

BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
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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 6th April 2023 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

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

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe, Councillor Wale, & 5 members of the public

2023/1 To receive apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr Barton.

2023/2 To receive declarations of interest

A Declarations of interest was received from Cllr Rich regarding the planning application noted at minute 2023/8 (iii)

2023/3 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on the 2nd March 2023

Despite concerns voiced by Cllr Shaylor about the lack of detail in the minutes, all Councillors present received & approved the minutes of the last meeting.

2023/4 Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Every thanked Cllr Farmer for chairing the last meeting in his absence. He also discussed the village drain clearance that has been carried out by Chris North Fencing & Ground Maintenance, He has passed a map of the village drains that have been cleared and any issues discovered. **Action: Clerk to contact Highways with details of issues found & request action.**

2023/5 Report from Somerset Councillor's

Somerset Councillor Wale reported that we are now part of the unitary council. We are lucky in that we still have some continuity with Martin & Jenny now being part of the new council. Both Martin & Jenny are both on the planning committee so will hopefully be looking after our applications. They look at applications on an individual basis & where necessary will carry out site visits. He is also on the strategic planning committee, although not totally sure what this is going to entail but believes it's going to amalgamate all the local plan's from the old districts into one Somerset Local Plan. There will be input from Parishes & public down the line but details still not finalised. Martin is also on The Commissioners Police Panel so hopes in future to be able to bring more details on police statistics to the meetings. He explained that everything is on the website & firmly believes the public are just as likely to get action if they report issues & comment on planning direct to Somerset Council.

2023/6 Fixed Asset Register

Details passed to the clerk for adding to the register. **Action: Clerk to update Fixed Asset Register where necessary for approval at the next meeting.**

2023/7 Planning Policy

The planning policy compiled by the clerk was discussed & Councillor Wale fully endorsed the document, he did however state that there are a few items on there that have yet to be decided by Somerset Council. Cllr Every suggested some members of the Parish Council should try to carry out a site visit before an application is placed as an agenda item. Cllr Wale suggested a minimum of at least 2 Cllr's should be in attendance but said you need to be very careful if making a pre-meeting visit & to ensure you have permission to attend the land, you are not lobbied whilst there & you don't give an opinion.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Councillor Wale to finalise details for the document.

2023/8 Planning

(i)

Application No.	23/00288/FUL
Applicant	Mr Stephen Lewis
Proposal	Installation of No. x 52 ground mounted solar panels
Location	Brook Farm, Hare Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JR

The Parish Council discussed this application at their meeting this evening, with no comments from any residents the Councillors in attendance agreed there were no objections to the application. **Action: Clerk to email Somerset Council**

(ii)

Application No.	22/00320/FUL
Applicant	Mr & Mrs A & K Blair
Proposal	Conversion of 2 no. agricultural barns to form 2 no. dwellings, with single storey extension to 'Barn 3'
Location	Hisbeers Farm, Hare Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JU

The Parish Council discussed this application at their meeting this evening, with no comments from any residents the Councillors in attendance agreed there were no objections to the application. **Action: Clerk to email Somerset Council**

(iii)

Application No.	23/00384/FUL
Applicant	Mr Philip Hyde ProCo-STS Ltd
Proposal	Change of use of 5 no. buildings to a mixed commercial storage and assembly (Use Class E(g) and B8) (part retrospective)
Location	Higher Buckland Farm Farm Lane Buckland St Mary Chard Somerset TA20 3QZ

The Parish Council discussed this application at their meeting this evening, with no comments from any residents the Councillors in attendance agreed there were no objections to the application. **Action: Clerk to email Somerset Council**

2023/9 Finance

(i) Councillors received a copy of the bank reconciliation & approved the following expenses for payments:

SALC Ltd	£30.00	Clerk Training – Intro to VAT for Local Councils
Chris North	£1892.00	Drain Clearance
Webskein	£99.00	Vanished Lives Website Annual Fee
S Coombe	£13.04	Postage
SLCC	£141.00	Purchase of Arnold Baker on Local Council Admin (13 th Edition)
ICO	£40.00	Data protection renewal fee
SALC Ltd	£20.00	Councillor Training – Principles of Internal & External Audit (Cllr Spencer)
S Coombe	£380.80	Clerks April Salary & Expenses
HMRC	£74.80	PAYE April

(ii) Approve accounts for Internal Auditor

The clerk reported the bank balances at the end of the financial year. Details as follows:

Total balance:	<u>£23,412.83</u>	This is allocated as follows:
Ringfenced Reserves:	£2,949.00	Bequest Account
Earmarked Reserves:	£800.00	Art Project
	£1,000.00	Noticeboards
	£500.00	Coronation Costs
	£1,000.00	Asset Management
	£1,000.00	Insurance Excess
General Reserves	£14,413.83	General
	£1,750.00	2023/2024 Precept Deficit to Budget

Councillors approved accounts for internal auditor. **Action: Clerk**

(iii) Agree Allotment & Grazing Annual Rent

Annual rents to stay the same. **Action: Clerk to send letters to all holders**

2023/10 King Charles III Coronation Plan – 6 May 2023

Current plans are to televise the coronation in the village hall, moving on to a BYO Tea Party with activities for the children. Evening celebrations planned are a Bar, Band & Disco, the original suggestion of fireworks has been ruled out.

Action: Clerk to email Neil Wells to organise a Flyer for distribution around the village once there are confirmed timings.

2023/11 Website

Cllr Spencer has reached out to specific committees that she believes would benefit from being on the website. Dan Bohea stated that there is still plenty of time to add groups. He is currently focusing on the events section, so that they can be added easily with more detail. The long term plan is for Cllr Spencer & the Clerk to have access to the website. Work is still ongoing.

2023/12 CBO

There was further discussion with Neil Wells re compiling a bimonthly similar version of the CBO. The clerk said she would email the editor of the old CBO to see if funds are still available & the clerks of Otterford & Churchstanton to check their views on this. **Action: Clerk to email Otterford & Churchstanton Clerks for views & David Jeffereies,**

2023/13 Carbon Literacy Project

Cllr Shaylor attended a course in his capacity as environment champion. He informed the council that the government have financed a charity called Carbon Literacy Trust who have dealt with all larger businesses & global companies & are now rolling out a toolkit for town & parish councils. **No further action at present.**

2023/14 Focus Group Somerset Bus Partnership

Cllr Shaylor was invited to a focus group that he thought would be about buses but was a management consultancy group. They interrogated attendees about what transport means within their community & the issues with regards transport. We've been asked if we want to be part of the AGM for the Somerset Bus Partnership which Cllr Shaylor agreed to organise. **No further action at present.**

2023/15 Hastoe Group – Rookery Rise

Hastoe Group have still not carried out the repairs to the housing at Rookery Rise that they said would be completed in financial year 2022/2023. **Action: Clerk to email Hastoe Group.**

2023/16 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated via email.

2023/17 Parish Matters for report

Cllr Marshall commented about the new signs & lights that have been erected at the school. No information had been received about this happening. **No action required.**

Cllr Farmer has now received the 2 new Noticeboards & had an invoice for payment of £1000.

Action: Cllr Farmer to replace the Noticeboard in Newtown & organise installation of the one at Castle Neroche.

Cllr Rich reported that the Village Hall committee are holding their AGM on 27th April 2023 where they will be looking for new committee members. He also commented on Cllr Bartons Bulletin & said what a great addition it has been.

Cllr Spencer said that the key has broken off in the Noticeboard at Dommett. **Action: Cllr Farmer to check for a spare key.**

Cllr Every reported a bad Pothole on Birchwood Road, above Cross Hill Farm towards Colley Cross.

Cllr Every asked Jolyon Chesworth about the Art project. Currently planned for just before or after May Half Term.

Clerk reported that she's received correspondence re renewal of insurance. **Action: Cllr Every to follow up.**

Cllr Spencer asked for advice from Jolyon Chesworth about planting a tree for the Kings Coronation.

Action: Cllr Every to follow up.

2023/18

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2135. Date for next meeting is Thursday 4th May 2023.

K Every - Chair

S Coombe – Clerk

4th May 2023