

Buckden Parish Council
Chairs Report March 2024

Progress with Shed

We have experienced serious issues with the contractor undertaking the work (a local firm which had helped previously with the Christmas lights).

The work which was due for completion pre-Christmas was delayed by more than 2 months and concerns were raised about the quality of the work being undertaken. An advance was made for materials but in several instances the materials quoted for were replaced by inferior quality/cheaper products or were not used and have not been handed to BPC.

A second contractor was employed to finish the work. The new contractor identified several issues with the work previously completed, including failure to use the quoted insulation materials, poor fitting of boards and insulation and potentially dangerous electrical wiring. They have recorded by photograph and video the various issues found. The shed is now complete but due to the poor wiring most of the work had to be redone and more materials purchased.

The contractor also found serious leaks and damage to the roof. The roof has now been fully repaired. This was an additional, unplanned but essential cost.

At the time of writing, we are exploring if and how money can be recovered from the initial contractor.

Hub

A meeting was held on 4th March with approximately 20 local organisations to explore the concept of an Integrated Community Hub for Buckden. There was general support for the idea although further work is needed to fully understand how it will work and what resources are required. It was clear that even amongst the attendees there is lack of knowledge about what is available locally and how to access support. In the first instance a questionnaire will be distributed to residents to elicit feedback about current and required services to inform next steps.