

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 Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 10.00am at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillor: Anne Howell-Jones, Chair

Councillors: Madeline Fraser, Caroline Underwood

Village Volunteer: Betty Millard

Clerk: Ramune Mimiene

Assistant Clerk: Jessica Thomson

MINUTES

1 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Simon Leggate, Sean Calvin

2 Public Participation

Village resident Sean Calvin attended.

3 Approval of the Minutes

Proposed by Cllr AHJ, seconded by Cllr CU, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that Minutes 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 Cemetery Matters

- The CDS Group carried out memorial testing on the 19th November – there were 138 memorials that failed the safety checks and were labelled.
- We have found that a lot of the failed memorials do not have up-to-date contact information in the Burial Grants, this is hindering us from making contact with the owners of the Memorials.
- We are getting contact from relatives who want to know what to do next, where they are not on the Burial Grant we are doing a transfer of rights and getting all the current details updated in our system.
- Residents have been supportive in the main.

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- We will conduct a full review of memorials that have not been fixed or had a relative contact us in February and start attempting to contact living relatives via socials / roundabout etc.

6 Churchyard Matters

- Church Wall update – we have had a stonemason quote for the repairs, this has been set to the church for approval
- War Memorial – it was noted that the Memorial may need a clean, having done some research it appears that this is the property of the Church and they will not be cleaning it.
- Planting – the groundsmen have planted lots of spring bulbs in the Churchyard.

7 Dog Fouling around the Village

Dog waste continues to be a problem around the village – JT to contact the County Council about the ‘we are watching you’ campaign.

8 Play area

Update on discussions with the Village Hall Trust Recreational Area Planning group and how the playground fits with the wider vision – we had a very positive conversation with the VHT, we will work together to deliver a cohesive design. Unfortunately, we will not be able to greatly increase the size of the play area we will use clever designs to get the most out of the areas we have.

The VHT held a public meeting on Monday to show the new plans, the reaction was positive and so they are moving forward with phase one of the project. We would like the playground to be done at the same time as phase 2.

Next steps? RM and JT to look in to funding that we can match with CIL money. They will also research different companies that we can partner with for this project.

9 Tree Maintenance which backs on to Manor CI

A site meeting has been arranged to review this on the 23rd December 2025

10 Christmas Lights

- Our contractor Blachere performed very badly this year and although all issues were resolved eventually it took many visits and time wasted before this happened. We have sent a formal letter of complaint and are seeking a financial remuneration refund of part of the invoice. We have one year left on this contract and we will start looking for an alternative solution early next year.
- The Christmas switch on event was a success, JT to organise a meeting with Lou and Sue to go over feedback.

11 Shed alarm Monitoring

The contractor has been sick and so a further delay has occurred in getting this completed.

12 Weed Killing and flowers

- Weed killing will be kept to a yearly exercise rather than twice a year.

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- Richard Salmon will maintain Hunts End completely; he will put a willow fence around the bulb/wildflower area. Cllr CU to obtain notices to put in the area.

13 Christmas and New Year Staffing

The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, RM and JT to put out of office responses on their emails. They will still be contactable via the work mobile during this period.

14 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- Bulbs have been planted along Mill Road.
- A footpath review is being completed
- A nut tree area has been agreed at the rear of the allotments to support wildlife
- There are early stage conversations regarding a small wood being planted in the location of the Bloor Estate but funded by the Parish Council.

15 Next Village Maintenance Meeting – 23rd January 10.30 am

16 Confidential Matters - none

Meeting ended 11.40