

BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Councillor K Every Parish Clerk: Mrs S Coombe

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th April 2022 AT 8.00 PM

Present:

Councillor K Every - Chair
D Spencer
R Barton
I Farmer

In attendance: District Councillor M Wale; Clerk; Mrs S Coombe

4/22/1 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor F Aplin, Councillor L Marshall & District Councillor J Kenton

4/22/2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4/22/3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 3rd March 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4/22/4 Matters Arising

Keith Every has made a temporary repair to the Notice Board & found the key.

4/22/5 District Councillor and Avon & Somerset Constabulary reports

District Councillor M Wale

District Councillor Wale read District Councillor Kenton's report below.

He commented on the elections regarding the single unitary authority for Somerset & how it will work. Following election day 110 councillors will be elected at county level, first with responsibility for county council services & the transition to the new council on 1 April 2023. There will be 2 Councillors for Chard North Ward however regardless of the outcome of the election both District Councillors Wale & Kenton will continue as District Councillors in order to ensure a smooth transition to the single unitary authority.

Councillor Wale also commented about flooding & phosphate levels in rivers causing biological harm & producing algae & duckweed that is harmful to wildlife. Wessex Water could solve the flooding issue within Somerset if they rectified the phosphate problems within water courses however they don't have the resources to complete this until 2025. Somerset districts councils and Somerset County Council have been working hard to minimise delay and uncertainty around planning applications following recent guidance over unacceptable amounts of phosphates in the Somerset Levels and Moors. Large housing developments will be required to offset phosphate levels. Councillor Wale commented that the County Council Emergency flooding panel have not yet released reports about the floods that so badly affected Chard & the surrounding areas, this is now 3 months late. He talked about other areas implementing Flood Warden Schemes. Flood Wardens have a key role in helping to develop community flood plans, playing a crucial part in putting the plan into action in the event of flooding. During & after a flood, when emergency services & local authorities are helping those most in need, flood wardens become a vital link between those responding & their community.

Councillor Spencer asked about the match funding for planned work at the village hall & who the contact is. Councillor Wale said to contact the community officer at area west. Grants of up to a maximum of £12,500 are available but its not thought that you are able to claim retrospectively.

Councillor Spencer reported issues with the school buses & no one answering the 24-hour emergency line. Councillor Wale stated that it would be County Councils responsibility.

District Councillor J Kenton sent the following monthly report.

As you can imagine with the election looming there isn't a lot happening within the Councils, at the last full Council a few weeks ago I did have a motion alongside one of my fellow Councillors which was trying to deal with some of the flooding issues within our control. i.e. dealing with flood attenuation ponds and their maintenance, to ensure that water companies focus upon maintaining and improving existing infrastructure and when setting priorities for the new Somerset Council planning policy SSDC emphasises the importance of future proofing new developments in relation to flood risk and flood management. This was approved unanimously and the hope is that this will influence the new Council in the future. It does look like many of the jobs within the lead flood authority are currently vacant with Helens position also vacant.

With reference to the Ukraine appeal there are many national charities that people can donate money to in the UK and residents are encouraged to make sure they are donating to a recognised charity through the right channels. The UK Government homes for Ukraine appeal has a free 24 hour helpline available for those that may need advice on what to do, 0808 164 8810. SSDC are having two concerts to raise money for the appeal, one on April 1st and a rock for Ukraine on April 22nd. Tickets are available online from southsomerset.gov.uk.

There are lots of shows at both the Octagon theatre and Westlands coming up, including nationally recognised comedians and shows, I recently attended with my family and it was lovely to get back into normal life albeit a bit strange being with so many people, you can view the programme for the rest of the year online again on the SSDC website.

I am currently on a holiday from 2 years ago but I will see you next Month

Avon and Somerset Constabulary – Sent the following report.

POLICE REPORT – BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Please find our report for covering incidents reported to the police during March 2022 for the Buckland St Mary Parish Council area.

There has been,
3 x RTC's
1 x Accidental 999 call
4 x Road Related incidents
1 x Sudden Death
1 x Domestic Incident
1 x Sexual Offence

Your local Neighbourhood Policing Team based at Chard Police Station consists of Neighbourhood Sergeant 3538 Rob JAMESON, 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 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 if travel is always of great help to us.

We are always being made aware of new "scams" attempting to con money out of people.

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 e mail 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

4/22/6 Planning

(i)

Application No.	22/00693/FUL
Applicant	Mrs Bohea
Proposal	Change of use of residential outbuilding to residential annex and holiday let (Retrospective)
Location	Waltham Little Hill Buckland St Mary Chard Somerset TA20 3SS

Mr Bohea stated that planning had apologised but they had made a mistake on the original application so they needed to resubmit it. The PC agreed to the same response as the initial application which was:

After a full discussion where the councillors raised questions on car parking, extra traffic in the area, sewage disposal, they unanimously agreed there were no objections to this application and it was supported. They did ask that the annexe should be tied to the property.

4/22/7 Elections

The clerk stated that she'd received an email earlier in the day informing her that following the close of the nomination period for the PC Elections that the number of valid nominations received for our PC was more than the number of vacancies to be filled. Therefore there will be an election on 5th May to elect the Parish Councillors which will be combined with the Somerset County Council Elections.

The Date for the next meeting was moved from the first Thursday of the month in line with election rules. The meeting was set for Thursday 12th May 2022 however the clerk is to query with SSDC with regards to holding the AGM beforehand .

Councillor Spencer queried how the number of seats are determined & was told it depends on the number of parishioners.

4/22/8 Insurance Renewal

The following need to be added to the policy

Memorial in the school – Insure for £10k
Telephone Box
Wellhouse

4/22/9 Finance – accounts for payment

National Pay Agreement – The Clerk stated a general increase of 1.75% had been agreed for year 2021/2022. Clerks are entitled to have pay backdated to 1st April 2021. While this is a contractual increase, it still needs to be signed off appropriately within each council. This was agreed by the PC.

Allotment & Grazing Annual Rent is due. Amounts were agreed as follows

Buckland Village Hall – Manning	£20.00
Allotment – Manning	£25.00
Grazing – Lister	£46.00
Grazing – Bartlett	£30.00

Outstanding accounts for payment were agreed

Village Hall Hire	£42.30
V Moore – 21/22 Pay Increase (IAW Pay Agreement above)	£55.32
S Coombe – 21/22 Pay Increase (IAW Pay Agreement above)	£9.34

4/22/10 Platinum Jubilee – 2nd and 3rd June 2022

The following was discussed regarding the PJ celebrations

- The area has been marked out where the Marquee is going to go & the toilets situated.
- Pay Bar – Councillor Parson sorting the Bar, Band & Disco.
- Generator is included in with the hire of the marquee etc.
- Hog Roast Numbers have been set at 150/200 – better to have too much than not enough.
- Waffles have been organised for pudding.
- Have a board at the school May Fair to advertise the event. It was also thought a good idea to have a board within the village – Councillor Barton to speak to Rosey Thompson.
- A discussion was had regarding needing extra tables for the event. The PC volunteered to organise collection of the tables within the village & the Church will need to pay if they still want to hire the extra tables as there is no point in hiring items when we have it ourselves. Chairman to speak to Kay regarding this.
- Councillor Barton brought up about Hiring garden games!! Things for children to do.
- A Dog Show is still thought to be a good idea.
- Mike Canham has done a draft programme at a cost of £97 to produce 400
- Councillor Spencer brought up about the e mail from Heritage society re sending pictures in of villages to mark this celebration. The head has agreed to sort a picture & it was also agreed with the PC to organise someone to take pictures at the celebrations.
- Jubilee mugs are being ordered – the design needs to be chosen & the clerk to send numbers of requests from children in the village that aren't within the primary school.
- The PC's of Buckland & Otterford will jointly be paying for the celebrations.

The chairman took the opportunity to thank Councillor Barton for all her hard work regarding the PJ.

4/22/11 Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated via email to Councillors.

4/22/12 Matters for report

No matters to report

4/22/13 Date and time of next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12th May 2022, at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will commence at 8.00pm which will be immediately followed by the usual Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.09pm.

K Every
Chair

S Coombe
Clerk

10th April 2022