

Meeting of Buckland Parish Council
On Monday 12th February 2024
at Buckland Village Hall @ 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Nigel Hayward, Cllr Jon Sainsbury, Cllr Carole Paternoster, Cllr Fiona Livingston, Bucks Cllr Mike Collins and Clerk Mrs Jane Lewis.

24.20 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

24.21 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24.22 Open Forum

There have been an increasing number of complaints regarding potholes in the village and surrounding roads. Reports are being made to Fix my Street but repairs are very slow, often taking months to complete.

24.23 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th January 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair Cllr Nigel Hayward.

24.24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported attendance at Wendover Community Board Forum.

Clerk investigated possible savings account for some of council reserves. Council agreed to set up Savings Account with Metro Bank, allowing instant access with 3.76% interest . It was agreed to transfer the sum of £20k to this account. **ACTION: Clerk to set up account and transfer money.**

24.25 Annual Parish Meeting

The council agreed the date of Annual Parish Meeting – 6.30pm 8th April 2024 at 6.30pm.

24.26 Finance

- a. The Council agreed the balances and payments of bank accounts. Closing balance at end of January was £35266.31. Scribe accounting system is now up and running for council and all future financial documents will be issued using this system. Transactions for month of January 2024 are attached to minutes.
- b. Council approved appointment of new internal Auditor Bridget Knight, The auditor charges £150 per audit. Proposed by Cllr Hayward and seconded by Cllr Sainsbury and agreed by all.
- c. Clerk has been reviewing the Asset Register for forthcoming AGAR. Council agreed to remove all items with value of £50 or less. **ACTION: Clerk to update Asset Register**

24.27 Parish Council

The Council approved the three year plan. This document is in line with Neighbourhood Plan and will be regularly reviewed. It will be published on the BPC website.

Biodiversity Policy for the Parish was approved and will be published on BPC website.

24.28 Planning Applications/Matters

RAF Halton Supplementary Planning Document consultation for 1000+ houses has been received. BPC response –

The SPD should build on the requirements of VALP Policy D-HAL003, giving further details of policy requirements. VALP policy D-HAL003 (c) states:

- Provision of junction improvements onto B4009 Upper Icknield Way.

This policy was included as an off-site highways infrastructure requirement due to the dangerous junction of the Upper Icknield Way with Tring Hill, in Buckland Parish. There have been numerous accidents at this site over many years, the majority involving vehicles turning right out of the Upper

Icknield Way onto Tring Hill. Visibility for drivers turning right at this junction is poor, with traffic turning left from Tring Hill onto the Upper Icknield Way obscuring the view of vehicles behind continuing straight on towards Buckland Wharf and Aston Clinton. There have been two serious injury accidents within the last 6 months.

Over the years Bucks County Council has looked at possible improvements to this junction, which is very constrained topographically, including the installation of traffic lights or even changing the priority at the junction. When the closure of RAF Halton was announced and further development planned on the site, one of the first off-site requirements was for the Tring Hill/Upper Icknield Way junction to be upgraded to take the additional traffic. This is why Policy D-HAL009 (c) was added to VALP.

The draft SPD fails to mention the requirement for s278 off-site improvements to the Tring Hill/Upper Icknield Way junction. Even more concerning is that para 3.5 encourages development traffic to route via A41 and A413. Any traffic travelling from the A41 bypass to Halton must use the Tring Hill/Upper Icknield Way junction. The A41 cannot be used as a haulage route to Halton until the promised junction improvements have been made.

Even more concerning to Buckland Parish Council are comments in the table on p82 of the draft SPD re Policy D-HAL009(c) which mentions junction improvements within the Halton planning application area. The Tring Hill junction is not even mentioned, despite all the additional traffic which will be created both prior to and following the development of the Halton site.

Buckland Parish Council objects to the draft RAF Halton SPD for the reasons stated above.

Planning for 93 houses in Aston Clinton on the Buckland boundary has been refused. Reasons for this include the development is beyond the limits for Aston Clinton's limits for housing, it is an isolated development, there is the potential for great crested newts and other wildlife in the area. Natural England also objected that the development was contrary to the Beechwood SAC.

24.29 Thames Water Pumping Station

Meetings have taken place in last month with various parties relating to the TW Booster station in Buckland Road. These included representatives from TW meeting Cllr Mike Collins and Cllr Paternoster to discuss plans. Cllr Hayward and Clerk met on site with Rob Butler MP to show him the detrimental effect the proposals would have on Hope Cottages. Rob Butler MP subsequently met with TW representatives at the House of Commons. All meetings are showing hopeful outcomes, with Thames Water currently reviewing the alternative location proposed by BPC and supported by local residents.

Council agreed to create petition to present to Rob Butler MP to allow questions to be asked in the House of Commons. **ACTION: Clerk to action**

24.30 Consultations and Correspondence

To note Adoption of AGT 1 SPD by Bucks Council

24.31 Roads and Transportation

Updates on:

- Tring Hill/ Buckland Wharf – Data from Aston Clinton VAS signs shows that vehicles are still speeding when approaching Wenwell Close. Cllr Paternoster and Clerk are meeting local residents to discuss further actions, following a very disappointing response from Bucks Council. FOI request from Hertfordshire Constabulary had resulted in little information. TVP have not yet responded. Clerk sent request via social media for residents to get in touch regarding accidents. Data collected so far shows 6 accidents in the last 4 years.
- Lower Buckland – Council discussed the resurfacing of road in Lower Buckland between the canal bridge and Monks Court and the value for money of investment by Bucks Council when there are a large number of issues with roads elsewhere within parish. **ACTION: Clerk to write to Steve Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Transport) to question the decision.**

24.32 Maintenance of Land Holdings

- a. **Burial Ground maintenance** hedge cutting has taken place in the burial ground. Council to decide on area for cremation plots, this area could be segregated using paving slabs.
- b. Memorials of distinction request for the inclusion of publicity on gravestones was refused. **ACTION: Clerk to update burial ground regulations stating no advertising.**
- c. **Lower Buckland/Community Orchard** – Damaged fruit trees have now been replaced, hedging is still to be replaced. Clerk to write to farmer thanking him for replacement of fruit trees.
- d. Council discussed grant from Aston Clinton, Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland horticultural society. Agreed to buy some native trees from the approved list given by planners. This will take place in Autumn 2024.
- e. Silverspades Landscapes have agreed to continue with grass cutting through the Parish at reduced rate of 4 times per year. BPC has accepted this contract for the following 12 months.
- f. Clerk reported there had been no requests for allotments following advertising in Parish Magazine, social media and website. It was agreed to remove the fence between the grass keep and the allotment land, allowing the allotment land to be used as grass keep until such time as a request for allotment land is received by BPC.

24.33 Footpaths and Environment

- a. Tring Hill Footway – Buckinghamshire Council will be attending to the site and following up overhanging trees and shrubs with adjacent land owners.
- b. Verge damage by Giga Clear. Lewis Minney had attended scene and agreed to work being carried out by Bucks Council in Spring 2024.
- c. Dog Waste bin – Buckland Wharf is awaiting approval from Bucks and installation from contractor.
- d. Street Lights information has been received relating to LED lights and possible impacts. Local councils report 30% reduction in costs. Review into impact on wildlife such as bats etc ongoing. Council approved £58 expenditure on BMKERC collection Licence to show records of wildlife in the Parish.
- e. Castle Water – Meter readings showing no usage over 12 months. New readings need to be taken at end March. Council agreed to close account. **ACTION: Clerk to action.**

24.34 Website, Social Media and Communications

All being regularly updated with information.

24.35 Grants

- Wendover Community Board Funding 23/24 - No information yet on whether funding bid has been successful.

24.36 Arla/Olleco

a. Cllrs attended meeting with Arla and Olleco. Promised meeting discussing Liquid Natural Gas has not yet occurred. Residents continue to report odour issues with Olleco stating there are no issues. Residents have also complained about loud generator noises occurring in area. This was suggested by Olleco to be coming from the nearby film TV studios. Next meeting will take place on 12th June.

24.37 Matters of Report

Cllr Hayward reported on communication from Halton Parish Council regarding a feasibility study including the raising of bridges on the Wendover Arm Canal between Buckland and Wendover. Council agreed plans would need to be seen before opinion could be given.

Cllr Collins reported that work would be taking place on the redesigning and extension of Woodlands roundabout for approximately 10 months to a year to link up Hampden Fields Development and the future Eastern Link Road from the A418.

24.38 Circulars

There were no circulars to discuss.

24.39 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Buckland Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th March 2024

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed

Date