

Village Maintenance Advisory Group – Notes and Actions
6th September 2023 1pm

No	Agenda Item	Who	Action /Status/Update
Present: Sue Ashwell, Chair, Cllrs Anne Howell-Jones, Madeline Fraser and Emily Lankfer Clerk Ramune Mimiene Assistant Clerk Jessica Thomson Village Volunteer Group Member Betty Millard Interested in becoming a Village Volunteer Member Margaret Carter Apologies received from Cllrs Caroline Underwood and Aidan Joy <i>Post meeting note: Cllr AJ has advised SA that in future he will not be part of this AG.</i>			
1	Resignation of Village Volunteer Member Vikki Browning	ALL	Vikki Browning has resigned due to pressure of other work commitments but continues to support the Communications Group Margaret Carter was present and interested in filling the vacancy, she attended to see what the group was about before her official appointment. She has lived at Buckden Marina for 3 years and is a retired hospital social worker
2	Notes - Matters of accuracy	ALL RM	Notes of July meeting were accepted as accurate. To be circulated with September Council documents
3	Meeting with Church representatives	JT JT RM	A further update from the church warden was shared, explaining that the diocese wants a church stone mason and architect to inspect the repair work. It was agreed that the PC would agree with the church that we would pay for remediation of the handymen's repair work but not for architect or stonemason assessments. To arrange meeting 27th September to meet with handymen and church warden to assess the work required for trimming the hedges. Note: if then deemed to be unsafe as a task for our handymen, or we don't already have the correct equipment required, then we have agreed to get contractors to do it.
4	Update on cemetery safety and management	JT	Active memorial safety will begin at the end of September – priority task Letters to go to those who own memorials assessed by our trained assessors as being unsafe. Owners will be advised that they are required to remedy identified problems. The template for these letters was agreed by AG members
5	Update on Christmas Lights	JT	£3077.94 credit has now been received from Blachere following the issues from last year Jess met with electricians - Couzens who were recommended by Blachere. Couzens have confirmed that we can run electricity from the points at the George for the installation at that end of the High Street and so no new electrical infrastructure is required.

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			Update on Christmas Market proposals: breakdown in communications between two independent village events groups, the Christmas committee and the village events committee, who were both organising markets on separate days. <i>Post meeting note: as of 12th September the arrangements for a market in the High Street is unclear. However, as that is not a BPC event this does <u>not</u> affect the arrangements for the lights switch-on.</i> Switch on is now agreed for 4pm Sunday 26th November 2023 – High Street and Hunts End Green – no road closure required for this event although it was agreed that a letter would go out to local businesses (AH) informing them of the date and inviting them to support it with their own events
6	Update on Gardener's Shed	RM AH RM/SA	The electricity that was organised to be connected in August was put on hold as we had not had official confirmation directly from the Church Commissioner, this will be rearranged now. To circulate to the group the plan from Morris Homes as there is preliminary info there which may affect BPC storage arrangements once all planning matters have been resolved (but no changes soon). <i>Post meeting note: as reported to Council 12 September 2023</i> <i>Savills, on behalf of the Church Commissioners, have now confirmed their agreement to transfer to BPC from the Buckden Gardeners Association of the shed on land owned by Church Commissioners & associated with the Silver Street development site.</i> <i>This transfer will be formally recorded and linked to the previous commitment by the Church Commissioners to fund the move of the shed to the Buckden Allotments once the shed's location is needed by the Silver Street developers. Such a transfer, when it happens, will be done in full consultation with the Allotments AG.</i> <i>Electricity supply re-connected to the shed will enable charging of cordless tools, powered tools for workshop repairs and heating for the working area of the shed when necessary.</i>
7	Bin Contract	RM	New bins installed and numbered. Contract sent last week to Justin Clarke at HDC, he responded and said we will have the paperwork returned imminently. HDC appointed contractors cost £264 p/y per bin collected, they take waste away so there will be a saving as we will not need to keep paying for all the 1100L Euro Bins. Once contractors start, our handymen will do spot checks to monitor them – if they find a bin that hasn't been emptied they will photograph / report to Clerk and they will remove waste. It expected that this monitoring by handymen will only take place for 2 weeks, after which we anticipate that, as at present, any identified problems will be reported by local residents to BPC Clerk, preferably by email, and she will then liaise with HDC's officer to deal with any issues.

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8	Climate Mitigation	MF	Madeline to write an awareness piece for the October issue of the Roundabout <i>Post meeting note: In order to meet the deadline for the Roundabout this article was agreed by VMAG Chairman and shared with AHJ for inclusion as far as possible in BPC entry in the next edition of the Roundabout.</i> <i>Text submitted for this is copied at the end of these notes.</i> Thank you to Cllr MF for dealing with this as the VMAG Climate Change Champion
9	Handymen's Trailer	RM	Trailer is very old and in a state of severe disrepair. Trailer is used frequently for transporting lawn mower and seasonally for leaves We are going to get 3 quotes and are looking at a budget of around £1500 – for a two wheeled trailer, with side caging and ramp – size 8ftx4ft as the old model.
10	VMAG Finance	JT SA ALL	Pleased to report that following months of issues, Wickstead have finally agreed to not charge us for the playground signs or to have the Zip Wire fixed. Zip wire was fixed by Wickstead FoC on the 1st September Discussed the QTR 1 expenditure report and planning for the 24/25 VMAG budgets ACTION for October VMAG meeting – Please come with proposals for 2024-25 expenditure particularly for GP items, other than regular costs. Cemetery I&E to be reviewed by JT and Grass cutting contract to be revisited by RM
11	Latest info on missing defib	JT EEAS ALL	The defib is now back in situ at the village hall after it being taken 3 weeks previously. It was taken by a member of public to the Almshouses for an incident and then removed from the scene by the East of England Anglian Ambulance Service (EEAS). We are advised that it should not have been removed by EAAS as it hadn't been used. It was very hard to locate, there seems to have be a complete breakdown in communications within the EEAS and how they deal with this – but it was finally picked up from the Ambulance Service near Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and the EEAS have now taken this issue to board level to help prevent this happening in the future. The gentleman who actually helped track it down has offered to come to the village and do a presentation on 'debunking the myths on using Defibs' he says it takes between 1-2 hours, it is light-hearted and informative and he has done quite a number of these at local villages – we need to asses the demand within the village – perhaps an fb poll? Offer to be discussed at the next VMAG meeting.
12	Bloor Estate Lucks Lane	SA RM	Matters have been shared with the management company. Do we need a bin near to the entrance of Bloor Homes to prevent the villagers filling the estate dog bin so quickly? RM to assess where this may be located in relation to other bin locations and to also look towards Stirtloe Lane for suitable places.

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		JT	JT to share with EL the contact details for Trinity Estates so that she can contact them about matters arising on the Bloor Estate. JT has been in contact with Trinity Estates regarding the consistently full dog bin – awaiting a response
13	Date of next meeting	All	Meetings will be the 3 rd Wednesday of the month at 1pm , Next meeting 18th October 2023 Zoom invitation to be circulated with agenda about 1 week before the meeting

Other notes:

**Point 5: Sue McGrath is now attempting to get a road closure so that a Christmas market can still be facilitated*

*Point 8: News from the VMAG for the Roundabout. With Thanks to Cllr MF

Village waste bins

We are pleased to report that a contract is now in place with HDC's Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance services to empty these bins weekly. The waste will be removed by the contractor and taken to their waste recycling centre to be sorted and recycled. If any parishioners become aware of bins which are full / do not appear to have been emptied we would be grateful if you could e-mail the clerk to the parish council to let her know (clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk). Each bin is numbered and it would help enormously if you could take a note of the bin number and include that along with its location in your e-mail.

If you are interested in finding out more about how waste is sorted and treated in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough visit <https://www.recap.co.uk/waste-disposal/what-happens-to-waste>

HDC waste minimisation strategies

Hunts Waste Busters is a voluntary group set up in 2021 to share ideas and develop projects to help spread the waste minimization word. Based upon the principles of the three "Rs", Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, the group have produced a number of useful resources which can be found at

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/waste-minimisation/>

Their current campaign is a "pledge to fight food waste". We are all being told that reducing food waste is a relatively simple way of saving money and reducing our carbon footprint. But just how much difference can it make? Some interesting "facts" from the website suggest that we throw away as much as 6.6 million tonnes of food and drink each year, much of which could have been consumed. This costs each household in Britain about £800 a year and when you consider that food waste emits more greenhouse gases than any individual country in the world with the exception of China and the USA, it's not so good for the environment either!

Makes you think doesn't it? If you would like to find out more about how to reduce your food waste go to

<https://www.recap.co.uk/pledge-to-fight-food-waste>