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 October at 9.00am at Buckden Village Hall

Present:
Councillor: Anne Howell-Jones, Chair
Councillors: Caroline Underwood, Simon Leggate and Madeline Fraser
Clerk: Ramune Mimiene
Assistant Clerk: Jessica Thomson
Village Volunteer Betty Millard

MINUTES

1 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence - none

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 18th September 2026 at 9.30am 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 New Playground

- Grant Update, details of Grant we are currently waiting a decision on:

The Board make funding decisions quarterly, approximately 16 weeks after the round closes. 16 weeks after the closing date is **9th December 2026**. JT to send details to Proludic

- Members of the Village Maintenance Group visited Proludic to discuss next steps, review designs, and look at some playgrounds in situ – the meeting was very positive, and we look forward to working with them moving forward.

6 Cemetery Matters

- Path Repairs – we contacted three suppliers to quote to repair paths damaged by tree roots. Two suppliers quoted, we selected a company and works will be made 26th / 27th October.
- New signs have been ordered for the cemetery gates – we are awaiting delivery.
- The Lychgate is not closing properly, JT to contact Groundsman to fix.

7 Diddington

- To review request to fund the repair of the village sign – it was agreed that Diddington should apply for a grant from BPC.
- To discuss Diddington assets as a whole -

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No assets were transferred to Buckden Parish Council when we took over the Diddington Village meetings, we are currently contributing to the village infrastructure and maintaining the village noticeboard and bench. Anything outside of these have not been budgeted for and are not listed as our assets – Cllr AHJ to set up a meeting to discuss directly with members of Diddington village.

- The County Council have agreed that they will replace the salt bin that was damaged by fire. Clerk RM to find out whether the roads were adopted.

8 Christmas Lights

- Update on safety checks on Hunts End and Highstreet electrics – this has now been completed and all safe and working correctly.
- Plans for this year's light installation and switch on – JT to confirm date of installation
- Christmas Tree in Highstreet – we have agreement to place tree outside Reformer Studio; the Groundsmen will lead on this project – JT / RM to inform them.
- Gobo Projection – initial thoughts following demonstration and plans moving forward – we enjoyed the demonstration but it was clear that the lights didn't work in the village Highstreet setting, Clerk RM to go back to them explaining this and thanking them for their time, she will also inform other village representatives who attended.

9 Church Matters

To review request to partially fund the Church Clock – Parish Council Chair Peter Clark, Cllr Anne Howell Jones and Clerk Ramune Mimiene are meeting with them to discuss

10 Village Hall Trust

Update on MUGA / storage plans – the VHT have some concept plans but have not reached a costing phase at this time.

11 Weekly checks of Playground and Defibrillators

The Groundsman continue to do weekly checks of the Playground and Defibs, this is recorded on online forms. There is a small amount of wear to the surfacing reported this week, it does not pose a risk at this time so we will leave it.

12 Benches

We have two benches that were removed as unrepairable, one on Mill Road and one on Stirtloe – these are to be replaced with high pressure laminate benches. There is another bench on path B7 area that needs to be repaired.

13 Village Maintenance Budget – this was reviewed and finalised ready for full council.

14 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity – update from Cllr Underwood

- Footbath B7 is unpassable – this has been reported
- They are requesting a permissive path be agreed on down the side of the field adjacent to Leadens Lane – the Lane is dangerous to walk down.

15 Date of next Village Maintenance Meeting – 13th November 2026 9.30am at the Village Hall

16 Confidential Matters - none

17 Meeting Ended – 10.30