

Meeting of Buckland Parish Council
On Monday 14th April 2025
at Buckland Village Hall @ 6.30 pm

Present: Cllr Jon Sainsbury (Interim Chair), Cllr Fiona Livingston, Cllr Heather McKenna, Buckinghamshire Cllr Mike Collins, Buckinghamshire Cllr Steve Bowles, Mrs Jane Lewis (Clerk). There were six members of the public in attendance.

25.53 Apologies: Cllr Carole Paternoster.

25.54 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25.55 Open Forum

A resident raised the issue of a parcel of land that has been listed for sale in New Road, Buckland. Residents are very concerned that this may be sold for development. The resident asked the Parish Council if they could assist in a community buyout. The Chair replied that this would not be possible as the Parish Council does not have the resources for this type of scheme and any such arrangements would set a precedent. However, should a planning application be presented Buckland Parish Council would carry out due diligence checks as normally happens. Any application would likely be opposed by Buckland Parish Council due to many factors such as coalescence with Aston Clinton, goes against the Neighbourhood plan.

A resident asked what was being done to improve road safety on Tring Hill including the junction to the Upper Icknield Way. The Chair informed residents that BPC are in regular contact with Buckinghamshire Council and to date they are unwilling to fund any new road safety measures. Buckinghamshire Council have indicated that BPC could look at funding projects, however BPC do not have the funds to do so. A meeting has been arranged with Laura Kyrke-Smith MP for Aylesbury in May to discuss the issues.

Buckinghamshire Cllr Mike Collins raised a new scheme by the King to plant an Oak tree throughout the Counties from the Kings land. He asked if BPC would be interested in this scheme. BPC indicated that they would be interested.

25.56 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair, Cllr Jon Sainsbury.

25.57 Clerk's Report

- The Clerk has received a letter from a developer regarding possible development of BPC land on Tring Hill. **ACTION: Clerk to respond saying BPC not interested.**
- New litter bin has been installed by Aston Clinton Society at top of Tring Hill at Bus Stop. Street scene have added to list for collections
- ICO has increased fees from £35 to £52
- Martin Tett newsletter 17/3/25 - Holding utilities firms to account over roadworks – Buckinghamshire Council have submitted an application to implement a Government Scheme (LRS) which will address disruption caused by roadworks. Lane Rental powers would enable authority to charge those working on major roads and encourage completion of roadworks in time. Tring Hill is the only road in Buckland Parish that would be affected by this scheme.

25.58 Finance

- Payments and balances for March 2025 were approved.

Opening Balance:	£41971.33
Receipts:	£3439.00
Payments:	£3628.49
Closing Balance:	£41781.49

3/3/25	M Nicholls (tree planting)		£540.00
3/3/25	M Nicholls (Hedge cutting)		£66.00
6/3/25	Cloudy IT		£84.00
10/3/25	Hugo Fox		£23.99
13/3/25	SSE		£283.58
13/3/25	Amazon – Laminator		£26.39
17/3/25	Solar Farm	£2000.00	
25/3/25	Grantscape – Kissing Gate	£1439.00	
25/3/25	SSE		£265.69
27/3/25	G O'Callaghan		£900.00
27/3/25	E Sharp electrical		£68.68
31/3/25	One Com		£35.94
31/3/25	BOST		£250.00

- End of Financial Year Review 2024/2025

The Clerk reported that the internal audit will be taking place on 17th April 2025. The Clerk presented the End of Year figures to the Council in preparation for the AGAR. These figures showed that tighter controls had resulted in a better closing balance at the end of the year. The figure is now in line with the preferred figure of 12 months precept equivalent. The Council will need to continue to maintain a tight control on expenditure over the coming year.

- Office Rental rates – Cllr Sainsbury had discussed with BOST Chair Richard Peel their wish to rent out the Parish Office to external people. BPC were unhappy with this plan due to confidential documents being stored in office and valuable equipment. BOST requested that BPC increase monthly rental charge to £300 per month to cover possible lost earnings by BOST. BPC agreed this new rate. Proposed; Cllr Jon Sainsbury Seconded: Cllr Fiona Livingston.

25.59 Planning Applications/Matters

25/00893/APP - Fir Trees New Road Buckland Buckinghamshire HP22 5JB Householder application for first floor rear extension – BPC has no objection.

25/00613/APP -3 Buckland Road Buckland Buckinghamshire HP22 5LL Householder application for proposed roof extension & loft conversion of existing and new roof to include 2 no. windows, 6no. rooflights and replacement of existing roof tiles.- BPC has no objection.

25/00667/VRC - Hunters Lodge Farm Main Road Buckland Buckinghamshire HP22 5HZ Variation of condition 2 (plans) relating to application 21/04846/APP (Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two storey detached dwelling)

BPC Objects -

The approved application has only one small window on the north west side facing Westwards, and 4 on the ground floor on the south east side facing the archery driveway.

Condition 2 of the original application: carry out in accordance with the approved plans in the interests of amenity generally.

The current application has 3 windows on the ground floor on the north west elevation (towards Westwards) and one at first floor level, which is disturbing, because it will overlook the private garden of Westwards and impinge on their residential amenity. However, this window is to serve a bathroom, so the window could be conditioned as being obscure glazed and non-opening. There are still 4 windows on the SE ground floor elevation.

The consented plans have only 3 roof lights in the rear roof, this current application has 5 . However, all these rooflights overlook the private garden area of Westwards and will have a severe impact on their residential amenity.

Application is contrary to BNP and VALP policies on residential amenity.

23/03221/ADP Woodlands – BPC has no objection.

BPC requested update on recent enforcement issues. **ACTION: Clerk to follow up.**

25.60 Consultations and Correspondence

- Road Safety and 20mph Statutory Speed Limits – Mursley Parish Council
- Parish Poll Thresholds
- Buckinghamshire Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)

25.61 Roads and Transportation

- Monks Court Access – There has been no further development on this issue, residents are awaiting response from Dacorum Council.
- Buckland Road – Traffic issues. Residents continue to raise issue of speeding vehicles along Buckland Road. Reply from Cllr Steve Broadbent requested further information relating to speed data. Cllr Collins reported that Buckinghamshire Council budgets are extremely tight for coming year and there will be limited funds for road safety improvements. **ACTION: Clerk to investigate signage costs.**
- Tring Hill and Buckland Wharf update – Clerk is waiting for confirmation of date of meeting with local MP.

25.62 Maintenance of Land Holdings

- Community Orchard – The clerk reported that local resident had praised the new benches installed in Community Orchard and all the recent work that had been undertaken. As the weather has improved Council need to ensure that trees etc are regularly watered.
- Buckland Burial Ground/All Saints Churchyard – Contact has been issued to new garden contractor and first cut will take place before Good Friday.

25.63 Devolution update/Grass Cutting Contract

Contract has been issued and first cut due to take place in coming week.

25.64 Footpaths and Environment

To receive reports and agree any actions:

- Footpaths – Cllr Livingston reported that the drainage issues have returned on footpath near Cherry Tree Farm. The footpath is impassable again and foul smells are occurring.
- Cllr Livingston has contacted Buckinghamshire Council again regarding damaged stile and footbridge, but no reply received.

25.65 BOST update

Buckland Old School Trust have reviewed their trustees and following resignation of Cllr Hayward have agreed to have only one representative from BPC on trustees. They are aiming to get wider variety of trustees from local community.

25.66 Arla/Olleco

- Cllr Sainsbury reported that previous community liaison meeting had not been advertised to local councils resulting in only one representative attending. ARLA have agreed to continue with half yearly meetings.

25.67 Matters of Report

Councillor agreed to use Chairmans Allowance of £50 to purchase a thank you gift for Cllr Nigel Hayward. Cllr could also add to the gift individually if they wished. **ACTION: Clerk to organise.**

25.68 Circulars

There were none.

25.69 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Buckland Parish Council will be held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 6.30pm. This will be the Annual Meeting of Buckland Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.