



# BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## March/April 2024

### **Introduction:**

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2024. Buckland Parish Council is aiming to produce a quarterly newsletter to help keep residents up to date with what is happening in our Parish. The first two editions will be paper copies, after that we plan to go digital! So if you wish to receive a digital version please email the clerk at [clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk). If you do not have an email address and wish to receive a paper copy please contact the clerk on 01296 630962 and we will ensure one is posted through your letterbox.

### **Precept:**

Every year Buckland Parish Council carefully reviews its finances and plans for the forthcoming year. Our Parish precept is a tax that is shown in your annual council tax bill and covers any spending the parish council makes including areas such as street lighting, graveyard maintenance, grass cutting, land etc. Buckland Parish Council has been very prudent over recent years and continually reviews contracts for services with the aim of trying to deliver services that residents expect within reasonable means. Buckland Parish Councils costs have increased 150% since 2018, 42% in the last 12 months, and our precept has not kept pace with this. With increasing costs difficult decisions have had to be made. In the past we have cut the grass verges through the Parish every month. However, due to increased costs this has been reduced to four times throughout the spring/summer months. We will be putting more pressure on Buckinghamshire Council to ensure they carry out their regular cuts.

### **Cllr Sue Gillingham**

Sue Gillingham has been a Buckland Parish Councillor for many years, and we thank Sue for all she has done for our Parish during that time. She has brought us a wealth of experience, knowledge and support during that period. We send Sue our very best wishes for the future.

### **BPC Vacancy**

Buckland Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you want to make a difference to your local community and be involved in its future, please consider joining us. No specific qualifications are necessary, just life experience. If you are unsure, please come along to a Parish Council meeting to see what is involved. Further information is available from our Clerk, Jane Lewis.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

BPC are very proud of their Neighbourhood plan which was adopted in August 2022. We continually review the NHP and update it to ensure we can safeguard against any inappropriate development and ensure it remains up to date with current planning policy.

### **Thames Water Update**

Many thanks to everybody who signed the petition to Parliament concerning Thames Water's proposals to install a large water booster station on land immediately next to Hope Cottages in Buckland Road. In the short time available we achieved a total of 298 signatures, 37% of the electorate of Buckland Parish, in addition to residents from neighbouring villages. The petition was delivered to Rob Butler MP's offices on 16<sup>th</sup> March, and we await further details from him on its eventual presentation to Parliament. Thank you to all those who helped collect the signatures.

### **Bridleway Lower Buckland**

Residents of Buckland and Puttenham have been reporting increasing vehicular usage of the Bridleway at Lower Buckland. The bridleway is not for use by motorised vehicles. Buckland Parish Council has been

working with Buckinghamshire Council to try and stop this. The council has put in several bollards with chains and padlocks, however these have been illegally removed by users. This persistent use, along with the wet weather we have experienced is causing issues with the bridleway. Thames Valley Police have assured us that they carry out regular drive-bys of the bridleway. We will continue to monitor and try to stop the illegal vehicular use of this bridleway which links Lower Buckland to Puttenham.



### **Community Orchard and Nature Reserve**

Over the winter period fifty more fruit trees have been planted at the Parish Community Orchard in Lower Buckland. This completes the fruit tree section of the site, with heritage varieties of apples, pears and plums. The remainder will be planted with native species trees to form a copse. The tree species were approved by the local planning authority when planning consent was granted. The Parish Council has received a generous donation from the Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society to purchase some trees to be planted this autumn. Grant funding has also been received for seating which it is hoped will be put in place later this year. Plans are in place to improve access to the site. The whole area has been planted with wildflowers, which should shortly be putting on another fine display again this year.

### **Community Speed watch group**

Last year we formed our Community Speedwatch Group. Speedwatch's purpose is to act as a deterrent to speeding drivers. Any details recorded are sent to Thames Valley Police who follow up with offenders. The group is run by volunteers; if you are interested in joining this group please get in contact with our Clerk. Full training is given. Volunteers can give as much or as little time as they wish.

### **Roads and potholes**

No one can miss the potholes that seem to be appearing on our roads at the moment. As soon as we are aware of any we do report them to Buckinghamshire Council. Residents can also do this by using the Fix my street website. If you are able to take photos of the pothole it can speed up the repair process. Reports can be made to: [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)

Recently Buckinghamshire Council carried out resurfacing works at Lower Buckland from the canal bridge past Monks Court. This scheme was part of the Council's resurfacing programme. Buckinghamshire Council is aware that the remaining residential section of Buckland village road is now showing end of life defects. This has been added to the resurfacing list for future work.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm in Buckland Village Hall. During the meeting the Parish Council reports to its electorate on its activities over the last year and there are usually reports from any voluntary or local community group. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the parish. All residents are welcome.

**Website details:** [buckland-pc.gov.uk](http://buckland-pc.gov.uk)

Facebook: Clerk Buckland Parish Council

**Contact details:** Tel: 01296 630962 email: [clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Office is located upstairs in Buckland Village Hall. The clerk is generally in the office on a Monday and Thursday between 9am and 2pm