

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ramune Mimiene, Buckden Village Hall Burberry Road Buckden PE19 5UY.
Tel; 01480 819407

Minutes of the Buckden Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.00pm at Village Hall

Present:

Councillor: Peter Clark, Chair

Councillors: Anne Howell-Jones, Mark Williams, Emily Lankfer, Aidan Joy, Anita Pancholi-McCann, Dave Duncan, John Thelwall, Gerald Sansom, Madeline Fraser, and David Gregory.

Clerk: Ramune Mimiene

HDC Cllr Martin Hassall

1 member of the public

MINUTES

03-224 To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Cllrs Caroline Underwood, William Goodger, and Simon Leggate sent apologies for absence which were accepted.

CC Cllr Liam Beckett also sent apologies for absence.

03-225 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests, and the nature of those interests relating to items on the agenda – None.

To receive written requests for Disclosable Interest dispensations – None.

03-226 Minutes

03-226/1 To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th February 2026. It was agreed that the additional sentence under Minute 02/20 be amended to *'In addition to his report Cllr MH gave a speech expressing his concerns regarding the housing mix, drainage, infrastructure, and the necessity for transparency relating to the proposed development in Silver Street'*

Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr JT, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that Minutes, as amended, are approved as a true and correct record of the meeting with the above amendment.

03-226/2 To resolve any actions arising from the minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Clerk's report attached and noted.

03-227 County and District Councillor Reports.

03-227/1 To receive a report from County Councillor Liam Beckett – apologies were received from CC Cllr Liam Beckett who had emailed his report shortly before the meeting, HDC Cllr MH read the report on behalf of CC Cllr LB.

The report dealt with Bus Route 65, as he had received 6 stories from residents which he would use to support the case for retaining the service, the problems caused by parking on the verges in Hardwick Lane and the proposed Newlands Logistics Park which would impact the A1 Roundabout in Buckden.

It was agreed to take the issue of parking on the verges in Hardwick Lane to HASTAG.

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03-227/2 To receive a report from District Councillor Martin Hassall, report can be found under Agenda reports on the website.

03-228 Co-option to the Council

One application received but the applicant could not make it to the meeting tonight, therefore it was agreed to defer co-option to the next meeting when they are present.

03-229 Open Forum – a maximum of 15 minutes is permitted for members of the public to address the Council.

No request to speak.

03-230 Chair's update, report attached, Cllr P Clark

Elections in May 2026 - Cllrs are invited to bring their printed and signed forms by 1st April if they wish the Clerk to deliver to HDC on their behalf.

03-230/1 All 15 seats will be up for election on Thursday 7th May, for a term of 4 years.

Information can be found on the Huntingdonshire District Council website at Upcoming Elections May 2026 – Huntingdonshire District Council. This page includes a link to the nomination paper on the Electoral Commission website.

Nomination papers must be delivered by hand to HDC Offices at Pathfinder House, Huntingdon between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any working day between Monday 30th March and 4.00 pm on Thursday 9th April.

If you need help or advice, please contact the HDC Elections Team on 01480 388129 or by emailing elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

The Clerk to the Parish Council will also have nomination papers.

The Chair's report including details of the Consultation regarding the 4 options being considered for Local Government Reorganisation. Two options appealed to Members and on a show of hands Option 3: Huntingdonshire as a separate Unitary Authority – 3 Cllrs voted for Option 4: 17 wards from Huntingdonshire, including Buckden, included in a Unitary Authority with Fenland and East Cambridgeshire and 9 wards included in a Unitary Authority with Peterborough– 5 Cllrs voted for Therefore Option 4 is the preferred option for Buckden PC.

To agree a date for a Parish Meeting regarding Silver Street

Following the inclusion of an article to be placed in the April edition of Roundabout a Special Parish Meeting would be needed-where the Parish Council will give further information and answer questions.

It was agreed to have options to enable residents to join online and may even hire the speaker system.

Proposed by Cllr PC, seconded by Cllr DG, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30pm.

Clerk apologised that she will be away for this meeting and she will not be able to attend.

03-231 Compliance Advisory Group, report attached, Cllr D Gregory

Proposal: Buckden Parish Council approves the Risk Management Plan for 2026.2027

Proposed by Cllr DG, seconded by Cllr GS, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the Risk Register is approved.

03-232 Finance, Cllr M Williams

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03-232/1 To Note that the approved Budget 2026.27 has been published on the website - noted.

03-232/2 To note that accounts for September, October, November, December 2025 and January 2026 were checked to meet the requirements listed in our Financial Regulations, thanks to Cllr D Gregory

Noted and thanks to Cllr DG

03-232/3 To approve March 2026 Payments

Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr AHJ, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that March payments are to be paid.

Transfer from deposit to current to enable to make payments has been done.

03-233 Flood Advisory Group, no meeting held, Cllr A Joy

Smart water butts and planters were discussed.

03-234 Planning Committee Cllr P Clark

03-234/1 To note the Planning Meeting Minutes of 10th February 2026 – noted.

03-234/2 To note that Planning meeting that was held prior to the PC meeting – verbal update by Cllr PC.

03-235 Large Scale Planning Advisory Group, verbal update, Cllr J Thelwall.

The previously circulated detailed article about the proposed housing development in Silver Street (Cllrs suggestions were incorporated) was agreed to be placed in Roundabout.

As agreed earlier The Parish Council will be holding a Special Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30pm where the Parish Council will give further information and answer questions.

If you wish to ask anything, please put your questions in writing before the meeting and send them to the clerk at clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk or in writing at the meeting.

03-236 Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group, no report, Cllr J Thelwall

Cllr JT apologised for not arranging a meeting for NP as he was extremely busy with other planning matters for the village. Intention is to arrange a meeting in the near future.

03-237 Village Maintenance Committee, meeting held on 27th February 2026, report attached, Cllr A Howell-Jones

We recently carried out Memorial Safety testing in the cemetery, any memorials that are unsafe have been tagged. Thank you to the many residents who have already been in touch with us and organised the repairs, the support from the village has been overwhelming. If you find that a memorial that you look after is tagged, please contact assistant.clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk

The Committee discussed the potential of buying land for a new Cemetery – In the future we will need more space, we agreed to review annually.

We had a positive meeting with Village Hall Trustee Martin Rose, and he has given us some advice on how to move forward with suppliers. A specification to potential suppliers was drafted. A couple of opportunities for funding are also available.

03-238 The Hub, meeting held on 23rd February 2026, report attached, Cllr A Pancholi-McCann

Easter holidays activities planned, and poster circulated.

Agreed to support Fibro Yoga sessions via GP only.

Stay & Play – Now going once a week and is very popular.

Summer event potentially early September this year

Parish Council thanked Cllr APMcCann.

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03-239 Highways and Sustainable Transport Advisory Group, no report, next meeting 30th March 2026, Cllrs G Sansom and C Underwood

To discuss North Huntingdon Cumulative Impacts Group and two documents for consideration and review by 27th March:

- A proposed Committee Structure
- Draft Terms of Reference incorporating a mission statement and operating principles

Need 1 from Buckden to represent re A1

Proposed by Cllr PC, seconded by Cllr AHJ, all in favour and it was RESOLVED to approve the approach agreed.

Cllr GS has been in contact with Councillor Liam Beckett regarding putting in a submission for 20mph zones and St Hugh's Road, Silver Street, Mayfield and Lucks Lane and the High street were areas mentioned and we should look to go forward with. But we may not get these all at the same time, so Cllr GS had suggested to County Councillor LB that BPC would look at this together where he has offered support in the submission before the 27th March cutoff date.

A zoom meeting with Cambridgeshire Highways has been set up by County Councillor Liam Beckett which Cllr GS will join on the 19th March, if any Buckden Councillor wants him or CC Cllr LB to be aware of anything that needs raising please let me know, but Cllr GS cannot promise any results from raising issues that CC Highways deem minor.

Thank you to the Clerk RM getting the Mill Road MVAS unit repaired through our insurance, and the two new units have at last arrived and in the VH and arrangements to get these installed and training is underway to get data collection with our Handy men, Assistant Clerk JT, Cllr GS and contractor who has been brilliant in looking after all our units.

A Brampton Cross meeting was held on the 16th February at Alconbury Memorial Hall set up by Alconbury Parish Council with the Mayor Paul Bristow with the MP Ben Obese-Jecty in attendance along with all local area Parish Council members of this group.

A circulation of the new name for this Brampton Cross going forward will be known as North Huntingdon Cumulative Impact Group which I asked if the circulated Terms of Reference and draft Proposed Structure had been looked at and we needed one representative from Buckden Council on the group, and it was suggested and agreed that Cllr GS carried on as BPC representative.

Cllr GS wrote to The Government Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander in August 2025 regarding the Buckden A1 Roundabout issues and copied in our MP Ben Obese-Jecty who has raised this in parliament with the Transport Secretary, since receiving reply's from her and Eastern regional National Highway Director via our MP with an explanation that it was not a high priority at this time but will continue to look at Road infrastructure in the UK. Cllr GS wrote again to The Transport Secretary coping in our Mayor, MP and the Eastern region National Highways Director stating that the Western Bypass of Buckden should now be classed as a Priority 1 given all the planned building and the proposed large scale developments that appear to be gaining a great deal of interest but no Road Infrastructure being considered to support our village which is a constant congestion traffic impact problem.

03-240 Green infrastructure and Biodiversity Advisory Group, meeting 4th March 2026, report to be circulated, Cllr C Underwood

No questions on the report.

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03-241 Climate Change Mitigation Advisory Group, verbal update

Remove from the Agenda till we find a volunteer to run it. All groups to take into consideration.

03-242 Village Hall Liaison, meeting on 9th March 2026, report to be circulated, Cllrs P Clark and C Underwood

Report not yet done. Verbal update. Notes will be circulated in due course.

03-243 Allotments Advisory Group, meeting 3rd March 2026, report attached, Cllr C Underwood

Cllr JT spoke to I Wilkinson from Savills this afternoon. Mr Wilkinson said that the Church Commissioners have no present intention of asking the Parish Council to give up possession of the allotment land itself, though this was not a commitment never to do so. Possession of the parking area will have to be given up when the development goes ahead as it is needed for the access road into the site. This will mean moving the sheds. Discussions between the Church Commissioners and Morris Homes are continuing to make temporary arrangements, but it is complicated and will take time. It is less a matter for the Church Commissioners than for Morris Homes. The Planning Permission requires the developer to replace lost facilities for the allotments. The only facilities the allotments currently have are parking and the water supply. Morris Homes propose to provide 8 parking spaces for allotment holders within the development.

Cllr JT urged our HDC Cllr MH to rectify the information in his monthly report that he had got wrong. He agreed to do this.

03-244 Communications Advisory Group, no meeting held, Cllr A Howell-Jones

03-245 Correspondence, matters remaining unresolved, the chair

As this is the last edition of Roundabout produced and delivered by the current team, we would like to thank Ian, Fiona and Lesley for ensuring that this excellent magazine is produced and delivered every month.

One member of the public left the meeting

03-246 To note points of Communication to the Parish

03-247 The next Parish Council Meetings: Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7pm at the Village Hall

Meeting finished at 8.49pm