

BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
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Tel: 01460 495107
Chairman: Councillor Keith Every
Parish Clerk: Mrs S Coombe

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Public Session – Nothing to report

The Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Buckland St Mary Parish Council held at The Village Hall Thursday 3rd November 2022 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

Councillors K Every (Chair), I Farmer (Vice Chair), L Marshall, R Barton D Spencer, A Rich & D Shaylor

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe, District Councillor Kenton & 2 members of the public

2022/53 To receive apologies for non-attendance

No apologies were received

2022/54 To receive declarations of interest

No declarations of interests were received

2022/55 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on the 6th October 2022

Minutes received & approved by all Cllr's

2022/56 Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising

2022/57 Reports from County/District Councillors

I can remember telling you about the merging of our District councils email system into the Counties some while ago and during my holiday it happened! Not with a great deal of joy unfortunately as many District Councillors have been struggling to access our email accounts since. Martin and I are back online and were lucky that we also had the County system which was not affected but for quite a few it has meant going to Brympton way in Yeovil in person. This will now make it easier for the other Districts to integrate into the system ready for the staff to be working for the Unitary on day 1 of the new Council. There will be a multitude of similar events over the next few months and on into the first year of Unitary, I am sure. The administration is currently working on a corporate plan which will describe our plans and ambitions for the Council for the next four years, a target operating model which will describe how the new Council will operate, a new organisational structure, new policies such as Constitution, standing orders etc. and a medium-term financial plan. When we set a new budget for the coming year we will have to make hard decisions and prioritize. We can't neglect our Elderly, vulnerable and children and yet we want to keep our environmental credentials strong to save the planet as well as maintaining roads, keeping up with planning, leisure and more. There is a "cost of living crisis and welfare advice section on southsomerset.gov.uk which has quite a lot of information which might help your residents over the winter months, it is easily accessed on the front page of the Councils' website. Somersets gritters are ready to be mobilised as soon as the temperatures drop below zero in the coming months. We currently have 23 gritters to cover the whole of Somerset. The County Council is asking farmers if they can

help with snow ploughing duties if the conditions get challenging, they will be paid for this work and if you are aware of anyone that can help please ask them to email somerset.winter@milestoneinfra.co.uk we are also asked to remind you to report any grit bins that need filling before the cold weather takes hold.

2022/58 Reports from Avon & Somerset Constabulary

Report for incidents reported to the police during October 2022 for Buckland St Mary Parish Council area. There have been 7 Road Related incidents including RTC's, 1 Incident relating to harassment & 2 Incidents relating to abandoned 999 calls. Your local Neighbourhood Policing Team based at Chard Police Station now consists of Neighbourhood Sergeant 4784 FLINT, Neighbourhood Constable 4585 Alan HOLLICK, PCSO Supervisor 7861 Caroline MATTHEWS and PCSO 8506 Gareth ALLINGTON. We cover all the Chard Rural Beats of Buckland St Mary, Winsham, Combe St Nicholas, Wadeford, Tatworth and Forton. We are still aware of an increase in rural thefts generally including farming machinery and tools. We are also urging homeowners to maintain security in relation to heating oil tanks, especially as fuel prices are so high at this time and maybe for the foreseeable future. We also urge our communities to report anything suspicious via 101/Online if it has previously happened or 999 if the incident is in progress. If a vehicle is involved capturing the registration number is of great help to us, however if this is not possible the make, colour and direction of travel is always of great help to us. We are always being made aware of new "scams" attempting to con money out of people, especially the elderly and vulnerable. No one from a genuine organisation will ask for passwords or pin numbers, so please don't divulge any personal information over the phone or via online platforms. If you need to contact us you can call, text or email us using Alan – 07889 658570 or 4585@avonandsomerset.police.uk Gareth – 07889 659252 or 8506@avonandsomerset.police.uk Or if you would rather, use our contact page on the Avon and Somerset Police website

2022/59 Planning

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Application No.	22/02647/FUL
Applicant	Mr P Lewis – Wessex Water
Proposal	Proposed permanent widening of an existing access on Castlemain Road to allow construction vehicles to access the working area and construction compound. Removal of 2m of hedgerow and the installation of new double gates (1.2m high, 5m wide). The access is located on an existing layby.
Location	Os 1028 And Part 1417, Castlemain, Buckland St Mary, Chard.

The parish council fully support the application.

2022/60 Finance

The councillors approved the following expenses, clerks' salary subject to increase after discussion at the last agenda item.

SALC – Clerks Training	£25.00
RBL – Poppy Wreath	£20.00
Clerks Salary – November	£374.12
Clerks Salary – December	£374.12

Internet Banking – Councillors agreed for that the clerk should request internet banking, Natwest don't have the online facility for 2 person signatories however a similar format will be followed with 2-person authorisation prior to payments made.

2022/61 Website

The council agreed that the current website needs updating & improving, all sections need to be checked & amended as necessary. Clerk to continue with the parish council section & Councillor Spencer has agreed to look at the website with the help of Dan Bohea.

2022/62 Community/Neighbourhood Plan

The councillors spoke about the differences of a neighbourhood & community plan. They agreed that Councillor Shaylor should look at the questionnaire that was sent to residents for the 2016 parish plan & update to reflect changes over the years & place on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

2022/63 Cost of Living Questionnaire – Blackdown Hills Parish Network

Councillors to look at the questionnaire & advise accordingly.

2022/64 Arts Project for the Village

Jolyon Chesworth explained to the parish council about the art project on the BT Openreach Cabinet. He has permission to paint the box & after speaking with the headmaster is asking for funding for a professional artist to run a workshop in school with a view to running a competition for someone's picture to be painted onto the box by the artist. Some members expressed a wish that rather than a competition for one child to win that they could do some form of mural that all children could be involved with. Councillors asked Mr Chesworth to look into applying for a match funding community grant however, agreed that if that's not possible they would fund the whole project at approximately £600.

2022/65 Christmas Light Switch On

The Councillors agreed to switch on the Christmas lights on Thursday 1st December 2022 at 7.45pm, Councillor Every to organise a tree & to ring the bells. Parish Council to provide Mince Pies & Mulled Wine.

2022/66 King Charles III Coronation Plan

Councillor Barton spoke about the forthcoming coronation on Saturday 6th May 2023. All councillors agreed to an standalone event for Buckland residents in the Village Hall. Clerk to book the hall.

2022/67 Somerset Emergency Community Contacts

Councillors Shaylor, Farmer & Barton agreed to become contacts.

2022/68 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated via email.

2022/69 Parish Matters for report

Councillor Barton said that the rusty signpost on Royston Road is due to be replaced in the next couple of weeks.

Councillor Shaylor informed the council about Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service running a campaign called "Keeping you safe in your home". Initially the focus was on Thatched properties, but they are very willing to speak to anyone who would welcome a home visit from one of the team. Clerk to organise a piece for the CBO & place on Facebook.

Councillor Barton discussed the correspondence received regarding the complaint received about the gathering at Hare Lane. Despite several councillors visiting the site there is little they can do! Clerk to write from the Parish Council.

Councillor Shaylor spoke again about having an action plan. Place on agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

2022/70 Date for next meeting – Thursday 5th January 2023

2022/71 Confidential Session – Exclusion of the Press & Public

To resolve that under Section 1, paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press & public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Parish Clerks' salary discussed & agreed by the parish council. Therefore the clerks salary under item 2022/60 above will increase in accordance with the published pay rise.

K Every - Chair

S Coombe – Clerk

3rd November 2022