

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Assistant Parish Clerk: Jessica Thomson Buckden Village Hall Burberry Road Buckden PE19 5UY. Tel; 01480 819407

Village Maintenance Committee

Minutes of the Buckden Parish Village Maintenance Committee held on Friday 23rd January at 10.00am at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillor: Anne Howell-Jones, Chair

Councillors: Madeline Fraser, Caroline Underwood, Simon Leggate

Clerk: Ramune Mimiene

Assistant Clerk: Jessica Thomson

MINUTES

1 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Village Volunteers, Betty Millard and Sean Calvin

2 Public Participation

none

3 Approval of the Minutes

Proposed by Cllr AHJ, seconded by Cllr CU, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that Minutes from Village Maintenance Meeting held on the 17th December 2025 are approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4 Declarations of interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests, and the nature of those interests relating to items on the agenda.

To receive written requests for Disclosable Interest dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Cemetery Matters

- Memorial Testing – we have had a lot of residents contact us about their memorials, it has been very positive and we should thank the residents in the Roundabout as well as putting a reminder to contact us if you haven't already – Assistant Clerk JT to draft.
- Update on damage to memorial – we spoke to AJ Mills stonemason when they were there to see if the scratches can be fixed, they were positive that they could be buffed out – we will be in to discussions with the family and AJ Mills to resolve this.

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6 Churchyard Matters

- Church Wall update –the Stone Restoration company will start repairs at the end of February / beginning of March 2026
- Planting plans for the right hand side path under the trees – Green Infrastructure group to buy the following – Primroses, Aconites, Bluebells for March planting by the Groundsmen.

7 Dog Fouling around the Village

Dog waste continues to be a problem around the village – JT to contact the County Council about the ‘we are watching you’ campaign – this is to be carried over to the following month.

8 Play area

- Clerks RM and JT have identified various grants that could be applied for to help with the cost of the playground – the one that aligns best is FCC Community Action Fund, which closes May 2026 and can award up to £250K.
- We will most likely have to do some match funding; we need to find out what available CIL we could utilise.
- The parish council have previously agreed that the upgrade of the playground is a priority and our role is to source funding - we have agreed today as a committee to secure funding – Proposed by Cllr Anne Howell-Jones (Chair), seconded by Cllr Caroline Underwood it was agreed.
- The following to be on the Parish Council Agenda in February 2026 PROPOSAL: To Agree the match funding from CIL Funds (30 – 50k) for the Upgrade of the Play Area and demonstrate the evidence that BPC agreed to maintain the Play Area in Oct 2015. Apply for Grant Funding.

9 Shed Security

The Fobs and 24 hour surveillance should be completed in the next couple of weeks, if not done in a month we will seek an alternative supplier.

10 Christmas Market and Light Switch on

Clerks RM and JT, Cllr AHJ and the landlady of the Vine met to go through what went well and what improvements could be made, the notes from the meeting are as follows:

- Issues with Blachere discussed
- Sound Issues – not hearing at the end of the Highstreet
- Remove Banner which is still at the School
- Timing change next year – slightly earlier – 5pm
- Children to be on stage not on road, in that case there should be 20 kids Max x 2 sessions
- Look into supplying a Christmas Tree near the Vine
- Access Issues
- Children putting on the Lights!
- What funds can we tap in to ‘Community Fund’ for Christmas Lights / Markets - Clerk RM to contact District Council

It was agreed that we would look at this again in September 2026.

11 Shed alarm Monitoring

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The contractor has been sick and so a further delay has occurred in getting this completed.

12 Weed Killing and flowers

- Weed killing will be kept to a yearly exercise rather than twice a year.
- Richard Salmon will maintain Hunts End completely; he will put a willow fence around the bulb/wildflower area. Cllr CU to obtain notices to put in the area.

13 Streetlighting

Our new contractor Allan Peacock have attended the village and put up new lights, we are waiting for the risk assessment

14 Blachere – Christmas Lights

Report on progress of our complaint with Blachere on the poorly managed lights installation – they have taken responsibility and have offered £600 reduction in take-down fees but we agree this is not enough, Clerk RM to confirm the Putting up fees to Cllr AHJ and then she will go back to them

Groundsman Purchases and work around village and flood shed equipment

- Groundsmen have been working on repairing the noticeboards and benches around the village, they purchased a Hoover to remove wood dust from inside the Shed. Cllrs SL noted that there is a Bench between Hardwick and Grafham that needs attention – he will look at it.
- Overflow Flood Equipment is now being stored in the Groundsmen Shed.
- It is noted that work requests for the Groundsmen should always come through Clerks RM and JT and out of hours contact should be discussed at the next full Parish Council Meeting.
- Cllr SL has reported the Lincoln Close path to the CC – he will continue doing so until he gets a response.

15 Water Leaks at Allotments and Cemetery – following a high bill we are investigating whether there is a water leak at the Allotments, we need to also have the back tap leak repaired in the Cemetery

16 Hunts End

Confirmation of plans for the coming year – Richard is going to do the wild flowers and then we will decide whether we continue next year – we will look in June to see how things have progressed.

17 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity – update from Cllr Underwood

- They are meeting next Wednesday and will agree on fences (20cm high) and signage for Hunts End. They will also discuss plants for Lucks Lane and Churchyard.
- A Hedge has been planted at the Towers with trees supplied by HDC.
- A Nut Tree orchard has been started in the Allotments.
- The Annual Footpath inspection is underway, missing signs on the Ouse Valley Way have been noted and discussions have been had with the Thornhill Estate regarding missing / damaged fencing on the path to Diddington – they prefer to replace with a hedge.
- The Bloor Wood plan is now ready to be presented.
- Clerk JT to order Noticeboard for Bloor Estate and also ask them what is happening with the temporary fencing along Stirtloe Lane – will it be replaced with a gate?

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18 Date of next Village Maintenance Meeting – 27th Feb 10.00am

16 Confidential Matters - none

Meeting ended 11.40