

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 8.05pm in the Main Hall, West Buckland Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's C Silverlight (Chair), Ms S Drury, Mrs N Francis-Bellamy, S Bellamy and A Paul.

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

01/05/26. Election of:

- a) **Chair.** Cllr C Silverlight was elected. Proposed by Cllr Ms Drury and seconded by Cllr A Paul. Cllr Silverlight signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.
- b) **Vice-chair.** Cllr Ms Drury was elected. Proposed by Cllr Silverlight and seconded by Cllr Mrs Francis-Bellamy.

02/05/26. To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs Moore.

03/05/26. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

04/05/26. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28/04/26 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.

05/05/26. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda (for information only). No matters arising.

06/05/26. Reports. Cllr Wakefield has spoken to Somerset Council Adult Social Care about the issue raised by Cllr Mrs Francis-Bellamy concerning financial support payments building up in people's bank accounts and not being repaid when they die. They have responded that it is not an issue in Somerset. It doesn't look like the infrastructure for superfast broadband will be installed everywhere in time for the turn off of analogue phone lines. As soon as anything is non-standard companies drop it.

Cllr Wakefield left the meeting.

07/05/26. Democratic Period. No members of the public present.

08/05/26. To continue to discuss broadband issues in the parish. The Parish Council needs to make members of the public aware of the retirement of analogue phone lines by 31st January 2027 and what this will mean in areas served by copper wire so they can make other arrangements. Lee Park already has Fibre to the Premise broadband. Anyone who wants to find out how they will be affected should contact their phone provider. Information will be put on the Council's Facebook page, website and notice board.

09/05/26. Planning:

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

46/26/0015A Display of 2 No. internally illuminated wall hanging signs, 5 No. non illuminated vinyl graphic signs and 1 No. internally illuminated totem sign on land to the south of the A38 and east of West Buckland Road, Wellington.
 Comment: West Buckland Parish Council note the application and would like to draw attention to the close proximity of the Blackdown Hills which is fifth darkest National Landscape in England and ask that consideration is given to the impact these signs will have on the dark skies.

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

46/25/0011 Change of use of outbuilding into 1 No. dwelling with erection of single storey extension and erection of detached garage at Haywards Farmhouse, Haywards Road, West Buckland. Decision: refusal

46/26/0001 Change of use of car park into a self-storage container yard (including garage building) on former car park of Blackbird Inn, Wellington Road, West Buckland (retention of part works already undertaken) as amended by agents email of 2 March 2026 and Dr Nos. 2725.3.a and 2725.4.a. Decision: refusal.

c) To receive information about the timetable for the new Somerset Local Plan. The timetable commenced on 24th April 2026 and the new Somerset Local Plan should be adopted in March 2029. A meeting to give details about the Local Plan will be held on Microsoft Teams on 10th June.

d) Any other planning matters. None.

10/05/26. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SC. Potholes have been marked up for repair.

b) Dates for meeting with Highways Officer re outstanding highways work (Kerb at Dyers Close and drainage in Silver Street. AS this matter has been outstanding for so long the Clerk will ask Gwyn Hughes, Highways Officer, what is planned.

C)Update on missing drain cover and confusion about who is responsible. No response has been received from Highways.

d) Any other highways matters. None.

11/05/26. Arrangements for the monthly Talking Cafe on 27th May. The April Talking Café had a good turnout with about ten people attending. Cllr Mrs Moore and Cllr Ms Drury are unable to attend. Cllr S Bellamy and the Clerk volunteered to attend.

12/05/26. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mr N Richards	£80.00	Grass cutting in village	2627/07
Countrywide	£149.02	Grass cutting contract for playing field	2627/08
Jill Larcombe	£318.59	Clerk's salary & expenses for May	2627/09
HM Revenue & Customs	£71.40	PAYE for May	2627/10
West Buckland Village Hall Trust	£14.00	Hall hire 26 th May 2026	2627/11

W & E Electrical Services	£180.00	Relace ethernet cable for EV Charger	2627/12
Zurich Municipal	£599.00	Insurance renewal	2627/13
Cllr Nichola Francis-Bellamy	£21.99	Screwfix – Hammerite paint for goalposts	2627/14

A bank service charge of £7.00 was taken from the Current account on 30th April and the same will be taken on 31st May 2026.

£47.00 was paid to the Information Commissioners Office via direct debit on 20th May 2026.

Transfers were made from the Current Account to the Instant Access Account. 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 balance. Since the last meeting there have been no receipts.

The current account balance is £1,960.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £21,342.05.

b) To review bank signatories. The bank signatories will remain Cllr Silverlight, Cllr Paul and Cllr S Bellamy.

c) To agree who will check the bank reconciliations for 2026-27. It was agreed that Cllr Paul would continue to check the bank reconciliations.

e) Bank reconciliations for 31.03.26 and 30.04.26. Checked.

f) To approve internal auditor for 2025-26 audit. Paul Russell of parish and Town Audit service will be asked.

13/05/26. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspection. It was noted that the arms on the goal posts have started to rust. It was thought new ones could be made and this will be looked in to. Cllr Mrs Francis-Bellamy and Cllr Bellamy have used some cable ties to repair the football nets and they have pegged them out.

b) Review of Playing Field Policy to include increase in security. Following recent concerns about travellers trying to get onto the playing field again, it was agreed that parking on the playing field for private events will no longer be allowed. The parking plan will be removed from the policy and wording amended.

c) To discuss replacing the goal nets. Quotes will be obtained.

d) Any other playing field matters. Permission has been given to the social committee at MK Test Systems (in Wellington) to use the playing field on Friday 14th August alongside a booking at the Village Hall for a staff and families summer party. They are aware this will be for pedestrian access only. A copy of their insurance will be requested.

14/05/26. Any footpath matters. A presentation on Community Payback was given at the last LGN meeting and they will clear footpaths. Two or three things will be put together to make an application. There is no update on the replacement of the dangerous stile.

15/05/26. To report on the installation of a new ethernet cable for the EV Charging Point. A new piece of ethernet cable has been connected between the EV charging point and the router in the Village Hall but it needs to be tested. Cllr

Silverlight and Cllr Ms Drury will do this.

16/05/26. Correspondence. It was noted that if access to the Parish Council notice board is required Cllr Silverlight has a key.

17/05/26. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions). None.

18/05/26. To note the date of the next meeting. 30th June 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.15pm.

Signed:
Chair

Date: