

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 27th March 2026 9.30am at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillor: Anne Howell-Jones, Chair

Councillors: Caroline Underwood, Simon Leggate

Village Volunteer Betty Millard

Clerk: Ramune Mimiene

Assistant Clerk: Jessica Thomson

MINUTES

1 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Councillors Madeline Fraser & Simon Leggate

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 27th February 2026 at 10am 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 Noticeboard for Bloor Estate

Will chase company again regarding invoice payment.

6 Play Area

- We have created a specification document that will be sent out to suppliers along with scale drawings of the play area (to be supplied by Martin Rose). We will also place an advert in the Hunts Post and will ask for responses by the end of April. Following responses a formal tender doc will be sent out.
- Current equipment – remedial repairs are being carried out by our contractor.

7 MVAS unit on Lucks Lane

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The first MVAS unit next to the cemetery has been successfully installed, the second unit at the other end of Lucks Lane will be installed next week.

8 **Streetlighting -**

Work has been completed, still awaiting invoice and report of works.

9 **Churchyard Matters**

- Repairs to churchyard wall – still waiting a commencement date.
- Shakespeare at the Towers – they will be using larger lighting units this year which will be positioned differently in the churchyard, we met with them and have agreed positions.
- Damage / vandalization to the planting in the churchyard – it came to our attention last week that a large area had been spread with weedkiller – this has resulted in many expensive wildflower seeds / plants being destroyed. It appears that a member of public has done this without permission, at the moment we don't know what weedkiller was used and how this could affect the ground and surrounding ground in the longer term – this matter is under serious investigation.

10 **Cemetery Matters**

- A grave owner sought clarification on whether they could put up a memorial but without an interment, it was agreed that the space must be used for an interment and we will work with the grave owner to find a fitting way to add an inscription or marker to his other grave space.
- Fireproof cabinet – we hold a lot of very ancient books with the details of grave ownership and interments that are irreplaceable - Clerks to get a quote for a fireproof cabinet.

11 **Blachere Christmas Lights**

Still waiting for a update on the refund.

12 **Buckden Village Green**

This is looking beautiful with all bulbs coming up and the new wicker fence protecting them, thanks to all involved.

13 **Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity – update from Cllr Underwood**

- Footpath checks have been completed.
- The daffodils on Mill Road as you exit the village are blooming.
- Signs with QR codes are yet to be ordered to go around the village green – clerks to assist.

14 **Date of next Village Maintenance Meeting – 1st May 2026 9.30**

15 **Confidential Matters - none**

16 **Meeting Ended – 10.35**