

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Buckden Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 7.00pm at Village Hall

Present:

Councillor: Anne Howell-Jones, Chair

Councillors: Caroline Underwood, John Thelwall, Sue Ashwell, Gerald Sansom, Dave Duncan, Peter Clark, Madeline Fraser, Katherine Grigg, Emily Lankfer, Aidan Joy and Abi Bodede.

Clerk: Ramune Mimiene

CC Cllr Ken Billington

5 members of the public

MINUTES

07-53 Apologies for absence.

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

BPC Cllrs A Jones and Richard Salmon sent apologies for absence.

HDC Cllr Martin Hassall sent apologies for absence.

07-54 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests, and the nature of those interests relating to items on the agenda.

Cllr JT declared a Non-Registerable Interest in proposed grant to Knot Gardeners as he submitted the application for this grant on the Knot Gardeners behalf.

To receive written requests for Disclosable Interest dispensations – None.

07-55 Minutes

07-55/1 To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 June 2023.

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr MF, seconded by Cllr GS, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the minutes are approved as the correct record of the meeting. Carried

07-55/2 To agree and sign the Annual Assembly minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 23 May 2023.

A few small amendments required which will be amended for the next meeting.

07-55/3 To resolve any actions arising from the minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Clerk's report attached.

Noted.

07-56 County and District Councillor Reports.

07-56/1 To receive a report from County Councillor Ken Billington

As a result of the many concerns raised by residents and councillors, the proposal to introduce a charge for the first green bin, was discussed. The key points from that discussion are summarised below.

BPC fully understand that the current HDC administration has inherited some very significant budget challenges. HDC Cllr Martin Hassall has provided a very complete picture of the rationale for the proposed charge. We also accept that at times difficult decisions need to be made. It was

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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agreed to request that HDC reconsider this proposal. It is not to be introduced until April 2024 giving time for a rethink.

We could not support an alternative proposal to completely discontinue the service.

We do not believe there has been adequate consultation with residents or Parish councils and that the potential consequences and impact on other services, some provided by ourselves, do not appear to have been fully considered. It sends a very contradictory message at a time when we are encouraging residents to recycle and reuse as much as possible. (We are aware that work is being undertaken in this area by HDC.)

As a result, it was agreed to register our concerns with HDC

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr PC, seconded by Cllr CG, one abstention, all others in favour and it was RESOLVED that the agreed message is to be communicated to HDC. It was also highlighted that BPC would not support completely discontinuing the service. Carried

BPC will thank those who have contacted us to raise concerns about the proposal by Huntingdon District Council (HDC) to introduce a charge of £57.50 for the first Green Bin.

1 member of the public joined the meeting

07-56/2 To receive a report from District Councillor Martin Hassall – report received.

07-57 Open Forum – a maximum of 15 minutes is permitted for members of the public to address the Council.

Members of the public may have up to three minutes each. Items to be addressed should be notified to the Clerk three working days in advance of the meeting.

KB left the meeting

A member of the public requested a meeting with BPC, which will be set.

A member of the public raised questions regarding the green bin issue; wildflowers projects around the village; and trees which died on A14 for which BPC has received advice to share with all Cllrs (plastic tubes could be changed with biodegradable). The resident suggested planting between the development and the A1, but that area is managed by a management company. Cllr Underwood explained there will be some planting at the corner of Lucks Lane and Stirtloe Lane other suggestions will be discussed at the next Green Infrastructure meeting.

Footpath between Stirtloe and the village has been reported to CCC and Friends of Buckden, Cllr CU will speak to volunteers.

Defibrillator signs have been put around the village as requested.

07-58 The Council currently has 1 vacancy

To co-opt to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.

07-59 Chairman's report, report attached

No questions on the report.

It was noted that when Council meets in September, if there are no volunteers to chair the BPC, Cllr AHJ is prepared to continue in the role until May next year in order to provide sufficient time for a new Chair to be identified

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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07-60 Finance, report attached, Cllr S Ashwell.

Questions on the report.

Cllr JT left the room

Proposal: That BPC makes a donation of £404 to The Towers Knot Gardeners

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr SA seconded by Cllr CU, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the donation to The Towers Know Gardeners is approved. Carried

Proposal: That BPC makes a donation of £500 to Magpas Air Ambulance

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr SA seconded by Cllr GS, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the donation to Magpas is approved. Carried

Cllr JT re-entered the room

07-60/1 To approve July 2023 Payments for Sanction.

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr AHJ, seconded by Cllr PC, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the PFS are approved. Carried

07-60/2 To approve in principle August wages and other payments required to be made, this will be carried out same as each year with circulation to full Council first

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr AHJ, seconded by Cllr CU, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that August PFS are approved in principle. Carried

07-61 Flood Advisory Group, verbal update, Cllr J Thelwall.

No update.

07-62 To Consider Planning Committee Report, Cllr P Clark

07-62/1 To note the Minutes of the Meetings on 13 and 27 June 2023.

Noted.

07-62/2 To note that Planning meeting was held tonight prior to the PC meeting.

Verbal update provided by the Chair.

07-63 Large Scale Planning Advisory Group, verbal update, Cllr J Thelwall.

Marina apartments application still unresolved. Cllr Thelwell asked members of the AG to read the Ecology Report dated 27 Feb 2023, as it was not uploaded to the planning portal before.

07-64 Compliance Advisory Group, Advisory Groups and Committee membership details attached report attached, Cllr C Underwood.

Questions on the report.

07-64.1 To review the following policies: circulated to all Councillors

- Health and Safety Policy;
- Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Approved.

07-64.2 To note the revised Policy Schedule

Noted. To change PC into BPC.

07-64.3 To note the revised Annual Plan – noted.

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Proposal: that the Parish Council approves the updated Community Action - Operational Plan 2023-24

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr CU, seconded by Cllr PC, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the Operational Plan is approved. Carried

Proposal: that the Parish Council approves the membership of the Planning Committee and Advisory Groups

Cllrs CU and AB agreed to join the Planning Committee. The 2 vacancies have now been filled.

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr CU, seconded by Cllr PC, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that memberships are approved. Carried

07-65 Village Maintenance Advisory Group, verbal update, Cllr S Ashwell

It was agreed that the minutes will go to the group and then will be shared with the council.

Safety testing of the memorials in the Cemetery and Churchyard has been slightly delayed but will begin very shortly. We will be contacting family members directly where possible to make them aware if a memorial is unsafe and to discuss next steps. More information can be found on our website.

07-66 Climate Change Mitigation Advisory Group, report attached, Cllr A Jones.

No questions on report.

Cllr AJ provided a written update re the Street lights electrical supply:
For unmetered supply.

Energy companies' business contracts will not supply businesses or organizations that have small usage and normally require a minimum usage of 30,000kW

Energy companies' domestic contracts will not give contacts to anyone unless they have a smart meter.

No decision has yet been made.

07-67 Highways and Sustainable Transport Advisory Group, meeting held 3 July 2023 report attached, Cllr G Sansom

Meeting held between CCC, HDC and BPC on 18th May 2023, notes attached.

National Highways A1 Buckden Roundabout and A1 SAG meeting: A1 safety meeting notes and presentation prepared by National Highways attached.

Footpath to the Bloor estate by the Shell garage was reported as being in final stages.

Work has started on improvements to the Buckden to Brampton section of the cycleway that goes from the village to Huntingdon. These improvements will include the creation of a crossing point which will make using the path safer. The work should be completed in time for the children returning to school in September and hopefully these improvements will encourage cycling to and from Hinchingsbrook school. These improvements were a key priority identified by residents for the use of the CIL funds we received from building development in the village.

Gigaclear work was reported as causing problems at Perry Road.

The hedge at Leaden's Lane by the water works needs to be reported to Cambs County Council via their online reporting system: [Cambridgeshire County Council – Report It](#)

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07-68 Green infrastructure and Biodiversity Advisory Group, report attached, meeting held 4 July 2023, and Tree Survey report Summary Cllr C Underwood

Questions on the reports

The latest tree survey has been completed. There is some work that needs to be carried out and that will be done shortly. The full tree survey will be available on the BPC website.

The latest leaflet produced by the group is Trees and Bees. 6 trees have been marked around the village and the leaflet contains QR codes for residents to use to find out more about each tree. QR codes will be placed by the trees.

07-69 Village Hall Liaison, verbal update, Cllr C Underwood.

BPC were approached by the VHT and have agreed in principle to be party to a funding application for several projects and, if successful, to participate in the management of the project(s) in line with our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Management of tenders, invoices and VAT will have a significant impact on the capacity of BPC staff and we would need to discuss how that work is compensated through the budget which is included in the proposed revenue for 'project management'.

Items on VHT list have (apart from Containers) been identified by local residents in BPC's work to determine priorities for BPC's Community Action Plan.

BPC can only reclaim VAT if the funds are under our management and all invoices show BPC as paying. This is defined in VAT legislation as well as our S/O & Finance Regs. So, there must be a joint BPC/VHT project management group/committee to oversee the projects

Proposal that BPC have an agreement in principle that we support the application for a grant by Village Hall Trust to apply for funding for facilities that benefit residents of the village. These meet BPC priorities identified as part of the NP process.

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr SA, seconded by Cllr CU, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the above proposal is approved in principle. Carried.

07-70 Allotments Advisory Group, Cllr C Underwood

Next meeting 13 July 2023.

07-71 Communications Advisory Group, no meeting held, no report, Cllr A Howell-Jones.

07-72 Correspondence, matters remaining unresolved, Cllr A Howell-Jones

A recommendation that Buckden should install one or two 'Tommy' (The 'Lest We Forget') silhouettes was received. The cost approximately £175. They can be purchased directly from the Royal British Legion (RBL) website <https://rbli.shop/collections/tommy-statues> Royal British Legion website shows that 'unknown' men and women who served can both be acknowledged via these installations.

Proposal to explore and develop ideas on how BPC could fund 2 silhouettes.

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr SA, seconded by Cllr CU, one abstention, all others in favour and it was RESOLVED to consider purchasing 2 silhouettes. Carried.

07-73 To note points of Communication to the Parish, Cllr A Howell-Jones

Agreed.

5 Members of the public left the meeting

07-74 Confidential Matters

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EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

None.

07-75 Date of the next meeting is Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 8.40pm

Signature Date.....