

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

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Buckland St Mary Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Thursday 3rd September 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 & Cllr Wale & 4 members of the public.

2026/158 To receive apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr Farmer & Cllr Kenton

2026/159 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2026/160 To receive & approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 25th June 2026

Minutes were received & approved by all councillors.

2026/161 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

2026/162 Somerset Cllr Wale reported that Somerset Council's current financial position (as of mid-2026) remains deeply fragile, with multiple official reports confirming ongoing overspends, reliance on emergency Government support, and sustained pressure in statutory services. Somerset Council has approved £7m for a new transformational programme in Children's Services called My World, My Tomorrow, expected to deliver £28.4m in cashable savings by 2031/32 while improving support for families, reducing reliance on costly care placements, and increasing fostering capacity. Given Somerset Council's ongoing financial emergency and reliance on Exceptional Financial Support, Children's Services is one of the biggest overspending areas. This programme is designed to reduce demand for costly placements, improve permanence and stability, deliver measurable financial benefits & respond to the Government's Best Value Notice. It is one of the largest single transformation investments Somerset has made in Children's Services. He also spoke about the planning process, Somerset Council determines planning applications by validating the submission, consulting the public, assessing the proposal against policy and consultee feedback, and issuing either a delegated or committee decision with conditions or obligations as required.

2026/163 Planning

(i)

Application No	26/01835/FUL
Applicant	Stan & Mel Vincent
Proposal	Change of use & conversion of existing rural building to form a dwelling
Location	Land North of Woodside, Blackwater Road, Buckland St Mary, Chard

All councillors **recommended approval** of the application. A member of the public asked the Parish Council to request a condition prohibiting bonfires during the planning and construction phases. The Chair explained that this would need to be pursued through the Environment Agency, but the Parish Council would include it as a **note** in its response.

2026/164 Finance(i) **The following payments were approved:**

Village Hall (July)	£16.80
BSM Flower Show (Flower Show Schedules)	£220.00
Village Hall (BSM Flower Show)	£68.40
Narked Design (Assertion 10 Compliance)	£45.00
HMRC (PAYE – 1 st Quarter)	£247.65
Clerks Salary & Expenses – August 2026	£532.65
Clerks Salary & Expenses – September 2026	£532.65

(ii) **1st Quarter Year to Date Spend**

The clerk shared the 1st quarter budget year to date spend with all Councillors.

(iii) **Bank Reconciliation**

The clerk shared the Bank Reconciliation to 31st August 2026 with all Councillors.

2026/165 BSM Village Fete 2026

Cllr Barton thanked everyone who helped set up and run the village fete. It was a great success, aided by Cllr Wood's extensive publicity.

2026/166 BSM Village Bazaar 2026

A date has been set for the 2026 Bazaar of 21st November commencing at 2pm. Discussions included charging stall holders & assistance to set up & bake cakes.

2026/167 BSM Litter Pick

The next village litter pick is scheduled to take place on Saturday 26th September 2026, starting at 11am in the Village Hall.

2026/168 CPR & Defib Training

CPR & Defib training is booked to take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 24th September 2026 starting at 7pm. All are welcome.

2026/169 Parish Matters

Cllr Barton asked that the grass verge be trimmed at the War Memorial on Hare Lane.

Cllr Barton also reported a complaint from a Blackwater resident about several boy racers speeding along the road late at night.

Cllr Every raised concerns about the number of accidents on the A303 through Newtown and suggested considering a lower speed limit. These incidents cause significant traffic disruption as vehicles divert through the village.

Cllr Wood requested that the next meeting agenda include a discussion on introducing a 20 mph speed limit through Buckland St Mary or extending the existing 30 mph limit.

2026/170 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 1st October 2026.

N Parsons - Chair
1st October 2026

S Coombe – Clerk