

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th August 2024 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, at West Buckland Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs C Silverlight (Chair), Ms S Drury, S Bellamy, Mrs B Moore and A Paul.

**In attendance:** Somerset Cllr S Wakefield and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**31/08/24. To receive apologies for absence.** No apologies.

**32/08/24. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Silverlight declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 40/08/24 because of his expense claim.

**33/08/24. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 25/06/24 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.

**34/08/24. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only).** No matters arising.

**35/08/24. To continue to discuss broadband issues in the parish.** Cllr Wakefield reported that Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) is basically working on winding up the contract with Airband. She added that CDS has been more successful than other projects of its type in other parts of the country. There are still lots of areas to reach. Lines are now allowed to be put on telegraph poles where previously they were expected to be put underground. There are changes to portfolio holders at Somerset Council and the councillor to contact about broadband issues will be Cllr Mike Rigby who will become the Lead Member for Economic Development Planning and Assets. Cllr Wakefield suggested the Parish Council writes to him about the issues the parish is experiencing in some areas and to make him aware that it hasn't been served well by Matt Barrow, CDS Community Stakeholder Engagement Officer. The Clerk will also write to Gideon Amos, the new MP.  
The previous Government put an additional £5billion into providing fast, reliable broadband across the UK through Project Gigabit.

**36/08/24. Democratic Period. No members of the public present.** No members of the public present.

### **37/08/24. Reports**

**a) Somerset Council.** Cllr Wakefield brought draft copies of a letter which she and Cllr Henley plan to deliver to residents in the parish. The letter contains a survey asking for views about introducing a 20mph speed limit in parts or all of the village and on installing speed indicator devices (SIDs). The costs would need to be met by the Parish Council. The Village Hall Acting Chair will be asked if responses could be posted back into the letterbox at the village hall. Councillors were asked to email any suggested amendments to the letter to the Clerk who will circulate an electronic version of the draft letter.

Cllr Wakefield will have housing strategy and homelessness added to her adult social care portfolio. It is hugely expensive to use bed and breakfast for qualifying

homeless people. Cllr Silverlight noted people do not always want to use hostels in Taunton as they sometimes feel unsafe.  
Somerset Council is looking slightly better financially than it was.

Cllr Wakefield left the meeting.

**b) Any other reports.** The minutes of the Local Community Network AGM have been circulated by email. The next LCN meeting will be on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Michelle Brooks has been appointed as the Link Officer for the Wellington and Wiveliscombe LCN.

### **38/08/24. Planning:**

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

**46/24/0010** Erection of a 62 No. bedroomed dementia care home together with the associated access, parking and landscaping at Camelot House, Ham Road, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support this application.

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

**46/21/0032** Change of use of land from agricultural to sui generis (campsite) on land at Stable View, Calways Lane, West Buckland. Decision of finally disposed of.

**46/24/0003/LEW** Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of garage as a workshop (Class E g (iii)) for the production of kit cars at 2 Ivy Cottages, Haywards Road, West Buckland. Decision: approval granted.

**46/24/0004** Change of use of land from residential to storage (Class B8 use) with siting of storage containers at Llantarnam, Nursery Lane, West Buckland (retention of part works already undertaken). Decision: refusal.

**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. Decision: conditional approval granted.

**46/24/0009/AGN** Application for prior notification for the erection of a dual pitch portal framed building to roof over open farmyard at Lower Ruggin Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland. Decision: no objection.

**c) Any other planning matters.** None.

### **39/08/24. Highways.**

**a) To note any required work to be reported to SC.** No required work reported.

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

**c) Report from site meeting with Kate Brown.** The site meeting was very successful and Cllr Silverlight, Cllr Ms Drury and Cllr Henley walked through the village and the following list of work was compiled:

Silver Street from Bradford on Tone direction heading south into the village

- Refresh yellow bar markings and 30 roundel
- 30 terminals – Parish Council to get hedge cut on left hand side so that sign is visible and clean sign on right hand side.
- Dyers Close – refresh junction markings

- Crown Hill into Sawyers Hill – refresh junction markings, install 30 roundels in road (KB to drive route to assess how many required) as repeater signs are hidden in the hedges.
- Refresh junction by war memorial (road towards Willowbrook Nursery)
- 20 Terminal Sign (Superintendent to be asked to move sign back around so its facing the right way.
- Refresh 20 roundel adjacent to terminal sign
- Refresh White H bar beside railings where dropped kerb is
- Install White H bar beside dropped kerb further along from railings
- Install White H bar where footpath drops near no 4 Peacocks Cottages
- Refresh School Keep Clear
- Refresh junction markings near school to make clear where centre line is located.
- Refresh 20 roundel adjacent to 20 terminal sign
- Refresh SLOW on approach to start of 20
- Refresh junction give way at Lee Park
- Refresh 30 roundel
- Refresh yellow bar markings on approach to 30 mph sign
- Refresh junction markings at Stoford Lane.

Some of this was already on the list of works for 2024-25. It is hoped the rest can be added and work can be completed before the bad weather starts towards the end of the year.

Cllr Ms Drury was asked to contact the owners of the house behind the 'H' bar at 4 Peacocks Cottage to make them aware of the work to be done. She has knocked on their door several times but they have not been in. She has told KB she cannot contact them.

Following the meeting KB was asked to add the road markings at Budgett's Cross by Thomas Bros and the markings at each end of Buckland Farm Road.

**d) To discuss results of traffic survey carried out by Somerset councillor and options for trying to reduce speed.** The survey has not been carried out

. The draft letter and survey was discussed under item 37/08/24 a).

**e) Any other highways matters.** None.

#### **40/08/24. Finance:**

**a) To agree and authorise any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments: Mr N D Richards - £70.00 grass cutting (Payment reference: 2425/26)  
Cllr C Silverlight – expenses claim for padlocks and paint (Payment ref: 2425/27)  
Cllr Silverlight declared an interest and took no part in the agreement of his payment.

Somerset Association of Local Councils - £326.86 annual affiliation fee for SALC and NALC (Payment ref: 2425/28)

Mrs J Larcombe - £327.24 Clerk's salary for August 2024 and expenses (Payment ref: 2425/29).

HM Revenue & Customs - £37.60 PAYE for August (Payment ref: 2425/30)

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

Since the last meeting the following payments have been made:

Bank service charge - £18.00

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd - £135.17 playing field & play area grass cutting .June payment (Payment ref: 2425/19)

Hobbs Electrical Ltd - £109.48 repairs to defibrillator electrical supply (Payment ref: 2425/20)

Somerset Council - £121.99 emptying dog bin 01/04/24 – 30/06/24 (Payment ref: 2425/21)

Mr N D Richards - £70.00 grass cutting in village (Payment ref:2425/22)

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd - £135.17 playing field & play area grass cutting. July payment. (Payment ref: 2425/23)

Mrs J Larcombe - £311.34 Clerk's salary & home working expenses for July (Payment ref: 2425/24)

HM Revenue & Customs - £37.60 (Payment ref: 2425/25)

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

Since the last meeting there have been the following receipts:

Hydra EVC Ltd - £26.35, income from the EV charging point.

Bank interest - £152.57

The current account balance is £1026.35 and the Instant Access Account balance is £24,663.80

**c) Bank reconciliation 30.06.24.** The bank reconciliation was checked by Cllr Silverlight.

**d) To compare budget v actual for Quarter 1 of 2024-25.** The report which had been updated to include July was noted. It had been due to be presented at the meeting due to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> July but the meeting had to be cancelled. There no budget lines causing concern.

**f) Charge for EV charging point.** It was agreed to reduce the charge to 67p per kWh with a £1.00 connection charge. This will make the charge competitive and one of the cheapest in the area. The Clerk reported that she was waiting for an invoice from The Village Hall Committee for the electricity used by the EV charging point.

**41/08/24. Playing Field:**

**a) Any points to note from the regular inspections (to include hole in goal net).** A hole has appeared in one of the football nets but Cllr Bellamy has patched it up. The pegs that were holding down the net have been removed and lost. The basketball net has been taken down because it wasn't fixed on properly.

**b) To discuss the annual inspection report.** Cllr Bellamy has been through the report and he will put together a list of what needs to be done.

**c) Any other playing field matters.** Domestic waste is being put in the waste bin at the entrance to the playing field. A notice will be put on the bin warning that bags of domestic waste should not be put in the bin.

The apple trees have fruit on; they will need protection from strimming.

Despite some gas being released from the gate opener on one of the pedestrian gates to the play area it is still very heavy for children to open. This wasn't picked up during the play area inspection. The company that installed the gate will be asked to have a look to see if they can repair it otherwise a new gate will be needed.

**42/08/24. Any footpath matters.** Somerset Council made an Order lasting for 6 months which ended on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 prohibiting all traffic from proceeding along the part of Footpath WG 14/1 from the hedge line 65m east of the bridge over the River Tone, in a westerly direction, for a distance of 160m, due to the likelihood of

danger to the public from an unsafe bridge. That order has been extended until 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

Cllr Paul reported that overgrown vegetation on some of the path which goes through Manleys Farm has made it impassible. He has reported this online on the Public Rights of Way section of the Somerset Council website.

**43/08/24. Withdrawal of Rural Policing Team.** Avon and Somerset Police have temporarily redeployed members of its Rural Crime Team over the summer. Officers from the team have been switched to helping support victims of domestic abuse in Bristol. Local neighbourhood police teams are still in place but the redeployment is a concern for the farming community. The Clerk will write to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and to Gideon Amos MP to say the Parish Council is concerned about this unacceptable decision which leaves farmers, landowners and wildlife with a lack of protection

**44/08/24. Update on Parish Council vacancies.** There are still 2 vacancies for councillors. Once the summer holiday period is over the vacancies will be advertised more widely.

**45/08/24. Correspondence.**

John Popham Flats, Wellington – request for 2 new governors from West Buckland. There were no volunteers. They do not need to be councillors so this will be advertised more widely.

**46/08/24. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions).** No urgent business.

**47/08/24. To note the date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Signed:  
Chair

Date: