people who are anti. Wellington Town Council has set up a working group. Cllr Henley suggested asking Michael Portillo to open the station when it is completed.

He will be visiting West Buckland Primary School after half term.

Cllr Henley and Cllr Wakefield will be putting together a survey for the village regarding speed. They will try and gauge what people think and will report their findings to the Parish Council. Councillors agreed their support. 16 parishes elsewhere in Somerset have come together as part of the parish speed limit scheme.

Cllr Silverlight raised his concerns about 2 deteriorating stiles on Footpath WG14/30 that are becoming dangerous. Somerset Council is responsible for their maintenance. Cllr Henley will follow up.

Cllr Henley left the meeting.

**b) Any other reports.** No other reports.

#### **09/05/24. Planning:**

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

**46/24/0008** installation of 3 No. roof lights, with alterations to glazed external door and glazed window and cladding to east elevation at 16a Peacocks Close, West Buckland.

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

**46/24/0005** Formation of hedge bank to west boundary, vehicular access to the northwest, parking and turning area and formation of wildlife pond on land and woodland of former Dukes Cottage, Ford Street, Wellington (retention of works already undertaken). Decision: conditional approval.

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

**10/05/24. West Buckland Housing Needs Survey draft report.** A draft copy of the report has been received. There is an identified need for 11 affordable homes in the next 5 years. Currently there are 6 households in need and within the next 1 to 3 years there will be 1 household. The Homefinder Somerset uplift is 3 x 1 bed and 1 x 1 bed. Councillors questioned the number of 1 bed homes.

No households expressed an interest in some form of self-build housing.

88 surveys were completed, 82 online and 6 paper responses, giving a response rate of 18% of all dwellings in the parish. 15 were returned with both parts completed.

36% of those who answered the question said they would be in favour of a small development of affordable housing for local people. 64% said they were against any development.

The recommendations were that the Parish Council should note this report and consider the options for addressing the need for 11 affordable homes.

The report has given the Parish Council information and this will feed into the Local Plan when prepared by Somerset Council. The information can also be used by developers.

#### 11/05/24. Highways.

**a) To note any required work to be reported to SC.** It was reported that there is a bad pothole on the road between Blackmoor and the road at the top of Buckland Hill. Tyres have been fly tipped on the Devon side of the top road.

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

**c) To note the discussion on purchasing a Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) will be an item for the June meeting.** The policy guidance has been shared with councillors. The Parish Council would have to work with Highways and the Police on the siting of any SID/s, which have to be moved every 2 weeks. They are battery powered so the battery has to be changed if they are not solar powered. As Cllr Henley and Cllr Wakefield will be carrying out a survey about speed this item will be discussed again when they have shared the results.

Cllr Wakefield has emailed the Chair and Clerk to pass on comments from residents who live in a house within the 20mph speed limit. They say that the speed of cars, vans and lorries passing them is very often much faster than 20mph and that in the night lorries often speed past using the road as a cut through up to the road at the top of Buckland Hill (they assume). They asked her about the enforcement of the 20mph speed limit and whether a Speed Indicator Device could be used to help with this. She felt there would be a good deal of support for a SID. Councillors questioned who would enforce the 20mph speed limit.

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

#### 12/05/24. Finance:

**a) To agree and authorise any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments: Jill Larcombe - £326.64 Clerk's salary May 2024 and expenses (Payment ref: 2425/10)

H M Revenue & Customs - £37.60 PAYE for May (Payment ref: 2425/11)

Mr N D Richards - £230.00 Grass cutting, Church footpath strimmed and hedges cut back (Payment ref: 2425/12).

A direct debit payment of £35.00 has been made to the Information Commissioners Office (Payment ref: 2425/09)

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

The Clerk reported that the quote for the annual insurance premium from Clear Councils (formerly BHIB Ltd) had increased from £555.38 for 2023-24 to £723.52 for 2024-25. Having mistakenly thought this was for the final year of a long term agreement she had not obtained any quotes in time for this meeting. Quotes from other companies have been requested and it was agreed the best quote will be accepted, subject to it giving the required level of insurance. Details will be shared by email. Clear Councils will be asked if they can offer a better quote.

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

The current account balance is £965.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £27,024.95.

**c) To agree a new signatory for the bank accounts.** As Cllr Wilson has resigned the Clerk recommended another signatory was agreed. It was agreed that Cllr Paul would be added as a signatory.

**13/05/24. Playing Field:**

**a) Any points to note from the regular inspections.** No points to note.

Cllr Bellamy has cut back the hedge by the bench in the playground and cleaned up the bench.

**b) To discuss the request to hold a 2 day dog show in September.** Additional information has been provided and it is not the case that the show will take up all of the playing field. It was agreed to approve permission for a 2 day show on this occasion.

**c) Any other playing field matters.** The Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee has emailed the Clerk about arranging a meeting to discuss the EV Charging Point. Councillors agreed to retain ownership of the charging point so that they can charge a competitive rate. The Treasurer will be asked how much the Village Hall Committee is being charged for electricity.

**14/05/24. Any footpath matters.** No footpath matters other than the deteriorating stiles on Footpath WG14/30, as raised under item 08/05/24 a),

**15/05/24. Correspondence.** There was no further correspondence.

**16/05/24. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions).** Cllr Silverlight reported that 8 of the 31 bollards at the front of Silver Street Green need replacing because they are either missing or deteriorating. Quotes will be obtained to replace either 8 or all 31 bollards.

**17/05/24. To note the date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Cllr Ms Drury gave her apologies.

Signed:  
Chair

Date:

