



Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Parish Council

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Responsible Financial Officer and Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Mackintosh

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm at Kington Magna Village Hall

Item		Action
	Parish Councillors Present: Tim Wilton (Chair (TW)), Simon Stranger (SS), Phillippa Chapman (PCN), Matthew Hoskins (Vice-Chair (MH), Anna Grant (AG), Bob Farrand (BF), William Tremlett (WT) Dorset Ward Councillor(s) Present: 0 Members of the public: There were 6 members of the public present Members of the press: There was 1 member of the press present In attendance: Parish Clerk: Sandra Mackintosh (SM) Dorset Council (DC), Parish Council (PC), Buckhorn Weston (BW), Kington Magna (KM)	
	Public Session: Residents complained about the lack of response from DC to major flooding issues and blocked ditches at the top of Chapel Hill KM and blocked drains on Harpitts Lane Bowden, both resulting in damage to property. They were advised that a new liaison officer is now in place and jobs have been raised for both issues. (See comments under next item). The issue of the land by the railway line in BW was raised. There is a good prospect for the development of a piece of land adjacent to the road however, the land behind is detrimental to that development taking place. (See comments under next item).	
Q1.	Introduction of Head of Dorset Council, Nick Ireland, and Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning, Shane Bartlett, with Q&A: Several questions were forwarded to both councillors in advance of the meeting. What procedures, if any, are in place/should be followed to ensure removal of signage (generally metal) after road repairs have been completed? It seems that in rural areas more and more of the signs are just being left/thrown at the side of the road. They then get run over/overgrown by vegetation, posing a damage risk when verges are cut. There is obviously a significant cost to this behaviour which I don't like to think is being borne by residents who pay Council Tax. I have tried contacting Highways, both Dorset and Somerset (yet to try Wiltshire), but can get no satisfactory answer or, indeed, the detritus collected and removed. – <i>All signage should be cleared away. In the case of DC signs, their own operatives should collect all signs after repairs are complete. Where utility companies have placed signs, they should also remove them but this doesn't always happen. Please report any abandoned signs to DC or Jack Wiltshire.</i>	
Q2.	What can you tell us about the proposal for new council wards and ward boundaries and what it may mean for Dorset? – <i>This item is coming to full council later this week. Boundaries are periodically looked at for various reasons. The current boundaries were set in 2018 but with significant growth in Dorset and rules about how many people can be given councillor representation, there is a need to address the boundaries. DC is planning to create a couple more wards which means there will be 84 Dorset councillors (an additional 2). Gillingham's ward will not be affected. Once the proposal is finalised, it will be submitted to the Local Boundary Commission for scrutiny to ensure natural boundaries are maintained, as communities cannot be broken up, and fairness. All group parish councils remain. Some wards will be re-named.</i>	

Q3.	Has a new Highways liaison officer been appointed for this area? If yes, what is their name? – <i>Kyran Spicer is now the community liaison officer.</i>	
Q4.	Many complaints were received this year of flooding through the villages resulting in damage to resident's drives and homes. The main issue, apart from damage at personal cost, is the reactive plan of and late response to clearance. Can Highways organise a proactive regular schedule of gully/ditch and drain clearance in these known hot spots during the autumn period before the bad weather sets in and prevent such flooding/damage from recurring? - <i>A pro-active clearance programme is in place. Not all responses are reactive, however it helps when people report incidents. The weather was exceptional this winter, a 1 in 10 event. So far DC have fixed more than double the number of potholes in the same period last year. There was flooding in places where no flooding has occurred before. This year's budget meeting allocated £5m to Highways. A new gully cleaner has been purchased so there is an additional crew. Section 19 requires the investigation of areas that continually flood. In future contact your liaison officer. If not rectified, contact ward members and finally report to John Andrews, the cabinet member for highways.</i>	
Q5.	ENF/2011/0101 (Enforcement of land by the railway line in Buckhorn Weston). Following the landowner's prosecution, only 90% was complied with. Our last update received from the case officer was on 25 th November 2025 at which time he had visited the site and confirmed a further breach with items being stored outside of the lawful areas. This was going to be discussed with his manager. We have received no further information on this case from that point. Please provide a current status report. - <i>A new case was opened ENF/2025/00440 in October 2025. The case officer will be leaving and his replacement starts next week but will need to get up to speed. Enforcement have assured the matter is being taken seriously.</i>	
Q6.	ENF/2011/0101 (Enforcement of land by the railway line in Buckhorn Weston). The landowner has an established pattern of misuse of land, as evidenced by the enforcement prosecutions in Wiltshire in 2005, (who realised early on the potential for long term harm both to the community and the environment and forced the landowner to clear the land completely), and more recently at the land he now owns in Buckhorn Weston, Dorset. This misuse was originally reported by the Parish Council to North Dorset District Council pre 2011 and continually chased with them and Dorset Council since. The Council took more than 10 years to investigate and prosecute, resulting in an immune area of the site which is now filled with caravans and other non-agricultural related vehicles being permanently stored on what was originally intended as agricultural land. Furthermore, it is believed the landowner has for many years used the site as an unlicensed/illegal dump with waste scattered about, much of which has been left to disintegrate with the potential for contamination into the ground. (Photos provided to Enforcement over the years.) What steps are Dorset Council now prepared to take to ensure the land is restored to its rightful and proper agricultural state and cease the landowner's activities? - <i>If the PC suspect deterioration or new breaches, once a submission is received Enforcement will investigate.</i> The PC pointed out that residents have genuine concerns, that there is substantial evidence of the deterioration on site with photos provided. Generators have been heard through the night, more caravans have appeared, footpaths are regularly blocked, remnants of burning tyres and plastic has been reported and the landowner is now threatening to allow gypsies on site. The area is designated for the storage of agricultural machinery but the items in situ are piling up and being left to deteriorate, including gas cannisters. There are concerns about unlicensed activity on site and environmental contamination. DC councillors were advised that this is a massive problem which is building up and should be given priority and dealt with urgently by Enforcement. Cllr Bartlett agreed to attend the site with the new case officer and planning but will need to check if PC members can attend as well. Cllr Bartlett gave an assurance that enforcement officers are taking this matter very seriously, but it won't be resolved overnight. Members thanked Cllr Nick Ireland and Cllr Shane Bartlett for coming to the meeting,	
1/26	Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Cllr Chapman proposed the continuation of TW as chair, Cllr Hoskins seconded. Cllr Chapman also proposed the continuation of MH as Vice-Chair, Cllr Grant seconded. Both proposals were unanimously agreed. Resolved.	

2/26	Adoption of Freedom of Information policies and updated UK GDPR policies as circulated on 27th March: Cllr Wilton proposed the adoption of FOI and UK GDPR policies previously circulated. Cllr Chapman seconded. Unanimously agreed. Resolved.	
3/26	To receive apologies for absence: Safeena Allison, Kevin Aldred, Cllr Ridout	
4/25	Approve and adopt the minutes of the last Full Council meeting held on 2nd March 2026 and planning meeting held on 14th April 2026: Cllr Stranger proposed “the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting as dated above be approved as a correct record”. Cllr Farrand seconded. Cllr Chapman proposed the planning meeting as dated above be approved as a correct record”. Cllr Grant seconded. Both unanimously agreed. Resolved. Minutes signed.	
5/26	Matters arising from the previous minutes: None.	
6/26	Declarations of interest: None.	
7/26 i. ii.	Planning: Decision notices from Dorset Council: P/MPO/2025/07123, Newtown Farm Common Lane KM, Discharge all planning obligations contained in the Section 106 Agreement dated 19th November 1999 and Variation of Agreement dated 11th August 2006: granted P/HOU/2026/01693, Wisteria Cottage Church Hill BW, Installation of an EV charger: granted Consider application P/HOU/2026/02374, Laburnum Cottage Symphony Farm To Quarr Cross – Lane Quarr, SP8 5PA, Erect first floor extension: It was acknowledged that the extension is using the same footprint and not extending outward. No adverse comments were received. Cllr Chapman proposed the “Parish Council support this application as there is no extension to the footprint and the proposal does not impact neighbours. There is a preference for the use of natural stone cladding.” Cllr Grant seconded. Unanimously agreed. Resolved. Action: Submit comments to DC planning portal.	Clerk
8/26 i.	Enforcement: Land by railway line – report (BF): A detailed report was forwarded to Cllr Nick Ireland prior to the meeting. See Q&A Q6 above.	
9/26 i. ii.	Buckhorn Weston: Update on caravan on land opposite Filley Brook Industrial Units (TW): No update. Goat Farm (KA): Deferred to next meeting.	
10/26 i. ii.	Kington Magna & Nyland Update on KMPA lease negotiations (MH/SS): Discussions for an extension of the lease have progressed with verbal agreement from Strutt and Parker for a 30 year extension on a peppercorn rent. The PC now awaits formal confirmation of the same. The extension of the size of the play area is not desired due to nearby sewage runs and related responsibility. ROSPA works & rat infestation update (SS): A lot of maintenance work has been completed in readiness for the inspection this month. The rat infestation was caused by bird food being placed around the area. The problem has diminished somewhat but being monitored. Action: Continue monitoring rat situation.	SS
11/26	Consider resilience plan for winter outages (SA): SA, although still involved, has passed this work onto others within the KM village. Deferred to next meeting.	
12/26	Dorset Councillor’s report: April’s report submitted by Cllr Ridout in advance - Additional funding is available to support low-income households that rely on heating oil and are struggling with rising costs. Apply online or call 01305 221000. DC is progressing a plan to install residential on-street EV charge-points at around 100 sites across the county over the next five years. Drop-in events are being hosted across the county for residents affected by flooding in Dorset this winter. The next date is 14 th May at Pamela Hambro Hall, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0NT, 3-7pm. DC has recently signed the National Fraud and Scams Victim Charter, which sets out standards for how organisations should support anyone affected. The opening of Principal Street, crossing from the B3092 to the B3081 through the new housing to the south of Gillingham, has been very much delayed due to repair works of the foul sewer. Works are now complete and the adoption is progressing.	
13/26	Chairman’s report: Nothing to report.	

14/26	Clerk & RFO Financial reports: The report and financial documents were circulated prior to the meeting. Bank Reconciliation: As at 30th April 2026 the current account balance was £19455.61, including the first half of the precept. The Nationwide account balance was £5569.33. Receipts to date are £5422.88. Total payments out so far this financial year are £1111.83. The first half of the annual grants have been paid out. i. To receive and approve accounts and payments for the period 1st March to 30th April 2026, including salaries and associated accounts: Cllr Farrand proposed “the Parish Council approve the accounts and payments as noted.” Cllr Wilton seconded, unanimously agreed. Resolved. ii. To receive the Internal Auditor’s report and confirm the continued appointment of IA: Cllr Farrand proposed “the Parish Council receive the Internal Auditor’s report and acknowledge the continued appointment of the IA.” Cllr Wilton seconded, unanimously agreed. Resolved. iii. To approve the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for the financial year ending 31st March 2026 and certify the authority as exempt from a limited assurance review and confirm there are no conflicts of interest with BDO: Cllr Farrand proposed “the Parish Council approve the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement as noted and certify the authority as exempt with no conflicts of interest.” Cllr Wilton seconded, unanimously agreed. Resolved. Action: Carry out exercise of public rights at the scheduled dates. Submit exemption certificate to external auditors, post AGAR and supporting docs on website. iv. Consider insurance renewal quote: Zurich’s ‘Parish Council’ renewal quote of a £500 annual premium could not be matched by other insurers. Cllr Hoskins proposed “the Parish Council renew the policy with Zurich.” Cllr Grant seconded, unanimously agreed. Resolved. Action: Renew policy and pay premium.	Clerk Clerk
15/26	i. Other reports: Highways – updates and matters to report: A new DC liaison officer has been appointed. He has advised that jobs have been raised for Harpitts Lane and the top of Chapel Hill KM and all other issues have been completed. The potholes in Quarr have been reported. The grit bin positioned half way up Church Hill BW was recently refilled but, with no adverse weather, it is now half full. The grit is for community use on the lanes and not for individual use. An accident on the top road at the junction with Church Hill KM was reported. Residents are advised to report minor accidents direct to Dorset Council. Click here. Action: Arrange meeting with new Highways Liaison Officer and MH to cover hot spots for flooding. ii. Community speed watch in Buckhorn Weston (AG): Sessions have been carried out registering speeds between 35 and 45mph, mostly by cars heading into the village with some making no effort to slow down. A lunchtime TruCam/CSW session took place involving volunteers and the police with only a couple of tickets raised, the survey time probably resulting in the low number of fines as the busiest times are morning and late afternoon. Reports of a police car being parked in the usual CSW spot may indicate additional speed watch activity. iii. Public Footpaths: A BW resident has reported narrow stiles erected by a landowner. He has been advised to liaise with PCN regarding footpath numbers and then report direct to DC. The post on the new stile on Shepherds Hill BW is loose. PCN will report this. The footpath over the railway line at Hardings Farm may have to be boarded or redirected.	Clerk
16/26	Items for next agenda: Resilience plan for winter outages Goat Farm BW	
17/26	Matters pertinent to this meeting: None	
18/26	Date of next Meeting: Monday 6 th July 2026 Buckhorn Weston Village Hall 7.30pm	
	Meeting closed at 21.00.	
	Signed.....Chairman Date	

Items circulated with agenda:

Clerk/RFO report

Accounts and payments for the period 1st March to 30th April 2026

Reconciliation 30th April 2026

AGAR 2025/26 & supporting documents

Full copies of all reports noted in the minutes are available on request from the Parish Clerk.