

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

The Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Buckland St Mary Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Thursday 4th December 2024 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

Councillors K Every (Chair), I Farmer (Vice), R Barton, N Parsons, A Rich & E Marshall.

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe & Councillor Wale. There were 2 members of the public.

2023/108 To receive apologies for non-attendance

Apologies received from Cllr D Spencer

2023/109 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2023/110 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 2nd November 2023

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2023/111 Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Barton apologised that she had been unable to attend the BHPN Meeting as she was unwell however she has received the minutes if anyone would like to look at them.

2023/112 Somerset Councillor Wale reported that Somerset Council have declared a financial emergency with a projected budget gap of 110 million for the 24/25 financial year. The budget will be released on Friday night & will be debated over the next few weeks. Core services will not be affected however non statutory services will cease to be funded. They are currently looking at selling assets in order to raise funds.

Somerset residents will soon be able to dispose of some DIY waste free of charge at Somerset recycling sites – but they will need to book ahead. Following a recent change of legislation, from 1 January 2024, current charges for disposing of construction and demolition materials including: asbestos, plasterboard, hardcore and rubble from household DIY projects will be removed. Each calendar month every household will be able to take up to eight, 50 litre sacks (or equivalent 2m sheets of asbestos or plasterboard) free of charge to a recycling site over a maximum of four visits in a month. Households will need to pre-book trips to dispose of this DIY waste. If residents need to dispose of asbestos, plasterboard or hardcore/rubble in excess of their free allowance they can pay for this online through the Somerset Council website. Bookings can be made online from 2 January by using the arrange construction & demolition waste disposal form, anyone who cannot access the online form can call Customer Services on **0300 123 2224**. Not all sites accept asbestos and/or plasterboard, residents should check online to find what is accepted at each site.

Recycling and rubbish collection days will change for more than 120,000 households in in the former Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton areas, as well as a small part of South Somerset in February. This means many homes in these areas will have a change in collection days from the week beginning Monday 12 February 2024. Changes will be made for the rest of the county later in the year. The new routes will make rounds more efficient, more manageable for crews whilst reducing mileage and carbon emissions. The changes come at no cost to the council. If a household's collection days are changing they will receive a letter in early January making this clear. This will be followed by a service guide – including a collection day calendar – arriving near the end of January. Look out for this and save it for future reference as this will show your new collection day.

2023/113 Planning

(i)

Application No.	23/02982/HOU
Applicant	T & M Eyre
Proposal	Alterations & extension to existing dwelling to include demolition of existing conservatory & erection of new single storey extension to north & east elevations & amendments external appearance of the dwelling & amendments to access.
Location	Hornbeam House, Blackwater Road, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3LE

Decision: No objections**2023/114 Finance**

(i) The following payments were approved:

Home Bargains – Envelopes	£5.94
Argos – Laptop	£379.00
Melchior Online Ltd – Domain Name	£99.00
BSM Village Hall – Nov Meeting	£15.80
J Farmer - Poppy Wreath	£20.00
Virus Software (Split Musbury PC)	£26.50
Clerks Pay - December	£380.80
Clerks Expenses – December	£45.40
HMRC PAYE – December	£74.80
Clerks Pay - January	£380.80 – Subject to increase after discussion at Agenda item 15.
Clerks Expenses – January	£45.40
HMRC PAYE – January	£74.80 – Subject to increase after discussion at Agenda item 15.

(ii) Confirm Precept Bid for 2024/2025 at £11,800.00.

2023/115 Housing Survey

The clerk reported that she has received 52 online responses, 43 paper responses & 1 email response. **Action: Clerk to collate & report at the next meeting.**

2023/116 Website

The clerk has looked into some companies that specialise in PC websites & is awaiting responses. **Action: Clerk to report back at the next meeting.**

2023/117 CBO

Subject is ongoing.

2023/118 2024/2025 Meeting Dates

Dates for forthcoming meetings are confirmed as the following 4th January 2024, 1st February 2024, 7th March 2024, 6th April 2024, 9th May 2024, 6th June 2024, 4th July 2024, 5th September 2024, 3rd October 2024 & 7th November 2024. There are no meetings scheduled for August or December.

The Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 7.30pm on 4th April 2024 immediately preceding the monthly meeting & the Annual Meeting of the Council will commence at 8.00pm on the 9th May 2024 immediately preceding the monthly meeting.

2023/119 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated via email.

2023/120 Parish Matters for report

Cllr Marshall reported that a set of the Christmas Lights weren't working after the last day of term so was unable to get into nursery to rectify the problem. Cllr Marshall had a spare adaptor & Mr Butt kindly offered to plug it in through his window.

Action: Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

Cllr Every thanked Cllrs Marshall & Spencer for all their hard work with the village Christmas lights and also asked for thanks to be passed on to Luke Spencer for helping collect & erect the village Christmas tree.

Cllr Barton said there had been an issue in the school holidays with regards the gates being locked, which would be an issue if the Defibrillator was needed & also the fact that the community playground should be accessible outside of school hours. Under new government plans all state-funded schools across England will receive their own defibrillator meaning a new site will need to be found for the one currently in situ in the school porch. It was discussed that either the church porch or the phone box could be alternative venues to house it. **Action: Clerk to place as agenda item for the next meeting.**

Cllr Rich took a look at the drain at Lower Howstead that the clerk had received a message about. Cllrs agreed to ask Chris North to take a look & discuss with the homeowner.

Cllr Farmer said there is a visibility issue at the eagle cross junction. **Action: Clerk to report to Highways.**

Cllr Every asked the clerk to place on the next agenda re Lengthsman Drainage Works.

Cllr Every also brought up about the tap in the Wellhouse staying on for a long time. Cllrs Every & Farmer to find a convenient time to look at it.

2023/121 Confidential Matter - Clerk Salary Increase

All councillors approved the Clerks salary increase IAW Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023

2023/122

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm. Date for next meeting is Thursday 1st February 2024.

K Every - Chair
1st February 2024

S Coombe – Clerk