

BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
6 Englands Way, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1EF
E mail: s.coombe.bookkeeping@gmail.com
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 9th May 2024 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

Councillors N Parsons (Chair), R Barton, K Every, L Marshall, D Spencer & A Rich. Cllr I Farmer joined the meeting prior to 2024/11.

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe, Councillor Wale & 1 member of the public in attendance.

2024/1 To receive apologies for non-attendance

There were no apologies.

2024/2 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2024/3 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 4th April 2024

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2024/4 Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

2024/5 Somerset Councillor Wale reported that the waste collection contract is being negotiated at present, which means that Recycling and rubbish collection days will change for the majority of households in South Somerset. The second phase starts week beginning Monday 17 June 2024 & will make sure collections are as efficient as possible, reducing carbon emissions and improving the quality of service. Residents may have a change to collection day, a change in the week that their refuse is collected & a one-off interim rubbish collection to ensure no-one goes too long between rubbish collections.

This summer, Somerset Council will 'leave it longer' when it comes to grass cutting in a bid to help boost the county's biodiversity. From May 2024, where safe to do so, mowing routines across council managed highway verges, open spaces, country parks and council property grounds will be reduced. These areas will be carefully managed, and safety and visibility around verges and public spaces such as play areas will remain a priority and will be cut more regularly. Cutting practices along highways have been adjusted to promote grassland species during the growing season, while making sure that safety remains paramount. On wider verges, only a 1-meter swathe is mowed, leaving the rest untouched.

Somerset Council have confirmed the £2 bus fare cap scheme (nationally) has been extended until December 2024. This helps local efforts to increase bus use and preserve existing services through initiatives such as Buslt. It is understood that the total increase in bus use across Somerset between January and June was 32 per cent, while the £2 fare cap contributed to a 15 per cent rise in bus use in Somerset. The major fare cut is part of a national initiative funded by the Government aimed at boosting bus use while helping passengers save money. Somerset Council is working with the NHS on a campaign to recruit more volunteer drivers in the county who can get people without easy access to transport to crucial appointments. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the numbers of volunteer drivers in Somerset has reduced by about 67 per cent.

Somerset Council are selling assets, restructuring & approving voluntary redundancies in order to bridge the £110 million funding gap to balance next financial years budget.

2024/6 Planning

(i)

Application No.	24/00805/FUL
Applicant	Mr Frank Aplin
Proposal	Erection of roof over existing feed yard & concrete yard renewal
Location	Wetherhayes Farm, Birchwood Road, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3QQ

Decision: No objections

(ii)

Application No.	24/00806/FUL
Applicant	Mr Frank Aplin
Proposal	Erection of roof over existing cattle loafing yard
Location	Wetherhayes Farm, Birchwood Road, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3QQ

Decision: No objections

(iii)

Application No.	24/00807/FUL
Applicant	Mr Frank Aplin
Proposal	Erection of roof over existing cattle loafing area
Location	Wetherhayes Farm, Birchwood Road, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3QQ

Decision: No objections

2024/7 Finance

The following payments were approved:	BSM Village Hall Hire – April 24	£14.00
	Narked Ltd	£379.00
	Narked Ltd	£225.00
	Community Heartbeat Trust	£162.00
	Clerks Pay – April	£424.94
	Clerks Expenses - April	£45.40
	HMRC PAYE – April	£61.00

2024/8 Insurance Renewal

The parish council has received their insurance renewal quote of £425.53 which is due on 1st June 2024. Approved by all councillors.

2024/9 Approve Fixed Asset Register

Councillors discussed the Fixed Asset Register, clerk to look into placing the skittles on the register.

2024/10 Website

The clerk reported that the new website www.bucklandstmarypc.gov.uk is live & she now has full access. The website created by Mr Bohea has been closed down & the content on the original site removed with a link on the homepage directing users to the new site. Clerk to organise for all councillors to have an official email account. Clerk already has one & will transfer to that email in the next week.

Cllr I Farmer joined the meeting.

2024/11 Discuss reply to GTH re proposed development at Little Hill

The proposed development was discussed again by councillors & all agreed to inform GTH that the parish council are not in a position to comment on this subject & if they wish to seek the opinion of the villagers, they need to convene their own meeting to for discussion.

2024/12 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated via email.

2024/13 Parish Matters for report

Councillor Spencer mentioned the Land Slide at Dommett & a Sink Hole by Folly Barn. Road closures & barriers are in place. Clerk has been asked to find out timescale for repair.

Councillor Marshall has nothing re Parish Matters but thanked Councillor Every for his guidance in his time as Chair.

A resident has complained about the state of the phone box & thinks it needs a tidy up. Councillor Spencer has agreed to have a look & sort.

2024/14 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55pm. Due to elections unforeseen circumstances the next meeting has been moved to Thursday 13th Jun 2024.

N Parsons - Chair
13th June 2024

S Coombe – Clerk