

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

**The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 7.30pm, in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllr's Ms S Drury (Chair), Mrs B Moore and A Paul.

**In attendance:** Somerset Council Cllr S Wakefield, Syed Shah, Public Liaison Office J26/Chelston Scheme, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**18/06/25. To receive apologies for absence.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr's C Silverlight and S Bellamy.

It was agreed to vary the order of the items on the agenda because Mr Shah had informed the Clerk he would be late arriving and Cllr Ms Moore needed to leave by 8.30pm.

**19/06/25. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Ms Drury declared a personal interest in planning application 46/25/0016 as a neighbour.

**20/06/25. Planning:**

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

**46/25/0016** Erection of covered farmyard manure store at Lower Ruggin Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council support this application.

**46/25/0018** Erection of a first floor extension to the side with various internal and external alterations at 22 Dyers Close, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections.

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

**46/25/ 0014/NMA** Application for a Non-Material Amendment to application 46/21/0037 to amend the wording of Condition No's. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 to insert wording relating to the phasing of development of Chelston Heath, Wellington. Decision: refusal.

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

**21/06/25. Finance:**

**a) To agree and authorise any payments.** It was resolved to agree the following payments: Mr N Richards - £260.00 Grass cutting in village & clearance of vegetation on footpaths (Payment ref: 2526/18)

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd - £143.77 Grass cutting contract for playing field (Payment ref: 2526/19)

Mrs J Larcombe - £331.34 Clerk's salary & expenses for June (Payment ref: 2526/20)

HM Revenue & Customs - £48.00 PAYE for June (Payment ref: 2526/21)

Since the last meeting a bank service charge of £6.00 was paid from the account on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Another payment of £6.00 will be taken on 30<sup>th</sup> June. A payment of £1,992.00 has been made to Western Fabrications Ltd as the deposit for the new gate to the playing field (Payment ref: 2526/17).

Transfers were made from the Current Account to the Instant Access account to

bring the balance back to £1,000.00. An internal transfer will be made to bring the Current Account balance to £1,000.

**b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank accounts balances.** Since the last meeting a donation of £1,000 has been received from Hall & Woodhouse Ltd (Worlds End) towards the earmarked reserves for the play area.

The current account balance is £2,000.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £25,027.05.

**c) Bank reconciliation 31.05.25.** Noted.

**d) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor for 2024-25.** The report was noted.

**e) To agree the Annual Governance Statement for 2024-25.** Agreed.

**f) To agree the Accounting Statement for 2024-25.** Agreed.

**g) To agree to sign the Certificate of Exemption for 2024-25.** Agreed.

**22/06/25. Update on researching how assistance for older/isolated village residents could be provided.** It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Moore would lead on arranging a regular monthly slot for people to meet to socialise over a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. This could be extended to helping people access services through the internet if the right support can be found. Cllr Bellamy has already expressed his willingness to help. It was suggested that Cllr Mrs Moore should contact Tracy Richbell, Churchwarden, Lay Worship Assistant and Lay Village Chaplain for West Buckland as the Church organised something similar for a while. Mrs Harding, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, will also be contacted to discuss using the hall as a venue and whether the members would be willing to get involved in assisting the facilitation of the scheme. The aim is to get this up and running for September.

**23/06/25. Report from Somerset Councillors – to include request for street lighting at Ham.** A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Wakefield reported that the Independent Living Centre is moving from Wellington to Taunton Library. She noted that following the closure of Junction 26 the 'top' road is very busy. Cllr Ms Drury said there had been a huge drop in trade for the café at Willowbrook Nurseries. It appears that people are staying in or are avoiding this area because of their concerns about the impact of the closure of Junction 26 on local traffic. Cllr Wakefield will follow up on the request for a street light at Ham.

Mr Shah joined the meeting.

**24/06/25. J26 to Chelston road project – update from Syed Shah, Somerset Council Public Liaison Officer.** Mr Shah reported that all the hard work preparing people in the lead up to the scheme starting had paid off. The roads are quieter than predicted and concerns have not materialised. Works were reported to be cracking on. Using Mr Shah's contact details instead of Somerset Council's has worked well. He is checking the work daily and keeping in touch with local businesses. The Traffic Management Plan has been tweaked. Temporary orange plastic fencing has been put around the roundabout to protect what was planted as a wildlife area. The surface of the roundabout has been dug out and as expected there were no foundations. Drainage is now being built in. Small trees that shouldn't have been there are being removed. Cllr Ms Drury noted that some local businesses including Willowbrook Nursery were very quiet and she asked if some signs could be put up

saying that businesses are open as usual. Mr Shah said signs had been provided so people were aware the businesses at Foxmoor Business Park are open as usual. He will look into Cllr Ms Drury's request.

**25/06/25. Democratic Period.** In response to a question Mr Shah explained that Chapter 8 traffic regulations prohibit allowing two lanes of traffic to filter into one lane on Chelston roundabout. The member of public reported there are potholes on Hockholler Lane. Locals are using this road to avoid using the junction with the A38 at the Worlds End. Mr Shah asked the member of the public to email the details to him.

Mr Shah left the meeting.

**26/06/25. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24/06/25 as an accurate record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by Cllr Ms Drury as Chair of the meeting.

**27/06/25. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only).** None.

Cllr Mrs Moore and the member of the public left the meeting.

**28/06/25. To continue to discuss broadband issues in the parish.** No update.

**29/06/25. Highways.**

**a) To note any required work to be reported to SC.** The potholes on Hockholler Lane were noted.

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

**c) SID update.** The Parish Council need someone to have undertaken Chapter 8 training before this can go any further. Cllr Paul will consider doing the training.

**d) Any other highways matters.** An arm on the fingerpost at Blackmoor has been broken off for the third time and it is not known how this happened. Councillors felt it would be hard to justify the cost of paying for a new arm. Cllr Paul offered to speak to a friend who is a member of the Taunton Model Engineers to ask if they had any knowledge of how to repair the arm which is cast iron.

**30/06/25. Playing Field:**

**a) Any points to note from the regular inspections.** No report. Cllr Mrs Moore has agreed to check out the regular checks while Cllr Bellamy is away.

**b) To agree to allow a variation to the Playing Field Policy for car parking for the fete.** It was agreed to allow the variation so that the field can be used as the Village Hall Committee has planned.

**c) To discuss a request from the Football Development Manager, Somerset Football Association Ltd for the Parish Council to consider allowing Wellington Football Club youth teams, particularly under 7 to 11, to use the playing field.** It was agreed to invite the Mr Allan to a meeting to speak to councillors.

**d) Update on purchase and installation of a security gate for the playing field.** The gate has gone to be galvanised. It is hoped that it will soon be installed.

**e) Any other playing field matters.** None

**31/06/25. Footpaths: any footpath matters.** None.

**32/06/25. To discuss how to recruit new councillors.** New councillors are urgently needed to ensure meetings are quorate. It is likely that several of the current councillors will stand down when their term of office comes to an end in May 2027. Parishioners need to be made aware that there is a risk that the parish could lose its Parish Council and what that loss would mean. When the travellers illegally camped on the playing field it was the prompt action of the Parish Council that quickly got them moved. If there hadn't been a Parish Council the travellers would have remained there much longer. A campaign will be arranged to make people aware of what the Parish Council does for the parish and to encourage people to want to join. The website, Facebook and the noticeboard will be used.

**33/06/25. Correspondence.** There was no further correspondence.

**34/06/25. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions).** No urgent business.

**35/06/25. To note the date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

Signed:  
Chair

Date:

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