

BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
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Tel: 01460 495107
Chairman: Councillor Neal Parsons
Parish Clerk: Mrs S Coombe

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Public Session

A MOP updated the council regarding the investigation into the lawful use of Meanhood House, Garden & Orchard by the planning investigation officer at SDC. Evidence has been provided & the case is now closed.

The Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Buckland St Mary Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Thursday 8th August 2024 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

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

In Attendance

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

2024/27 To receive apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr Barton

2024/28 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2024/29 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 13th June 2024

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2024/30 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising

2024/31 Somerset Councillor Wale reported that Somerset Council are selling off a number of non-operational assets, with a combined value of between £17m and £21m, to help bridge an £80m gap in finances. The authority declared a financial emergency in November 2023 and has since been looking at cutting services, increase council tax and reduce staff numbers. Alongside bridging the existing £80m financial shortfall for the current year, the authority has predicted a £110m budget gap for 2025/2026. The council, which made the decision at an executive committee meeting, said the costs of delivering services, particularly adult social care were rising significantly faster than its income. In the official report which laid out the decision, the authority stated they were "committed" to reducing its property and land portfolio to reduce holding and management costs and bring in additional funds.

He also reported about planned works on some roads around Dommett and told the PC to pass any major issues with regards Highways to him.

2024/32 Finance

- (i) The following payments were approved:

MJP Bookkeeping – Internal Audit	£51.00
BSM Village Hall Hire – Jun 24	£15.80
Clerks Pay – Jun 24	£424.94
Clerks Expenses – Jun 24	£45.40
HMRC PAYE – Jun 24	£61.00

Clerks Pay – Jul 24	£424.94
Clerks Expenses – Jul 24	£45.40
HMRC PAYE – Jul 24	£61.00
Clerks Pay – Aug 24	£424.94
Clerks Expenses – Aug 24	£45.40
HMRC PAYE – Aug 24	£61.00
SLCC – Clerk Membership (Half)	£91.50

(ii) The Bank Reconciliation & Budget vs Actual Spend for Q1 of 2024/2025 were approved by all councillors present.

(iii) The clerk reported that she is submitting the VAT Refund for 2023/2024 of £163.14.

2024/33 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated via email.

2024/34 Parish Matters

Councillor Farmer asked the clerk to report the broken Castlemain Sign at junction with the A303.

The clerk reported that the Government Email Addresses have been sent out to all councillors & will transit across in due course

The clerk reported an update re the CBO2 – Community Magazine & councillors were asked in particular if the Parish Council would be prepared to provide some seed-funding/a soft loan of no more than £200-£300. Councillors agreed in principle due to receiving a refund from the original CBO on it's closure.

The clerk reported that she'd received correspondence asking for details of Grit Bins that need to be filled. Councillor Every to check & inform the clerk.

2024/35 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 5th September 2024.

N Parsons - Chair
5th September 2024

S Coombe – Clerk