

BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
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Chairman: Councillor Neal Parsons
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 5th September 2024 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

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

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe & Councillor Kenton, there were no members of the public in attendance.

2024/36 To receive apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr Wale

2024/37 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2024/38 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 8th August 2024.

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2024/39 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

2024/40 Somerset Councillor Kenton reported that the £2 Bus fare for any single journey is extended to December 2024.

The Government has announced this week that the £2 fare cap for any single journey across Somerset and England will stay in place until December 2024. The news comes as Somerset Council launches the latest phase of the 'Bus It' campaign.

A home for looked after children has opened up in Chard after restoring a former derelict SST property. This allows children who are difficult to place in County due to their complex needs to stay in a home & remain local. The accommodation becomes the children's home & not the adults meaning the adults change but the children are a constant. One child will shortly be housed there & this will save the council a huge amount of money.

Somerset Council could lose more than ten per cent of its current elected members as part of an upcoming boundary review. The council was created with 110 elected members, two for each of the 55 divisions on boundaries inherited from Somerset County Council (with Glastonbury and Street being split into separate divisions). The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) intends to carry out a review into the council's division boundaries ahead of the next local elections in Somerset, which are due to be held in May 2027. The council has now put forward its initial proposals, which will see the number of councillors cut from 110 to 96 - a drop of around 13 per cent.

2024/41 Planning

(i)

Application No.	24/01815/HOU
Applicant	Ms Elizabeth Day
Proposal	Single storey rear extension for entrance & utility room
Location	Badgers Mead, Whites Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JJ

No objections

(ii)

Application No.	24/01816/LBC
Applicant	Ms Elizabeth Day
Proposal	Single storey rear extension for entrance & utility room – Listed Building Consent
Location	Badgers Mead, Whites Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JJ

No objections

(iii)

Application No.	24/01753/COL
Applicant	Mr B Bruce
Proposal	Certificate of Lawfulness of existing use of the building known as the conservatory & caravan as ancillary residential accommodation to Little Forest
Location	Little Forest, Ding Road, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JN

No objections

2024/42 Finance

The following payments were approved for payment:

SALC – Affiliation Fee	£170.98
Buckland Village Hall – Hire	£15.60
Clerks Pay – Sep 24	£424.94
Clerks Expenses – Sep 24	£45.40
HMRC PAYE – Sep 24	£61.00

2024/43 CBO2 – Confirm Soft Loan

Nothing further to report & investigations are ongoing. All councillors agreed to a soft loan up to £300 if needed.

2024/44 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated via email.

2024/45 Parish Matters

Councillor Every brought up about the accident hotspot up at Castle on the double bends. Clerk to submit a report.

Councillor Rich reported that he'd had a call re blocked drains – Cllr Parsons went to take a look & cleared them of leaves.

Councillor Barton expressed concern re overgrown hedge on Madgeon Lane & the need for it to be trimmed.

Councillor Barton also said about the closure of the outreach post office & asked councillors to place the poster on noticeboards.

Councillor Spencer repeated concerns re the sink hole on Folly Lane.

2024/46 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd October 2024.

N Parsons - Chair
3rd October 2024

S Coombe – Clerk