

BUCKLAND ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Councillor Neal Parsons

Parish Clerk: Mrs S Coombe

Public Session

The Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Buckland St Mary Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Thursday 4th June 2026 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

Councillors N Parsons (Chair), A Rich, K Every, R Barton, K Albon & L Wood

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe & Councillor Kenton

2026/135 To receive apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr Farmer & Councillor Wale.

2026/136 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2026/137 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 7th May 2026

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2026/138 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

2026/139 Somerset Cllr Kenton reported that Somerset has around 600 registered young carers, though the real number may be closer to 2,000. A recent schools-based project has helped identify more young carers and direct them to emotional and academic support. Sixteen young carers, some as young as five, have created a short video sharing their experiences. Young carers are children under 18 who provide regular care for a family member due to illness, disability, mental health issues or substance dependency. Their responsibilities often go far beyond normal household help and can affect their education, wellbeing and social development. Somerset Council provides support, advice and respite for young carers, including grants through the Somerset Community Foundation to help families access breaks and age-appropriate activities. The video, "Small Shoulders", featuring young carers from Bridgwater and Tintinhull, is available on the Somerset Council website.

Councillor Kenton also invited councillors to attend the Monthly Planning Meeting in Yeovil, usually held on the second Tuesday of each month, to gain a better understanding of how the meetings are run.

2026/140 Planning

(i)

Application No	25/02815/FUL
Applicant	Mrs Jerry Lowe
Proposal	Change of use of Agricultural barn to residential dwelling.
Location	Land adjacent Orchard Cottage, Hare Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JS

Following a discussion all Councillors agreed to support the application.

2026/141 Agar

Councillors were unable to approve the AGAR due to the clerk having not received the Internal Auditors report. Approval moved to the next meeting.

2026/142 Finance

(i) The following payments were approved:

Melchior Online Ltd (vanished Lives Website)	£99.00
Chard Digital Print Ltd (BSM Flower Show)	£220.00
Clerks Salary & Expenses – Jun 2026	£532.65

(ii) The clerk shared the bank reconciliation for May 2026 with all councillors.

2026/143 BSM Village Fete 2026

Cllr Barton & Cllr Wood shared an update with regards to the Village Summer Fete on Saturday 4th July 2026. Preparations are well underway. Volunteers required for setting up, baking & running the fete. Cllr Barton to liaise with Cllr Farmer re tables & chairs.

2026/144 Parish Matters

Cllr Albon reported that the surface dressing has now been swept after the complaint to the council albeit not very well.

Cllr Parsons asked if Cllr Farmer had ordered the scalplings for the village hall. They have been ordered & the work carried out but the clerk has not yet paid for it.

2026/145 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 25th June 2026.

N Parsons - Chair
25th June 2026

S Coombe – Clerk