

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report December 2022

1) Christmas Market and Light switch on

This was a great success, there are more details in Cllr Jones report but I would like on behalf of the Parish Council to thank the Christmas Committee for all the work they put in to make it such a successful event.

I would also on behalf of the Council like to thank Ramune and Jess for all the time and effort they put in to making sure we had some lights to switch on. They went above and beyond and we are very lucky to have such a good team supporting us.

2) Membership of Committees and Advisory Groups

We have a number of changes to the membership of our Advisory Groups and Committee. We have two new members of the Allotments group Pauline Butcher and Deb Leighton. Sarah Whitmore has resigned as Chair and Mark Burgess has taken over. I would like to formally thank Sarah for all the work she has done on bringing the Allotments group together and putting in systems for managing the area. She took over after Stan Studd sadly died and she has put in a tremendous amount of work, including leading on the installation of a shelter and a memorial bench for Stan. There will shortly be some tree planting at the allotments in memory of Fred Day, who sadly died this year, he was a long-time allotment holder, Parish Councillor and leading light in the wine making club.

There is no specific requirement in Standing Orders for Council to approve additional members of Advisory Groups during the Council year but there is a requirement that membership of the Planning Committee is approved by Council. A former Councillor has offered to be a member of the Planning committee so we would, subject to Council approval, like to welcome former Councillor Pam Fraser on to the Planning Committee. Her experience and expertise will be most welcome.

Proposal: To appoint Pam Fraser as a member of the Planning Committee

3) Highways meetings

The next meeting with National Highways is 12th December. We have these meetings regularly and they keep us updated on the progress with the Roundabout scheme and we have the opportunity to raise A1 safety issues. Members of Southoe PC also attend.

We have an additional meeting next Monday to discuss some of the options explored in relation to the A1 Southoe Designated Funding Application. The latter is a fund to improve aspects of the A1 infra structure (mainly paths etc) in the Southoe area. We will report back on that when we have more information.

