

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 Friday 26th September 2025 at 9.00am at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillor: Anne Howell-Jones, Chair

Councillors: Madeline Fraser, Simon Leggate, Caroline Underwood

Village Volunteer: Betty Millard

Clerk: Ramune Mimiene

Assistant Clerk: Jessica Thomson

MINUTES

1 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

None

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 – it was noted that Cllr Leggate's name was incorrectly spelt, and the page numbers were wrong.

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

Memorial Testing – The CDS Group will be carrying out memorial safety testing on th 19th November, posters have been put in the cemetery and on the noticeboards, a notice will be put in November's edition of the Roundabout and JT to arrange for emails to be sent to registered owners where possible. It was also agreed that councillors will send notifications out to their WhatsApp groups.

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6 Churchyard Matters

- New Churchyard Memorial Risk Assessment was reviewed and approved by councillors present.
- It was agreed that we will consider professional Memorial Testing next year, we will account for this in next year's budget.
- Village Volunteer Betty Millard reported that the church wall is looking worn on the church facing side, we did have this wall professionally checked last year and they found no problems so it was agreed that Cllr CU would seek an opinion from a Stonemason that she knows in the first instance. RM and JT to check with the Groundsmen that they are not strimming too close to the wall.

7 Play area

- JT provided an update to the group about the meetings that have taken place with the Village Hall Trust and other stakeholders about the Recreation Area.
- The Parish Council have requested more space for the play area, we are awaiting approval.
- It was agreed that RM and JT should engage three suppliers to quote for new equipment and layout, this to also include the use of the MUGA for older children.

8 Streetlighting

We have given the go ahead to our new contractor Allan Peacock to replace all legacy lamps with LED's – this will be done this year.

9 Christmas Lights

- The Christmas lights will be turned on 30th November 2025, they will be installed by Blachere the week before.
- JT to speak to electrician to arrange checking the lights in Hunts End and then to check the remotes are working for the main lights once they have been installed, as well as being present when the lights get switched on.

10 Shed alarm Monitoring

This is being set up in the next couple of weeks, Cllrs CU and SL have both volunteered to be a contact if the alarm is set off. RM and JT to provide training to Cllrs once all is set up.

11 Graffiti around the village

Graffiti in the underpasses is the responsibility of Highways, we have reported it, and they will be coming out to remove.

12 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

Cllr CU provided an update. They are well on their way to completing everything on their operating plan. They will be planting bulbs near Mill Road, replanting the planter outside The Lion, likewise the area near the phone box and they are planting a hedge to run alongside the sheep field at the Towers – the trees will be donated by the County Council. Next year they are planning to work on a new footpath map.

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13 Operating Plan and budget 26/27

- It was agreed that the budget for weed control in the cemetery will be moved from Green Infrastructure to Village Maintenance.
- It was noted that we must have concluded our budget requests by the 22nd October, and so all are asked to think about any new project work or equipment that we need to consider – currently we know that the playground will require budget and memorial testing the churchyard.
- Cllr AHJ and JT to meet next week to discuss further.

14 Next Village Maintenance Meeting – 9th October 9am – this to be focussed on the budget and will be cancelled if we do not have the quotes from the playground

15 Confidential Matters - none

Meeting ended 10.15