

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ramune Mimiene, Buckden Village Hall Burberry Road Buckden PE19 5UY.
Tel; 07483 333557

Minutes of the Annual Buckden Parish Meeting/ Assembly held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Councillor Peter Clark

Councillors: Caroline Underwood, Anne Howell-Jones, John Thelwall, Gerald Sansom,
Catherine Grigg, Madeline Fraser

Clerk: Ms R Mimiene

HDC Cllr Martin Hassall

Amber-Rose Hutchinson PCSO 7003 for Huntingdon and St Neots with her colleague PC Daniel Grant

Nicholas Massey-Vernon, Project Manager (Parks & Open Spaces), HDC

Village Hall Trust Representative Cythia Alers

9 members of the public

MINUTES

- **Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

Cllrs Aiden Joy, Mark Williams, Emily Lankfer, and Anita Pancholi-McCann sent apologies for absence which were accepted.

CC Cllr Liam Beckett sent apologies which were accepted, he attended the Annual Parish Council meeting and presented a report last week

Joe Greenway sent apologies for absence.

- **To Approve Minutes of Buckden Parish Assembly held on 28 May 2024**

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr Madelaine Fraser, seconded by resident Richard Storey all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the minutes are approved as the correct record of the meeting. Carried.

- **Police report**

PCSOs from St Neots team for rural areas introduced themselves. They have been carrying out Police surgeries once a month in the library to listen to residents' concerns. They have conducted high visibility officers' patrols in the area, including the Playing Field and the Valley. They also visited the school and issued tickets for inconsiderate parking. There were concerns about vehicles speeding through the High Street. They also carried out operations regarding e-scooters (which can go at a speed over 15 miles per hour), usage of which seems to have decreased recently. Buckden was reported as a very low crime area, and a very nice place to live.

Last year queries about cars parked too close to junctions at Church Street and Lucks Lane were reported and checked by police. Tickets were issued to car owners who were parked within 10 metres of a junction. As noted by a resident white lines need repainting at the junctions. It was explained that this is the responsibility of Cambs CC and the PCSOs agreed to raise that for us with CCC directly.

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ramune Mimiene, Buckden Village Hall Burberry Road Buckden PE19 5UY.

Tel; 07483 333557

The litter picking group was concerned about fly tipping, particularly by the entrance to road to the Anglia Water pumping station. HD targets fly tipping and deals with offenders.

Concerns were expressed about speeding at High Street which became worse in the past year, and how they could be caught. A question was asked as to whether it was worth having a gate at the entrance to the Playing Field from the Village Hall Car Park to prevent travellers from accessing the site.

2 Police Officers left the meeting

- **Hunts DC Biodiversity Team presentation**

Nicholas Massey-Vernon presentation can be found in the slides, **Appendix 1**

Additionally discussed was the iNaturalist mapping:

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/range_maps

Following the presentation a question was raised regarding maintenance following the grants received for projects – it is up to the applicants to ensure that maintenance is factored into the budget as grants do not cover that.

A resident asked about the trees planted along A14 many of which not survived – HDC got National Highways to come to meetings to plan what they are doing; it was a very hot summer when the planting was carried out by National Highways as well as the poor soil quality. Dry roots were planted, next round wet routes from potted trees will be planted.

- **Annual Report by Parish Council**

Cllr Peter Clark said that he was privileged to chair Buckden Parish Council.

He explained that we have two committees – Village Maintenance and Planning - the others being Advisory Groups (AGs).

Compliance AG is trying to obtain Quality Council status, the only obstacle being that we do not have enough elected Councillors, most being co-opted. We had recently updated our Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. We encourage all Cllrs to attend training.

Finance AG – improved reporting to Cllrs has been particularly well accepted this year. We have both an Internal and External audit. The former has been completed with no adverse comments or recommendations except to update our Standing Orders.

Planning – We present recommendations to HDC on planning matters in the village.

Large Scale Planning AG - discuss the applications for more than 5 properties. The group responded recommending refusal to converting former leisure centre into flats, Highways AG - Continue to install more road safety features, MVAS signs and check speeding – speedwatch group is running well supported by Cllrs and Volunteers. The dropped kerbs at Manor Gardens have been installed but we are still awaiting the promised Mill Rd 30 mile an hour buffer zone.

Climate Change Mitigation AG - The 3rd Repair café on 7th Jun will be run in conjunction with an Eco fair.

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ramune Mimiene, Buckden Village Hall Burberry Road Buckden PE19 5UY.

Tel; 07483 333557

Green infrastructure AG – The AG issued spotters guide, the red wall was planted at Lucks Lane. If residents locate problems with footpath, please report directly to CCC via [Cambridgeshire County Council – Report It](#) or to us and we will pass on your concerns.

Communications AG – The AG keeps in touch with the village all the time. Facebook posts are scheduled a few times a week, and Roundabout insert goes to our website each month.

Village Maintenance Committee - Working with the Village Hall Trust regarding a new enhanced Play Area is going very well. Wider consultation is going to be issued.

Cemetery and Closed Churchyard are the areas that BPC maintain together with Stability Testing of the memorials.

Ground staff team is working exceptionally well.

Thanks to the Clerk and Asst Clerk for working well together.

Allotments AG - It is seeking to improve allotments biodiversity and excess produce is donated to Diamond Hampers. A Notice to Quit was received from the Church Commissioners. BPC were on annual lease renewal. When we questioned the notice it was made clear that it was necessary as the access to the Allotments was also the access for a parcel of land with planning consent for development. We were offered the land to purchase subject to an agreed price and have appointed our own surveyors; if the price asked is reasonable BPC will purchase Allotments land.

Neighbourhood Plan AG - is looking for additional members to join the AG.

PC Hub and Youth engagement AG - is working hard and reaching out into the youth in the village. Shakespeare at the Towers will perform in June this year and BPC is working with the Trustees directly on the performing art side with young people.

Cllr Clark thanked all colleagues on the PC and staff making his life relatively easy and extremely enjoyable.

- **Annual Reports by County Councillor Liam Beckett and District Councillor Martin Hassall**

Our new CC Cllr Liam Beckett came to our BPC meeting last week, and sent apologies for tonight. The Chair read out his report. [Appendix 2](#)

HDC Cllr Marti Hassall presented his report. [Appendix 3](#)

- **Annual Reports and updates:**

- **Village Hall Trust, Cynthia Alers**

Report can be accessed via Agenda reports, [Appendix 4](#)

- **Buckden Parochial Charities, Alms Houses – Joe Greenway**

Report received on behalf of Joe Greenway.

Cllr John Thelwall, the Acting Chairman of the Trustees explained that there is a vacancy for another trustee. They will advertise in June Roundabout looking to fill the Trustee vacancy, which is not a demanding job, and the Charity is in healthy financial state.

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ramune Mimiene, Buckden Village Hall Burberry Road Buckden PE19 5UY.
Tel; 07483 333557

- **Neighbourhood Watch Association** – Richard West sent a report which was read out by The Chair. It was felt that the monthly reports were very good. Anyone can register to join the NW group.

- **Any issues raised by residents**

Cllr John Thelwall - Knot gardens at the Towers is a lovely place to sit and read. Volunteers meet on Tue morning. No need for special gardening skills. If anyone wishes to volunteer, please come along.

A resident, Melanie Storey, asked about the young people initiatives – feedback we had that we do not do enough for young people. Cllr Anita Pancholi-McCann does a fabulous job and has a great relationship with schools. BPC runs and fund sports events for younger children; this goes really well. Next event is scheduled on 29th August at the Towers – predominantly sport related. We have been working with the Village Club where teenagers want to have a gathering space. We found that it is not easy to engage with teenagers.

A resident Terry Hayward attends most of BPC meetings. He thanked and congratulated what BPC for what they are doing, but raised his ongoing concern that contacting Cllrs direct is not that easy as emails or phone numbers are not shown on the website and he has to go via the clerk. Could the AG and Committees members and their contact details be listed? It was explained that there was a reason at the time not to disclose Cllrs BPC email addresses no private numbers but that the position would be re-considered.

A resident Betty Millard asked about Roundabout and Facebook – could more news go on Facebook?

It was explained that we share news on Facebook a few times a week, and Facebook is a full-time job.

A resident Betty Millard stated that they could not see advert on Facebook regarding the Assembly – the Clerk confirmed that the last advert went on Facebook inviting residents to attend our Assembly six hours prior to this meeting.

A resident, Peggy Clark, asked why the grass at Hunts End by the Notice Board where the walnut tree had been cut when last year it was left uncut for biodiversity. The clerk explained that groundstaff have freedom in which areas they nominate for 'No Mow May'.

A question was raised re Unitary Authority. HDC Cllr Martin Hassall will add into his report any news he comes across with re the Unitary Authority.

The Chairman thanked everyone for joining us tonight.

Meeting finished at 8.52pm