

Buckland Dinham Annual Parish Meeting - Minutes 6th March 2025

Present	Councillors: John Reckless, Alan King, Sarah Barnett, Susie Hicks
Attending	Approximately 60 members of the Village, Parish Clerk Diane Sleigh
	Comment
1.	Welcome and Introduction from John Reckless, Chair of Buckland Dinham Parish Council (BDPC)
19.30	The Annual Village Gathering is organised by BDPC for the Village to gather to hear news from various groups from the previous year, their plans for the future, to bring ideas to Council, groups and offer help where they would like to. It is not a Council meeting.
	BDPC do need another Councillor, please speak to any Councillor or Diane the Clerk if you'd like more information. The agendas and minutes of meetings are on the website if you'd like to get an idea of what happens.
	The website also has information about contacting agencies about flooding, blocked drains and gullies.
	Speedwatch sessions inform the Police of our needs and they continue to complete enforcement sessions. There are no plans for a fixed camera as there is insufficient evidence of efficacy in the long term and it is not economically viable as costs are carried by Avon and Somerset but most of the revenue goes to Central Government.
	Councillor Sarah Barnet will give a roundup of the Parish Plan and explain the next stage as the Plan is handed over to the Village to progress the findings of the report. Leaflets were provided on seats.
	Minutes of previous meeting 20th May 2024
	v2 was provided. The only change being a correction about funds received which had been in an earlier year. Accepted by a show of hands.
2.	Village Action Plan
	Sarah Barnett reiterated the response rate to the survey was very good, what an amazing Village.
	The Parish Plan group is disbanded with many thanks for all their hard work.
	Four groups are identified - Comms (Village Communication), TTT (Traffic, Travel & Transport), BAG (Buckland Amenities) and LE (Local Environment).
	A kick-off meeting happened in September 2024. Each group has a Coordinator except LE which is yet to gather any members. The Coordinator convenes meetings of members, issues informal agendas and minutes and reports into the Council every 3 months.
	Anyone can join any group at any time. Please have a look at the website to find out when the next meeting is: bucklanddinham.org
	Groups can apply to BDPC for funds for their projects.
	BDPC will pay for meeting rooms costs.
3.	Communication
	John Stauber, Coordinator of the Comms group offered a massive well done to the Parish Plan team and thanks to the Comms group who have come up with the structure presented this evening.
	John can be contacted at website@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk
	Comms have a wagon wheel concept with spokes of the website, whatsapp, Facebook, noticeboards, five alive, welcome card and Village hub.
	Not everyone uses all the spokes but if information is in all the spokes, then most of the Village should be able to find out what's going on. If you have information to share, please email John.
	John gave a demonstration of the Live new website. Please use it, offer feedback, add to the content to make it work well for the Village. You asked for it, does it work for you? What else do you want it to do?
	Whatsapp - Libby has set up an umbrella group of Buckland Dinham Community. There are several groups to join and more can be added. Let Libby know.
	John also covered the other spokes of the waggon wheel.
	The Village Information Hub needs input. Do you need digital help, signposting to support agencies, can you provide any help? Let John know so this idea can develop to help.
4.	Traffic, Travel and Transport
	Sara Gallagher is the Coordinator.
	Sara presented an idea from the group for having a bird box festival. This would populate lots of gardens along the main road with decorated bird boxes on poles to potentially look like speed cameras or just as a fun spectacle.

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	Diane presented another update about community speedwatch, can you volunteer an hour or two a month? Please see the information on the website: https://bucklanddinham.org/community/buckland-dinham-20761/community-speedwatch/
	or email Diane at csw@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk
	Csw and BDPC continue to engage with the Police and other agencies about speed enforcement. We were visited by Clare Moody, PCC in February. It was an opportunity to present her with facts and statistics and witness the speeds and challenges for safety on our road.
	The group had another idea to send thank you or reminder letters to 'Transport Managers' of commercial vehicles that are seen in the Village. Diane is coordinating and sending letters. If anyone can do some internet research for contact information, please collect a sheet or send an email.
5.	Buckland Amenities
	Chris Durlacher is the Coordinator.
	Chris reported on progress of a summer food themed fete - Strawberry Fayre, date 30th July 2025.
	Playing area safety checks and field mowing continue.
	It is too expensive for a comprehensive refurbishment so there will be tlc activities in the spring, please join in.
	Quotes are being sourced for resurfacing the Play area.
	Lots of ideas being put forward for whatsapp groups.
6.	Local Environment
	Libby gave a round up of some ideas. Could you be the Coordinator? Please talk to a Councillor or the Clerk.
	There have been comments about dog poo and the bin. Please be a responsible dog owner - bag your poo, take it home, report the bin to be emptied if needed. No dogs at all in the Playing area and field. No fouling on the street, outside front doors, front gardens. This is very unsociable and could earn you a hefty fine.
	Rubbish Bins - a polite reminder that bins should be stored on your own property not on pavements which make pedestrian safety difficult. If you do not have room to store your bins, please request them to be removed by Somerset Council and replaced with bags: to follow
	Flooding - there are various agencies to apply to for support and funding.
7.	Q & A
	Susie, Libby, SaraG, SarahB, JohnS and Chris responded to queries from residents.
	There are ideas for a hoe down tidy up but no one to organise, anyone? Please contact Chris.
	The D2x bus is well used and many would like to keep the route. Enquiries are being made.
8.	The Bell
	Marlene from the Bell reported that there will be several events and activities to celebrate VE day. Please dress up, join in and bring your ideas.
20.35	This part of the meeting was closed, all encouraged to chat with those at the tables, view displays, chat with all and enjoy the refreshments.