



Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Parish Council

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Responsible Financial Officer and Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Mackintosh

MINUTES OF BUCKHORN WESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7pm at Buckhorn Weston Village Hall

1	The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
	Present: Ms Phillipa Chapman (Chairman (PCN)), Mrs Linda Munster (LM), Fred Shotter (FS), Kevin Aldred (KA), Mrs Anna Grant (AG), Bob Gordon (BG), Matthew Hoskins (MH) Plus the following: Members of the Public: 6 In attendance: Parish Clerk
2	Approval of minutes: The minutes from the previous Buckhorn Weston APM held on the 6 th March 2023, having been previously circulated, were approved, signed and dated by the Chairman.
3	Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council (PC): 2023 has been a busy year with meetings pretty much every month alternating between Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna. In addition to the regular PC meetings, there have also been planning meetings in between to consider some 35-plus planning applications for the two villages. As Dorset Council (DC) Planning now like a response to planning applications within their 3 week deadline date, Councillors have often needed to meet every month, despite the clerk doing her best to obtain deadline extensions as often as possible when regular Parish meetings do not fit the timings. The PC has also received a lot of information from DC and the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils which needs to be read in order to decide what should be shared with residents, e.g. road closures and flood alerts. While such things are generally posted on the PC website, they are often also posted on Next Door to reach as wide an audience as possible. Cllr Mrs Munster and the Steering Group volunteers have continued their efforts in getting the Neighbourhood Plan to the stage it is at now with regular updates posted on the PC website. Cllr Mrs Grant and the Community Speed Watch volunteers continue to monitor the speed limits of local traffic and have been able to get slow down speed signs installed. The Community Action Group has been working closely and effectively with Biowatt and Marubeni explaining to them why there is so much concern regarding potential extra traffic movements and the likely impact on our villages. The PC is grateful for their efforts and pleased to act as liaison with DC. It is a relief to have the railway bridge works finished ahead of schedule and to also see that the drainage works carried out a few years ago to the drains under the railway bridge are proving effective; the amount of recent rain has tested the system fully. Whilst there can still be lying water, it clears much faster than before. The flooding at the junction with Hartmoor Hill seems to disappear sooner as well. Finally, a reminder that local elections for parish councillors will take place on May 2nd. If anyone is interested in participating and would like to know more about what is involved please talk to one of the current councillors. Regarding the actual election process, there is information on the PC website.
4	Reports from Buckhorn Weston Clubs and Organisations
	BW Parochial Church Committee (PCC): After a year without a vicar the PCC were pleased to welcome Clare Dean as vicar of the Stour Vale Benefice in October. During the interregnum the PCC were able to continue with the usual pattern of services thanks to various retired members of clergy but it is wonderful to have a vicar again. Since the bells were restored, they have only been rung by teams of visiting ringers as there are not enough ringers in the village. However, the Kington Magna ringers have just started to have practice sessions in the church on alternate Thursday evenings with a view to ringing before some of the services once

they have become accustomed to the Buckhorn Weston bells. The PCC are very grateful to all of the volunteers who have helped to look after the church and churchyard and also helped out at various events. The PCC also thanks the PC for the grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard extension.

BW Cricket Club (CC): Fixtures for the last year were disrupted due to rain, so it has been a slightly turbulent year. The CC received a grant of £3,500 for solar panels to be installed on the pavilion roof and a PC grant towards a new bowling machine. A recent purchase is a robot mower which has made a big difference. The men's team have played week day evening fixtures and a smaller number of friendlies on weekends, winning more than losing. The Ladies team continues to do well, winning the Dorset Soft Ball and 100 Cup and coming second in the Dorset Hard Ball. They have also played in the Somerset league. There are fifty junior players signed up and this is going well and growing in numbers generally. The CC are always happy for spectators to attend matches and occasionally have fund raising events which all are welcome to.

BW Village Hall: The hall continues to be hired each week for Pilates and Tai Chi classes as well as the art group. There are two sessions of bowls, plus extra bowls nights for league matches, and the Rangers use the committee room. Ladies Group and Church coffee mornings are held monthly. The Church, Cricket Club and BWVCT use the hall over the year for different events. There have also been children's parties, family parties, weddings, Christmas events and wakes held in the hall. The NHS blood transfusion group are now hiring the hall on six occasions during 2024. The committee were delighted that BATS put on a panto for two nights this year, which was very entertaining and enjoyable. The hall has spent a lot of money on redecorating, replacing the radiators, steam cleaning the kitchen and ovens plus the usual maintenance.

BW Bowling Club: The short mats bowling club meet Tuesday nights and Friday afternoons for club players in the village hall. League matches are played against other teams from Dorset on various other days of the week. The club would definitely like more members as quite a few have unfortunately had to retire due to health issues. If anyone would like to try bowls, they are welcome to come along on a Tuesday or Friday to have a go. People can come up to three times before making a decision if they want to join or if the club will accept them.

BW Village Community Trust (BWVCT): The BWVCT was formed 27 years ago to purchase the field that became the village green and the Trust remains responsible of the upkeep of the green and play equipment. Fund raising is required each year to cover the increasing costs of insurance and maintenance and to fund new equipment. The committee has been able to replace the defibrillator and first aid box located in the village thanks to generous donations from Kings Court Mason's Lodge and the Lodge of Science as well as a grant from the PC. Trustees have organised First Aid training sessions and re-established the volunteer call down WhatsApp list to act as first responders. A grant from the PC allowed for the replacement of the roadside gate and a huge charity walk by Nick Brooke raised funds for new outdoor table tennis equipment and a donation to a breast cancer charity in the Brookes' name. Thanks were expressed to the Stapleton Arms and BATS for their generous donations and to the PC for the annual grant which is a great help towards the increasing insurance costs. The new tractor mower is working well and the committee volunteers continue to keep the green looking good.

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Public Discussion: None.

Thank you for the reports received. The meeting closed at 7.15pm.
These minutes are signed as a true and accurate record of events.

Signed: (Chairman) Dated:.....