

## WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr's Mrs M Blogg (Chair), D Lacey, S Bellamy, Mrs S Drury, D Mitton, J Nutt and C Silverlight.

**In attendance:** County Cllr J Thorne and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**251/01/21. To accept apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from PCSO Chandler Hallett. Cllr Habgood's apologies were passed on by Cllr Thorne.

**252/01/21. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr D Lacey declared a personal interest in item 256/01/21 a) 46/20/0023 because he is a personal friend of the applicant. He also declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 260/01/21 b) as his business might be asked to for installing the new bench for the playing field.

**253/01/21, To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24/11/20.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**254/01/21. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.** There were no matters arising.

**255/01/21. Democratic Period.** There were no members of the public present.

**256/01/21. Planning:**

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

Cllr Lacey declared a personal interest in the following application as the applicant is a personal friend.

**46/20/0023** Erection of 1 No. 3 bed detached house with garage and formation of access in the garden to the side of Llantarnam, Chelston Nurseries, Nursery Lane, Chelston (resubmission of 46/20/0001). Comment: no objections.

**46/20/0024/LEW** Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing use of Class B2 (General Industrial) on land at Moseley in the South Premises, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. No comment

**46/20/0025/HR** Notification to temporarily remove hedgerow to allow for access from A38 to manholes on land north of A38 at Hockholler, West Buckland.  
Comment; no objections.

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

**46/20/0021** Erection of an agricultural building to serve as a machinery store with associated operational development to include formation of a consolidated yard area on land at Hamlands, Chelston. Decision: conditional approval granted.

**c) To remind councillors about the virtual training session for Parish Councils on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 6.00 – 8.00pm.** Cllr Mrs Drury, Cllr Bellamy and Cllr Mitton will attend.

**d) Any other planning matters.** There were no other planning matters.

**257/01/21. Highways.**

**a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC.** None.

**b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work.** None.

**c) To note verge ploughing at Sawyers Hill no longer required.** The verge has been worn back by vehicles using the road and it is very wet and muddy. It will be looked at again in the spring when conditions are drier.

**d) To discuss concerns about parking arrangements for the Blackbird Inn Bed and Breakfast business.** Cars need to drive forward into the parking spaces when they arrive at the B & B and have to back out onto the A38 when they leave. Councillors were concerned this could cause an accident and the clerk was asked to raise the matter with highways.

**e) Any other highways matters.** Cllr Bellamy said the owner of Robinson's Smokehouse at Morrishes Farm had told him that he would like to have his business signposted from the A38. It was noted that he had contacted Highways a few years ago and his request had been turned down. Cllr Thorne said he would need to get the support of the Parish Council and then apply to Highways. His business would need to have a certain footfall before permission would be given. Cllr Mitton suggested that as Taunton Model Engineers were likely to want signage for their model railway and they were both in the same area, it would make sense for them to apply for joint signage as there would probably be more chance of them getting permission. Cllr Bellamy will report back to the owner.

There was flooding in Silver Street following heavy rain but this was soon cleared by Highways. It was felt that the drains might have been moved when Coburg Close was built and that has caused the flooding problem.

There were potholes along Calways Lane at Christmas but once an email was sent to report this the potholes were repaired. Blocked drains in Gerbestone Lane were cleared once they were reported by email.

**258/01/21. To note any reports from:**

**a) County Cllr.** Cllr Thorne's report had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and he had nothing further to add. Referring to the section in the report about rural broadband Cllr Mrs Drury said she had noticed information about superfast broadband for Wellington and had contacted Airband, a company who are supposed to be partnering with Connecting Devon and Somerset to deliver full fibre broadband in this area. They told her they had no plans to do anything in Ruggin. Sky told her they could connect her now because there had been a slight improvement in speed but the following day they told her there was no room left in the box for a connection. Ruggin is connected to the Pitminster exchange. Cllr Mrs Drury has written to Rebecca Pow MP who told her she would write to the relevant minister. Cllr Thorne explained Pitminster's plans to set up a community broadband scheme and suggested that she get in touch with the organiser. 700 SCC staff have been seconded to help with the roll out of the Covid vaccination programme.

Cllr Thorne left the meeting

**b) District Cllr.** No report.

**c) Police.** The Police Report from PCSO Chandler Hallett for December 2020 was circulated by email on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. There were 179 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat. There were 18 calls to the Police for ASB. Cllr Mitton said the report referred to Wellington Without and PCSO Hallett needed to show that he covered West Buckland.

**259/01/21. Finance:**

**a) To agree and authorise any payments.** There were no payments to authorise.

**b) Budget planning for 2021-22.** An updated draft budget for 2021-22 and the next two years had been circulated. Councillors discussed the predicted reserves for this period and agreed they were adequate. The budget for 2021-22 was agreed.

**c) To agree the precept for 2021-22.** It was agreed to request a precept of £9,694.00.

**260/01/21. Playing Field**

**a) Any points to note from the regular inspections.** There were no points to note from the inspections.

**b) Any other Playing Field matters.** It has been recommended that the new bench for the playing field needs to be set in concrete. Power was given to Cllr Nutt, Cllr Mrs Drury and the Clerk to decide how this would be done and they were given a budget of £100, net of VAT.

It was too wet for the contractor to cut the hedge inside the play area when he cut the rest of the playing field. The top and side need cutting and SWT have been asked for a quote to do the work.

The grass cutting quote will be discussed at the next meeting.

**261/01/21. Footpaths:**

**a) To discuss SCC's policy regarding objections to applications for footpath diversions.** Cllr Mitton said he was not sure whose job it is to make the decision whether or not to proceed with a footpath diversion application when an objection is received but he objected to the County Cllr not being involved in the process. The Parish Council supported the application for a diversion on Footpaths T29/33 and T29/34 but an objection was received and a decision was made to not proceed with the application. The name of the objector has been kept anonymous. It was felt the Parish Council's views were not taken into account. Cllr Mitton said the process needed more transparency and the involvement of the County Cllr. This will be discussed again at the next meeting and it is hoped that Cllr Thorne will be part of the discussion. A decision will be made as to whether this matter should be taken further, and if so, how that will be done.

**b) To discuss the closure of Footpath T29/34 and T29/39 by the Landowner.** Footpath T29/33 has been blocked by the landowner. There is no signage for the footpath in Stoford Lane and a hedge has grown over the entrance. A gate has been put up and a fence has been partially built across the entrance. It is illegal to block a footpath and the Clerk will write to SCC Rights of Way asking them to deal with the matter. It is still possible to walk Footpath WG14/11 and continue along T29/34 but walkers cannot then use T29/33.

**c) Any other footpath matters.** In the local press a report stated that Nynehead Parish Council have allegedly had a kissing gate on Footpath WG8/6 vandalised by mountain bikers.

**262/01/21. Correspondence to note.** Emails and information from One Somerset and Stronger were noted. Cllr Mitton explained why he believed the councils could not set up clusters or

network groups of parishes based on the locality of primary care.

**263/01/21. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion.** There was no urgent business.

**264/01/21. Date and arrangements for the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January.