

Minutes (Approved)
Babcary Parish Council
Monday 13th January 2025 8pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Chairman (SH), Mr Philip Sketchley, Vice Chairman (PS), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK), Mrs Vee Vyner (VV), Mr Graham Hughes (GH), Mr Damien Pick (DP), Mr Henry Hobhouse, County Councillor (HH), 1 Member of the Public (MP) and Mrs Jasmine Tucker, Parish Clerk (JT).

Apologies: Kevin Messenger, Steve Street

1) Matters Arising

- i. DP raised issue of pull-ins around Babcary Village having been destroyed by increased traffic flow from new Dual Carriageway. SH reported that Somerset Council are speaking to the A303 contractor about this.
- ii. Pipe Repair adjacent to Olive Farm Lane, Foddington Road, Babcary
PS can now report that the repair to the drains and under road pipe work was eventually completed w/c Dec 16th and that the drainage is now, at long last, working correctly. However,
 - 1) Damage to stopcock covers to water mains, Wessex Water have shown concern re damage to their asset, meeting in regards planned with John Nicholson, Assistant Highway Service Manager for the end of January.
 - 2) Covering of the ends to the new pipe, zero structural integrity.
 - 3) Curvature of tarmac onto adjacent road, poorly finished, concerns that continued heavy usage & weather will quickly degrade the area.BPC awaits comments and feedback on our observations.
Since BPC meeting on the 13th, Mr John Nicholson has responded to confirm the aforementioned meeting with Wessex Water to rectify damage sustained through initial works & to confirm the works have yet to be signed off or paid for.
- iii) Pot Holes, 19 Pot Holes were photographed and reported this month to www.somerset.gov.uk
Sunny Hill Farm & Dilkes Lane Potholes being amongst the most concerning holes, Council has highlighted them for fixing. Please note rectifying potholes cannot be undertaken by anyone outside of the County Council due to liability.
- iv) Mel Goymer attended meeting to raise concerns about the use of Babcary church allotments. The allotments are not within the remit of the Parish Council and there are no planning issues and her concerns were referred to the Parochial Church Council. It was confirmed that there was plenty of space for more allotments if anyone else wanted one.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £13,676.81 Current Account balance £50.
ICO £40 posted, due 23/01/25
Review of 2024 YE Accounts.
Setting the Precept for 25/26. Return form by 31/01/2025.
Precept unanimously agreed at £5,130.00 for 2025/26, a 4% increase in the Band D charge.

3) Planning Consultation

- i. Location: Underhill Farm Foddington Road Babcary Somerton Somerset TA11 7EF
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Kingston
Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use; The provision of a mobile home (caravan) within the existing lawful planning unit to provide additional accommodation for a family member as part of one household.
Mrs G Kingston declared an interest.
- ii) Impending sale of the Old Chapel fields. A preplanning enquiry has been submitted.

4) Correspondence

- i. Jacqui James, Bumblebee Conservation part of a research team from the University of Cambridge researching the benefits of meadow restoration for bumblebees in Somerset, focuses on the shrill carder bumblebee which has declined rapidly over the past 60 years and is now only found in five locations in the UK, one of which is in Somerset. Some research will be conducted on farmland in the parish of Babcary. Jacqui would like to let the local community know about the project. A short article about our bumblebee conservation research will be in parish newsletter/magazine.
- ii. Loud Music complaint, re The Red Lion dated 20/12/24, anonymous complaint noted.
- iii. Due to continuing severe weather in all areas of Somerset we are EXTENDING our Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP).
This will be in place until the morning of Friday (10/01/25) when it will be reviewed.
Severe Weather Emergency Provision in Somerset has two aims:
 - To ensure that no one dies on the streets due to severe weather
 - To ensure that every effort is made to engage individuals with supportTo access this service, call the numbers below as early as possible.
During office hours: 0300 123 22 24
Outside of office hours (before midnight): 0300 123 23 27
Concerns regarding Baker Street flooding on a regular basis in wet season, SH to take issue forward, main concern off flow to River Cary, contact SRA, Somerset Rivers Authority.
- iv. SALC Jan 2025 Newsletter, forwarded to all Parish Councillors!!
- v. Somerset Council Recycling news.... Empty tubes of toothpaste can now be recycled!! Just check the tube, if it's a yes, pop it in your Blue Bag.
- vi. Do you have a query about your water bill, how to save water and prevent blockages, or your water and sewerage services?
Wessex Water will be holding drop-in sessions at Yeovil Library on 10 February, 14 April, and 9 June to answer all of your water related questions. These sessions will run between 10am-12pm and 1pm-2pm.
To find out more, visit: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community-drop-ins>

5) AOB

i) None

6) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 10th of February 2025 in the Hut.