

Present: Sue Ashwell, Chair,
Cllrs Anne Howell-Jones, Madeline Fraser
Village Volunteer Group Member Betty
Clerk Ramune Mimiene
Assistant Clerk Jessica Thomson (Group Secretary)

No	Agenda Item	Who	Action/Status/Update
1.	To provide details of planned, <u>non-recurrent</u> expenditure for 2023-24 to date	SA	Provided to the group for their thoughts. Agreed VMAG position will inform Clerk's assessment of expected year-end outturn for the group.
2.	Matters of accuracy	All	No matters of accuracy arose
3.	Renovation of the Gardeners Shed	RM, JT	Update on progress – - We are behind of work, having been let down on the completion dates before Christmas and then early January – Colum cited a delay in materials. - New date of completion 22nd January - VMAG members would like a site visit once completed - We have paid 3.5k upfront to allow purchase of materials last payment due on completion (work fell within 5k) - Savills taking over the shed area when they start –moving of the shed to be discussed at a later point. We do not see anything happening for quite some time.
4.	Handymen update	SA, RM, CU, AHJ	Meetings have taken place with both of our handymen to discuss lone working, reporting lines, holiday allowances, hours and type of works required by them. - Both have agreed that they will work outside when it is raining, using the protective clothing provided by BPC. - Both agreed if is torrential rain they will do an inside job or make hours up later in week and send written confirmation of the proposed amendment to planned arrangements with the Clerk, in order to comply with Lone Working policy. - VMAG will have a deep dive on the monthly / yearly tasks that we require the handymen. To do this at the February VMAG meeting – RM and JT to review this first

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5.	Flooding in the Village	CU/AHJ/RM	Following the flooding – update on response / use of Flood Shed / forward planning: - It is noted that the flood shed was incredibly helpful during these floods and all equipment was used - Martin sourced membrane that was very effective and is something that we will now keep in the flood shed - Martin helped on Taylors Lane and worked late assisting where he could
6.	Christmas lights (High Street and Hunts End tree)	JT	Update on lights removal – - Lights were removed on the 16th Jan - Colum turned off lights on Hunts End Tree circa 10th Jan - Anne to thank The Vine, the Butchers and Anne Furbank via a letter for their support paying for the electricity
7.	Tommy Silhouettes	CU	The Tommy Silhouettes will be moved in March with Caroline / Nigel and village resident who initiated the idea of these items in Buckden.
8.	Dog Poo disposal signs – issue raised by a resident	RM	Noted that HDC has renewed and updated the Public Space Protection Order. Under this, dogs are banned from entering the Buckden children's playground. It has been agreed that replacement of the old signage is not seen by VMAG as a current priority as it would be disproportionately expensive now that we are no longer allowed to attach signs to CCC lampposts.
9.	Silver Street Road Sweeping	RM	<i>Road sweepers are unable to clear the paths and roads of leaves due to cars being parked on the street – this has also caused drains to block</i> – Response to request from resident to ask handyman to do it - We cannot ask handymen to do it as it is in the road - We need to keep pressure on county council to do it – Sue to draft a letter to Martin Hassall, HDC, to open a discussion on how we can better manage this, including whether prior warning of road sweeper vehicle visits could be given
10.	Ivy on Church Wall	JT	There has been no update after our original contact with The Towers - RM / JT to email the towers for update and ask would they be happy if the Ivy was cut back a bit - Noted that the ivy must not be pulled away from the wall as that would be likely to damage it? - We should not do anything until March as it is good bird food during the winter - If a contractor is required, then it should be at the expense of the towers

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11.	Churchyard Mapping	JT	Pear have just completed the first iteration and it is now with us to check; we are still waiting for them to return the original documents to us for cross checking.
12.	Additional bin on A1 Layby	RM	- HDC have confirmed that they will be able to empty the additional bin - Large bin to be ordered and numbered - Both these actions will be paid for from VMAG budget.
13.	Cemetery	JT	Email received from a visiting vicar congratulating BPC on the condition of the Cemetery – Anne to thank the parish team in the roundabout
<i>The contact form we received read:</i> <i>Good afternoon, I was passing through Buckden today (where I lived from 1969 until 1993) and stopped off to visit my nan's resting place in the part of the cemetery reserved for cremated remains. I was quite anxious about visiting my nan, as no family member has been to the cemetery for some time.</i> <i>I needn't have worried as the cemetery as a whole was impeccably maintained. The sense of peace there was palpable and it made for a very special visit.</i> <i>I'd be grateful if you'd pass on my thanks to those who maintain the cemetery to such a high standard – their efforts are truly appreciated.</i>			
14.	Streetlighting Stakeholder Survey	SA	Surveys to be completed by 28th February Streetlighting Stakeholder Survey - https://forms.office.com/e/v4mbk4fMgT RM and SA to follow up in line with info SA provided to the group, particularly comments she had submitted as a personal view, asking that streetlighting ownership and management be made more consistent.
15.	Speeding in the Village Survey	CU	The survey was taken up well by the village and the results have now been passed on for analysis.
16.	Tree being planted on council land after permission was not granted by BPC	RM/JT	Resident was observed planting a tree. Was very unhappy to be found doing this without permission. BPC are not going to agree to old trees to be replanted in green spaces unless in exceptional circumstances with prior agreement from Green Infrastructure and then VMAG for consideration of potential issues relating to future maintenance
17.	Fly tipping on Stirtloe Lane	RM/SA	HDC offers a mobile CCTV monitoring service to Parish Councils. This was discussed – - BPC to continue to report to district council on website and to encourage others to report it. - We should not collect and dispose of it as it is unsafe to do so and BPC does not hold the necessary licence. - RM to email resident who highlighted this issue, informing him that we have discussed and that we will continue to report