

Minutes of meeting of Buckland Parish Council
On Monday 10th February 2025
at Buckland Village Hall @ 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Cllr Nigel Hayward (Chair), Cllr Jon Sainsbury (Vice Chair), Cllr Carole Paternoster, Cllr Fiona Livingston, Cllr Heather Mckenna.

Mrs Jane Lewis (Clerk)

Buckinghamshire Councillor Steve Bowles was also present.

There was one member of the public in attendance.

25.17 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Buckinghamshire Councillor Mike Collins.

25.18 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25.19 Open Forum

Residents of Monks Court have raised an issue relating to access to Monks Court since concrete bollards have been installed on the BOAT between Puttenham and Buckland in July 2024. The concrete bollard at the Buckland entrance has now been removed by Buckinghamshire Council. The issue initially arose when residents were awaiting a gas delivery at the end of 2024 and the supplier refused to cross the canal bridge due to the weight restriction of 10 tonnes that was issued in 2018. This gas has now been delivered over the bridge. Residents are switching to oil heating to prevent further issues. It has since become apparent that the fire brigade would not be able to access the properties due to the weight restriction and also the risk of grounding on top of the bridge. They have now requested access via Puttenham. There is a bridge in Puttenham which has a lower weight restriction of 7.5tonne with the exception of lorries. The concrete bollards prevent access and the residents are requesting their removal for health and safety reasons.

Chairman confirmed that Buckland Parish Council had investigated possible solutions including removal of bollards and writing to Dacorum Council regarding the issue.

Resident thanked BPC for their support.

25.20 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair Nigel Hayward.

25.21 Clerk's Report

- Clerk will be attending AI training in March.
- Met with local tree surgeon re verge by Church Farm to discuss removal of broken tree and general overgrowth.
- Light out at top of Buckland road on bend have reported again to Sharp Electrical. This is a recurring issue. Clerk had asked for quote for LED light.
- Sharps have cleared the markings on light at end of Peggs Lane.
- Internal Audit booked for 16th April.
- AGAR time is approaching so will be working on accounts over next few weeks.
- Will be sending out policies over next couple of months to give council time to review before meeting in April/May.
- February Newsletter to be circulated to residents over the next week.

- Clerk has shared the new finance guide for councillors – please ensure all councillors are familiar with it.

Election Timetable

The clerk has shared the recent presentation with councillors for the May 2025 elections. Key dates are:

- Tuesday 18 March: Notice of Election published, pre-election period starts, Poll card despatch
- Candidate nomination receipt:
 - Tuesday 18 March to Wednesday 2 April, 10am-4pm, weekdays
 - Two evenings to 8pm: Wednesday 19 March & 26 March
 - The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF
- Thursday 3 April: List of candidates published

25.22 Finance

Payments and balances for January 2025 were approved.

	Opening Balance		£44460.66
07/01/25	Cloudy IT		£84.00
08/01/25	Hugo Fox		£23.99
9/1/25	F Livingstone – Signs & Locks		£13.13
09/1/25	M Nicholls		£960.00
10/01/25	BAS Associates Payroll		£68.40
13/01/25	Buckland PCC		£22.50
13/01/25	J Lewis – Stationery		£225.67
13/01/25	J Lewis – Land registry request		£14.00
14/01/25	Grantscape (Benches)	£3579.00	
16/01/25	C Paternoster – Stamps & Stationery		£31.70
16/01/25	J Lewis – Wildflower seeds		£240.98
20/01/25	J Lewis – Hedging		£457.45
27/01/25	J Lewis – Litter pickers		£7.90
29/01/25	SSE Energy		£787.09
30/01/25	BOST		£250.00
30/01/25	J Lewis – Refund hedging	£30.55	
31/1/25	One Com		£35.94
	Closing Balance		£43667.43

- **Review Parish Asset Register**

The Parish Register was reviewed and agreed.

25.23 Planning Applications/Matters

- 25/00215/APP - BUCKLAND - 14 Blackmore Gate Buckland Buckinghamshire HP22 5JT
Householder application for single storey rear extension
No objection by BPC.

25.24 Consultations and Correspondence

- Taxi licensing consultation
- NALC to respond will respond to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities (including parish and town councils) in England.

25.25 Roads and Transportation

- Monks Court Access – It was agreed to support the residents on health & safety grounds for removable bollards to be installed.
- Buckland Road – Complaints have been received from residents about the increased number of vehicles and the speed of drivers since the installation of traffic calming on London Road, Aston Clinton. The clerk has contacted Cllr Steve Broadbent following on from Truvello data report. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr Steve Broadbent with request for traffic islands at the side of road. Clerk to report pothole on corner of Buckland Road.**
- Tring Hill and Buckland Wharf update – Clerk reported that there had been no reply from Richard Barker to letter sent on 27th January. **ACTION: Clerk to forward copies to Cllr Steve Bowles.**

25.26 Devolution update/Grass Cutting Contract

Clerk met with Amersham Town Council to discuss grass cutting in Burial Ground and All Saints Church yard and is awaiting a quote.

25.27 Maintenance of Land Holdings

To receive reports and agree any actions relating to the Parish Council's Land Holdings:

- Community Orchard – Trees donated by Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp horticultural society have been planted. The padlock has been removed from the gate. Clerk investigating cost of signage asking users to keep dogs on leads along with a sign saying community orchard.
- Buckland Burial Ground/All Saints Churchyard
Clerk met with Rev Bottomer to discuss churchyard maintenance. BPC is only able to cut the grass in the churchyard four times per year. Rev Bottomer looking into community group to help with churchyard maintenance.

25.28 Footpaths and Environment

To receive reports and agree any actions:

- Roadside Hedgerows - The chair reported that some residents have complained about state of verges and hedges in the village and perception that funds are being spent on Community Orchard instead of verges etc. Chair explained to residents that all expenditure on the Community Orchard is from grants and these would not cover grass cutting and hedge maintenance. Local farmers have been cutting hedges although there are still some remaining. Council agreed to spend £780 + VAT for clearance of trees and foliage on verge by Church Farm.
- Footpaths – Stile has been removed at Lower Buckland. The landowner is concerned that livestock may get onto road. This was reported to Buckinghamshire Council in October 2024 and re reported recently. **ACTION: Clerk to source quote for work to be carried out.**

25.29 Arla/Olleco

- Updates – Nothing to report.

25.30 Matters of Report

V E Day 80 year celebrations – 8th May 2025 – Council agreed to support events being organised by Cllr Mike Collins.

Street lighting working group – Nothing to report.

25.31 Circulars

None

25.32 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Buckland Parish Council will be held on Monday 10th March 2025.