



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 2nd March 2026 at 7.30pm at Buckhorn Weston Village Hall

1	The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
	Present: Tim Wilton (Chairman (TW), Kevin Aldred (KA), Phillippa Chapman (PCN), Bob Farrand (BF) Members of the Public: 2 In attendance: Parish Clerk Buckhorn Weston (BW), Kington Magna (KM), Parish Council (PC), Dorset Council (DC)
2	Approval of minutes: The minutes from the previous Buckhorn Weston APM held on the 3 rd March 2025, having been previously circulated, were approved, signed and dated by the Chairman.
3	Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council (TW): TW was elected as Chair in May 2025. The PC have had six bi-monthly full council meetings in the last year covering numerous topics from precept to enforcement. There have been six additional planning meetings in between the scheduled meetings with eighteen applications covered, not all of which were supported. A new councillor was co-opted for BW and two new councillors co-opted for KM, all of whom have been welcomed. Grit bins were filled ready for the winter season and the PC have been pursuing DC Highways over flooding issues, the emptying of culverts, cleaning of roadsides and the filling of potholes. Works are about to take place in Pound Lane.
4	Reports from Buckhorn Weston Clubs and Organisations BW Cricket Club (CC): The CC were saddened by the death of Malcolm Hooker. A memorial day is being planned for July, for friends, family and the village to celebrate and remember him. A good amount of cricket was played last year. The Men played in the Dorset League coming second in League 6 gaining a promotion to League 5. Six centuries were scored this year! The women played well in the Somerset Hardball league. CC need new adult members for both the men's and women's teams. The junior section remained well attended with some Friday evening training sessions having up to forty children and their families and some Fridays being fun social burger nights. Additional volunteers who are willing to enter into some training to support the juniors are needed and CC are also seeking an additional coach. The Club maintained the ECB Clubmark Award which enables CC to access funding from the ECB in future years. It recognises that CC have the correct systems/processes in place and that CC adopt all ECB policies and standards. A successful bid for £4300 was awarded from the ECB grant system towards new showers, which have now been renovated. Solar panels (also purchased through a grant) are now linked into Octopus Energy and CC use the electricity produced to help run the clubhouse. This coming season CC will bid for additional funds to support the continued development of the grounds and clubhouse. CC now have their own portable defibrillator which can be used at training and taken to matches, (not accessible to the public). CC are in need of a boost of funds generally this year and hope to organise a Bingo event in April. Senior Citizens Lunch: Another successful Christmas lunch was attended and enjoyed by many villagers. Thanks were offered to all of the volunteers who helped. BW PCC: The PCC continue to hold one communion service and one lay led morning worship service each month with extra services for Easter, the Harvest Festival and Christmas. The KM bell ringers, which now include four from BW, have been holding practice sessions in the church on alternate Thursday evenings and now ring before communion services. Fund raising events are held throughout the year with the main one

being the summer fete. The PCC is grateful to the volunteers who help maintain the church and church yard and help out at various events. The PCC would like to thank the PC for the annual grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard extension, particularly as one of the large sycamore trees was found to have rotted where it had been pollarded in the past and branches needed to be cut back.

BATS: The run-up to this year's pantomime began in September 2025. The Chairman had to step away from directing due to work commitments so this year a new director was found. Prop building began in October with script run-throughs starting in November and rehearsals taking place on Sunday afternoons in the hall. Set painting started just before Christmas. This was an original script, The Panto Puzzle, with a cast of fourteen, some in multiple roles, plus twelve backstage, bar and raffle helpers, all either from or with strong local connections to the village. The preview night on Thursday 19th February had a deliberately small audience of around a dozen invitees. The Friday night performance saw a full house of around 100, with a good number of children present. The Saturday night performance saw a more adult audience with only a few seats unoccupied. With ticket prices of £6 per adult and £4 per child, the performances are more price competitive than others. Multiple comments were made that BATS pantomime represents much better value for money. The profit for this year is just over £750, some of which will be retained for future productions and the remainder donated to local or regional charities, yet to be discussed by the BATS committee.

BW Bowling Club: The bowls club continue to have two sessions each week in the hall on a Tuesday evening and Friday afternoon along with friendly matches in the summer against other bowls clubs and in the winter they play in the Blackmore Vale short mat league. The club has done really well and it looks like they will be promoted to the Premier league next season. More members are really needed and the club would welcome anyone who would like to give it a go. People can have three free trial sessions to decide if they would like to join and can use the bowls club's woods to play. This season get togethers have been arranged including a Sunday lunch in Gillingham which everyone enjoyed so there will be another one this month.

BW Ladies Group: The Ladies Group have twenty four members and have a get together each month on the second Tuesday of the month. Nine meetings have been in the hall with various speakers ranging from a fashion parade of the latest hats made by a bespoke milliner to 'Wild Life in rural Scotland'. Events out have included a Garden Party hosted locally last June, a visit to the candle factory at Mere followed by tea at the Hillbrush restaurant and a new year's lunch at the Old Brewery in Gillingham. The group would welcome more members if they came along or would be pleased to see them as a guest. The current joint chairpersons have completed their two years in office and are about to hand over to the new joint chairpersons.

BW Bell Ringing: The team are now ringing at regular Sunday services. (See PCC report).

Community Action Group (CAG): 2025 was a success with no complaints/issues received regarding additional agricultural traffic. The plant received one or two queries/complaints and neither CAG or the PC received any notifications from villagers, principally because Brains Farm's main feedstock supplier was sited next to the plant site so tractor/trailer traffic on Moor Lane was extremely locally concentrated and it appears other suppliers/collectors of digestate stuck to the formally approved traffic routes. Biowatt also appears to have kept to their traffic control commitments and are running the site with community relations in mind. CAG have established an ongoing friendly relationship with the MD of Biowatt with a view to ensuring Biowatt and the AD operation is aware CAG remain keen to know what is happening so information (e.g. harvest times and anticipated AD plant traffic volume) can be shared with the community and serves to make Biowatt aware that CAG are watching their operations with interest. For 2026 CAG intends to maintain that dialogue in order to keep our communities up to speed as the seasonal harvests unfold and to try and identify any changes to how Brains Farm is operating, especially anything with a detrimental impact. Unless the community wishes, or there is new cause for concern among villagers or the CAG, regular community meetings will be suspended. Updates will be via email and community WhatsApp groups. The Biowatt MD updated CAG on their initial plans going into Spring 2026. The plant is probably c. 20% down on crop tonnage from last year's harvest due to the dry year. 2026 will be a year of consolidation, they are not anticipating or going for growth in the next twelve months. An additional digestate campaign will run this spring to empty the lagoon on site ready for spring crop drilling. Some of this will entail pumping from the lagoon directly onto the land of their main supplier nearby but there will also be some badged vehicles. An update will be on their website nearer the time. They plan to continue working with existing farmers but there may be some new chicken feedstock suppliers however weather has delayed the plant's readiness for this.

6

Public Discussion: The road to Brains Farm is bad. Residents are advised to report issues to Somerset Council.

Thank you for the reports received. The meeting closed at 19.50 pm.
These minutes are signed as a true and accurate record of events.

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

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