

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Annual Buckden Parish Meeting/ Assembly held on Tuesday 17 May 2021 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillor: Caroline Underwood, Chair

Councillors: Anne Howell-Jones, Sue Ashwell, John Thelwall, Josh Harris, Gerald Sansom and Vikki Browning

Clerk: Ms R Mimiene

CC Cllr Ken Billington

HDC Cllr Martin Hassall

PCSO Richard Braddick and Nigel Batley

18 members of the public

MINUTES

PCSO reported on crimes in Buckden since January this year. In Buckden there were 12 reported incidents mainly tools stolen from vans, index plates thefts, cable and catalytic converters thefts. There were machinery thefts from Bloor Homes site and criminal damage at Marina and in Stirtloe.

Residents are encouraged to report anything that looks suspicious by calling 101 or 999. the Police need information from everyone. People were advised not just post on Facebook but report it properly to get it logged onto the system.

In relation to the theft of catalytic convertors, it's 30 second job, done and gone. Call 999 straight away, see if you see the vehicle involved note the number plate and report it. Do not confront them.

Smart water identification might help.

Diesel theft has increased due to increased prices, red diesel, and even old oil from pubs and Fish and Chips shops been stolen.

Village is visited by PCSO as regularly as he can but he has a large number of villages to cover Cambs Constabulary reduced number of PCSOs six years ago, now only 2 in post from 9.

PCSO Braddick and PC Batley left the meeting

- **Apologies:** Councillors Pam Fraser and Allan Jones sent apologies for absence
- **To Approve Minutes of Buckden Parish Assembly held on 25th May 2021**

Proposal: Proposed by CU, seconded by KB, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes are approved. Carried.

- **Annual Report by Parish Council Chairman to include Finance, Caroline Underwood**

Copies of the report available from the website <https://buckdenpc.org.uk/annual-assembly-may-2022/>

Please see Appendix 1 for report from Finance Advisory Group Chairman Sue Ashwell. in response to specific questions raised re Finances

Further information on the Finances is available on the website.

- **Update on Planning issues in relation to Silver Street, John Thelwall** - Please see Appendix 2.
- **Update from Aggregates Industries (AI) on the developments of Paxton Pits, Kirsten Hannaford- Hill and Michael**

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Presentation on the work of AI at the Pits and the plans for restoration of the pits to a Nature Reserve .

Chairman thanked the presenters for the interesting presentation about the Paxton Pits work and the plans for the future.

AI representatives left the meeting

- **Annual Reports and updates:**

- **County Councillor Ken Billington** – Thanked Chair and all PC members for being proactive and understanding of the difficulties he has had.
- **Alms Houses** – report available on the website.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – report read out by Richard West, the scheme co-ordinator. Copies of the report available from the website.
- **Village Hall Trust** – copies of the report available from the website.

- **A chance to meet:**

- **Your new District Councillor Martin Hassall**– Cllr Hassall introduced himself in his new role and shared the issues that emerged during the election campaign. Copies of the report available from the website.

You can contact your District Councillor by email martin.hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or by mobile 07480 798 342.

- **Open Forum**

Green Way resident wanted to know more about the Fibre Optic network for Buckden. It was suggested to liaise with HDC Cllr MH to take this issue up.

Resident reported the weeds growing in drains. GP Advisory Group looked into this matter and found out that PC handymen are not legally allowed to work on the roads. Contravention re various traffic acts. Residents are advised to report faults directly to County Council <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

The Vicar thanked PC for the work carried out on the wild-flower area in the churchyard which is very beautiful. He supported the No Mow May initiative. The question was raised will BPC consider investing in the shielded lights in the future. It was noted that Bloor Homes have shielded lights which work very well not polluting a wide area. It was noted that not all streetlights in the village belong to BPC. BPC had discussed that when light needs to be replaced, we will look at replacing with the most environmentally sustainable option.

Terry Hayward thanked Councillors and all members for the work carried out over the year. In particular thanks to those that had left the Council over the year they had done so much to support the village in their role as Councillors.

CCC Cllr KB left the meeting

A resident raised the issue that village Notice Boards are difficult to find. It was agreed that BPC would add the information on to the website and in the Welcome Pack . He also, raised the issue of the limitations of Bus Service 65. The Chairman suggested that residents responded to the combined Authority Public Consultation on public transport.

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from 16 May to 11 July Consultation page for more information and to have your say
www.greatercambridge.org.uk/c2c-eia

Meeting finished at 9.08pm

Date:

Signature:

Appendix 1

Report from Finance Advisory Group Chairman

We have been advised that a resident wishes BPC to make clear how the actual expenditure of some named budget headings compared with budget.
The following table sets out that information.

Function	Budget 2021-22	Spend 2021-22	Variance	Comments Cllr S Ashwell
Donations	£7,200	£6,920	-£280	BVHT Sports area drainage £5,520 Buckden School PTA – safety signs £1,400
Rights of Ways & Trees**	£4,300	£4,238	-£62	Includes in-year management of trees, & footpaths, Biodiversity Report and Spend on Churchyard wildflower area maintenance of £894
Climate Change Mitigation	£6,819 - £3,600 = £3,219	£833	-£2,386	Deduction shown in budget is offset for planned income linked to events that Covid affected. Variance carried forward to 2022-23 as it was for EV charging match funding on scheme CCC has paused Balance towards Solar units for MVAS panel – see Highways
Highways & Sustainable Transport	£10,500	£16,653	+£6,153	Of this committed expenditure £9,800 was carried forward for payment of invoice in 2022-23 for 4 extra MVAS units and 5 associated Solar panels Balance of cost for MVAS units from Highways Earmarked Reserve
Project Support	£3,000	£1,277	-£1,723	Neighbourhood plan, Hunts End extras, Highways small projects Balance towards Highways MVAS units

** In 2021-22 Rights of Ways & Trees revised Terms of Reference to encompass wider Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity programmes

- Funding for Zip Wire and Bouldering Walls on village hall playing field were funded by BPC from the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by HDC in relation to Lucks lane development and BPC maintains this equipment.
- BPC's further contribution to village facilities on Village Hall Trust land includes:
 - provision and maintenance of the play area for children up to 12 years,
 - provision of additional bins in new Valley area £1,500 and
 - some maintenance of BVHT land e.g. hedges near the Hall;

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Further information about how BPC spends its income is available during the statutory period of six-weeks for inspection related to our Annual Governance and Accountability Review which will be announced on the BPC website. This is in addition to the review of our accounting arrangements by the internal auditor then external auditors.

Appendix 2

Parish Assembly 20223

Silver Street Planning

HDC's Local Plan 2036 "allocated" the Silver Street site for development of 270 dwellings, plus or minus 10% of that number.

The majority of residents were opposed to the very idea of more large scale development in the village.

By law, the Neighbourhood Plan, which the NP group were working hard on at the time, was required to support the allocation of the site for development.

That put the PC in the uncomfortable position that it could not be seen to oppose the application, despite it being against the wishes of residents and, in fact, against the wishes of its Councillors.

It was against this background that the Large Scale Planning Committee was formed. Its job was to scrutinise the application in detail, and to try to persuade HDC to impose Conditions which achieved the best development possible – or, if you like, damage limitation. If we had identified any problems with the development which could not be overcome, well, it might be a dark cloud for the landowner but with a definite silver lining for the village.

On examination of the application, and the detailed technical documents that accompanied it, it seemed to us that the major problem was the proposed changes to the roundabout. We were, and remain, unconvinced that the traffic light solution will work. In fact the only good solution would be a bypass, but sadly that was never going to happen.

We were also constrained by the fact that the planning requirement was only that, after completion of the development, traffic flows on the A1 should be no worse than before. We could not try to achieve any improvement on the difficult situation we suffer now.

As a result of our representations, a much more detailed and thorough investigation was undertaken by the applicant's traffic engineers and the roundabout scheme was reworked. We then instructed independent expert traffic engineers who picked significant holes in the proposals and concluded they would present dangers to traffic using the roundabout, Perry Road and High Street. Highways England then stated that they were satisfied that it is a safe solution, which will reduce queuing on the High Street to less than it is now. We remain unconvinced.

There are other traffic issues: the increase in traffic across the railway, leading to increased waiting times, increasing the risk of impatient drivers trying to get across before the barriers come down. We just hope there are no serious incidents as a result ; the suggestion that the majority of traffic leaving the development in the morning peak would go down Silver Street, not St Hugh's Road; and the fact that there is the chicane just down from the access to the

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development, which will slow traffic and increase pollution. All these issues were fought at length with CCC Highways department, but regrettably to no effect.

When it came to the DMC meeting at which the application was decided, we used our 3 minutes to highlight a range of problems and argue that the application should at very least be put back until these had been resolved. Unfortunately most of the DMC members focused on the roundabout problems and since the representative from Highways England said that in their expert view everything is going to be fine, they approved it.

One of our other major concerns has been the risk of flooding. Here we have had more success. As a result of our representations, the applicants had to do boreholes to test for ground water movement. The Local Lead Flood Authority has been very careful to ensure Conditions will be imposed to minimise flooding risks.

Our major success though has been that the decision on the application was delayed until after the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted. This means that the development must comply with the Plan – or least to the extent that HDC decides not to override it, which it is allowed to do in certain circumstances.

So, for example, the Outline Conditions state that there is to be a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed dwellings, but no larger houses. It must also comply with the design principles set out in the NP.

Our work continues. At the moment the Conditions for the Outline Planning Consent are being negotiated and we have had considerable input into that process, with some success.

For example, the initial draft of the Outline Conditions said the development should be in accordance with the illustrative plan. We pointed out that the plan is contrary to the NP and that Condition has been removed. This is a very good result as the plan was dull and unimaginative. We hope the eventual developer will come up with something more inspiring. We will certainly be looking at their layout and design proposals very carefully.

Similarly, the necessary Section 106 Agreement is also being negotiated. We have been consulted about that and made substantial comments on it. For example, the developers would prefer to remove the Silver Street bus stop and make improvements to other bus stops in the village. Two of our members met with Highways officers and, we hope, convinced them that the Silver Street Bus Stop should remain, but be moved a few metres.

Once the outline consent is issued, every major step will be the subject of a detailed planning application. We will, I hope, be consulted on each of these. Our remit now is to examine all aspects of the detailed planning applications, which we can test against the NP, and to make representations on behalf of the PC and our residents where we believe they fall short and can be improved.

This has been a very quick overview and I will be happy to answer any questions in the open forum or after the meeting closes.