

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 member of the public asked on behalf of her children about the possibility of there being somewhere in the village for the children to play football as there is no longer access to the field in the school when it is closed. The Parish Council agreed to look into it more.

The Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Buckland St Mary Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Thursday 7th November 2024 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

Councillors N Parsons, I Farmer, A Rich, E Marshall, K Every, R Barton.

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe & Councillor Wale & 3 members of the public in attendance.

2024/47 To receive apologies for non-attendance

No apologies were received.

2024/48 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2024/49 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 3rd October 2024.

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2024/50 Matters arising from the minutes

Councillor Barton reported that work had been carried out on the hump in the road that had been reported at the last meeting.

Councillor Barton also reported that there has been no further progression re the New CBO due to illness.

The clerk reported that she had received the following response following the concerns sent regarding the accident hotspot along Castlmain:- Thank you for contacting Somerset Council to report your road safety concerns regarding Castlmain, Buckland St Mary. I would like to assure you we take matters of road safety extremely seriously. Having reviewed this length of highway, I have identified several traffic management measures already deployed which require improvement. These measures include the cleaning, refixing/realigning, and where necessary renewing warning and chevron signage. The improvement works identified has been issued to our Service Provider and now forms part of our current sign maintenance programme. Please be assured, Somerset Council work closely with Avon & Somerset Police. The Police authority share their injury collision reports with us once all investigation works have been completed, in order for the highway authority to understand the full circumstances, which we carefully consider.

2024/51 Somerset Councillor Wale reported that following the Government's budget announcement on the 30 October 2024, the A358 Taunton to Southfields scheme has been cancelled. The scheme was identified as having poor value for money and limited economic benefits for the region. The A358 will now remain a Somerset Council Road, and they will be responsible for addressing any ongoing concerns or challenges on the route.

More than 200 members of staff at Somerset Council have been accepted for voluntary redundancy. It is the first round of job cuts as the authority looks to save £40m from its annual pay bill. It said 372 people applied for voluntary redundancy earlier this year and 201 have now been accepted. Of those, 49 have to be signed off by councillors next week, external as their redundancy

packages, including pensions, are worth more than £100,000. Those include the council's current chief finance officer and the director of public health. Those posts hold responsibilities the council is legally required to have, but the authority said these will be subsumed into different roles in the council's restructure.

2024/52 Councillor's Resignation

Following the resignation of Councillor Spencer the clerk has taken the necessary action in reporting the vacancy to the returning officer. If there are not the required number of requests from residents for an election the vacant position will be filled by co-option at the next meeting.

2024/53 Finance

(i) The following were approved for payment:

Clerks Pay – November 24	£424.94
Clerks Expenses –November 24	£45.40
HMRC PAYE – November 24	£61.00
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(ii) The clerk shared the budget Year to date spend for April – September 2024.

(iii) The clerk reported that £156.31 has been paid into the account from HMRC for VAT.

(iv) The clerk reported that a CIL Payment has been received of £1460.68.

2024/54 2025 – Meeting Dates

The following dates have been set for 2025 meeting dates, 9th January, 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October & 6th November.

2024/55 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated via email.

2024/56 Parish Matters

No parish Matters

2024/57 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 9th January 2024.

N Parsons - Chair
9th January 2025

S Coombe – Clerk