

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 25th June 2026 when the following business was conducted.

Members Present

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

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs S Coombe & Cllr Wale

2026/146 To receive apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr's I Farmer & A Rich

2026/147 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2026/148 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 4th June 2026

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2026/149 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

2026/150 Somerset Cllr Wale reported that Somerset Council has begun work on the Somerset Local Plan 2028, which will provide a single vision and spatial strategy for development across Somerset (excluding Exmoor National Park). The plan will guide how land is used, protected and improved up to 2045. It is being prepared under the Government's new 30-month system, with the timetable starting on 24 April 2026. Key stages include early scoping consultation in summer 2026, draft plan consultation in autumn 2027, and submission for examination in September 2028, with adoption targeted by the end of 2028. He also noted that Somerset Council's revised electoral division boundaries, recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, are progressing through Parliament for approval. These changes will create a new set of council wards designed to ensure fair and balanced representation following the move to a unitary authority. Further national changes to the planning system are expected, which will influence how local authorities assess applications and deliver the new Local Plan. Cllr Wale additionally reported that Somerset Council has recently undergone a financial management review by CIPFA, which identified areas for improvement in financial governance and long-term budgeting. The Council has accepted the recommendations and is incorporating them into its ongoing financial recovery work.

2026/151 Planning

(i)

Application No	26/01261/FUL
Applicant	Mr Ben Bruce
Proposal	Replacement of residential dwelling & residential outbuildings to provide for 1 x 5 bedroom dwelling, garage & pool room
Location	Little Forest, Dommett, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3JS

All Councillors **recommended approval** of the application

(ii)

Application No	26/01010/HOU
Applicant	Mr & Mrs Jones
Proposal	Erection a a single garage
Location	Blackwater Cottage, Blackwater Road, Buckland St Mary, Chard, TA20 3LE

All Councillors **recommended approval** of the application

2026/152 Agar

- (i) All Cllr's present approved the Annual Internal Auditors Report.
- (ii) All Cllr's present approved Sect 1 – Annual Governance Statement 25/26 which was duly signed by the Chair
- (iii) All Cllr's present approved Sect 2 – Accounting Statements 25/26 which was duly signed by the Chair.
- (iv) All Cllr's present approved the Certificate of Exemption which was duly signed by the Chair.
- (v) The Clerk confirmed the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights from 30/06/26 to 10/08/26.

2026/153 Finance

- (i) The following payments were approved:

Village Hall (May & June)	£32.80
GR Farmer (Village Hall Scalpings)	£240.00
Clerks Salary & Expenses – July 2026	£532.65

2026/154 FOBS Match Funding 2025 May Fair

All councillors present confirmed that they had approved the match funding of £2,504.00 to FOBS from the 2025 May Fair.

2026/155 BSM Village Fete 2026

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

2026/156 Parish Matters

Cllr Albon attended the local advocacy board meeting. Rev Fallon noted an interest in bringing local groups together to coordinate and avoid clashes of community events. The Parish Council may be approached in future for input.

Cllr Every reported road erosion between Blindmoor Farm & Higher Blindmoor Farm. Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllr Parsons queried about moving a Public Right of Way. Cllr Parsons to forward query to clerk.

2026/157 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd September 2026.

N Parsons - Chair
3rd September 2026

S Coombe – Clerk