

Approved Minutes September 2025 Babcary Parish Council
Monday 15th September 2025 8pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Steve Street, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Jane Diamond, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mrs Vee Vyner, Mr Damian Pick & Mr Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor)

1) Matters Arising

- i) Pothole Repairs updates, none.
- ii) The Hut's revamp, hut now repainted, awaiting completion of curtains and playground equipment renovation.
- iii) The Parish Council confirmed renewal of Asset of Community Value (ACV) registration on The Red Lion, 5 year registration till June 2030.
- iv) The Local Government Boundary Commission, has recommended that Babcary moves to Ilchester ward instead of the current Castle Cary ward. The parish council agreed to object to this at last meeting (minuted July 2025) SH has voiced the appeal but as yet no reply from The Local Commission, KM to ask HH to further the BPC request.
- v) General village maintenance, Stones on verges causing damage to vehicles, legality disputed, Babcary sign at entrance to village requires repair, Horse signs requested & promised by county highways but they have not appeared yet, agreed over a year ago, PS.
Tracey Harris, replacement for John Nicholson has yet to respond SH to chase, KM suggested contacting John Nicholson.
- vi) GK, letter re Environment Agency notice of intention to stop maintenance of The River Cary on privately owned strip, Environment Agency Watercourse maintenance update. KM raised concerns that previous stopping of river maintenance had resulted in flooding. Parrett Drainage Board unhappy with the withdrawal of Env Agency service. Controversy re round-up spray being used on Somerset watercourses, PS to look into.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £17,473.89 Current Account balance £50.

3) Planning Consultation

- i. Ref: 25/01654/S73A
Address: Headland Cottage, Foddington Road, Babcary, TA11 7EQ
Applicant: Miss Violet Vyner
Approved

4) Correspondence

- i) Babcary PC Website - quote for possible new domain, PS has been weighing up pros and cons for changing current supplier. Alternative supplier would be cheaper long term but substantial conversion costs. Alternative system much more user friendly and it would facilitate use by other parts of the Babcary community, eg. Cricket Club, Playing

Field Committee, PCC and Comm Comm being able to have and update their own page. Agreed that this looked like the best long term option.

PS to delve further into.

JT to forward any other interested companies to PS for cost comparison.

- ii) Annual grit report, current stock deemed adequate.
 - iii) Speeding issues raised re Perry Hill road to Foddington. Previous concerns re high speeds throughout the village but doubt as to whether yet more signs or limits would impact on a minority who drive at excessive speeds. Speed tests in 2023 demonstrated very little speeding in the village and with split views BPC funded 20's plenty signs. PS to ask other councils how they have got 30mph signs and do not have mandatory lights in order to qualify.
 - iv) SALC Somerset Parishes 2025 AGM Conference, near Bridgewater Friday 3rd of October, book places now.
- 5) AOB
- i) GK brought up recurrence of off roaders in Babcary seen recently in North St.
 - ii) KM queried if we can clear village drains, can this be done without moving drain lids, millions of £ needs to be saved on drainage debacle.
 - iii) Suggestion of using what 3 words to note drain locations, people taking responsibility for drains next to their property and clearing (if superficial) or reporting if blocked.

GOING FORWARD DRAFT MINUTES will appear in the Village news and Views. Once approved at the subsequent months meeting they then will be posted, with any updates/amendments and DISPLAYED ON the BABCARY WEBSITE under 'Parish Council Minutes' section. [Www.babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk)