



# BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

**February 2025**  
**Newsletter No 4**

A belated Happy New Year from Buckland Parish Council!

The weather over the last few months has been wet! Buckland Parish Council (BPC) and Buckinghamshire Council (BC) have been mindful of the general appearance of the hedges and verges throughout the Parish. 2024 saw an unprecedented amount of rain leading to increased growth on the verges. Unfortunately, Buckinghamshire Council did not cut the grass when scheduled which also added to problems of over growth throughout the village. Many local landowners have recently cut their hedges to ensure that they are not over hanging ditches and pathways. It is important to ensure that the ditches are kept clear to avoid blockages and flooding. All landowner and householders are responsible for clearing any verges and ditches that are on their land. If you have any concerns please do get in touch regarding this matter.

Councillors have been working hard to get footpaths, stiles and bridges repaired. Unfortunately this is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council and we have been badgering the relevant people with little or no effect! There are some areas that were reported in 2022 that are still awaiting repair. So if you are using these facilities while out walking please do take care.

Any issues relating to stiles, footpaths, potholes, fly tipping can be reported via the Fix My Street Website.

[www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)



## **Green Lane, Burial Ground**

Councillors and residents of Buckland have been working with The Chiltern Society to improve Green Lane access to Buckland Burial Ground (this is off Peggs Lane). In October, they spent a few hours clearing the path way and removing a large amount of dead hedgerow. Later this month they will return and replant new hedgerow. This project has been completely funded by The Chiltern Society and with the help of volunteers.

## **Local Elections 2025**

Elections will be held on 1st May for Councillors for Buckinghamshire Council. On the same date there will be an election for Councillors to represent Buckland Parish Council, if there are more nominees than the seven seats available. If there are fewer nominees, or the same number of nominees, as seats, no election for the Parish Council will be held. The polling station for our Parish will be Buckland Village Hall.

Would you be interested in standing as a Parish Councillor? This is a volunteer role and is a great way of finding out what is happening in your local community. We are particularly keen to have Councillors from Dancers End, Buckland Wharf, and Buckland Road. Meetings take place once a month on the second Monday of the month, and usually last for up to 90 minutes. In addition to this there may be a small amount of work through the month, but not more than a few hours. Please talk to our Clerk Jane Lewis if this is something you are interested in. For more information about standing as a Parish Councillor and the election and timetable for nominations, please visit the Buckinghamshire Council website and search 'local elections'. Nominations for Parish Councillors will need to be delivered to the Deputy Returning Officer no later than 4pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025. Please remember that when you come to vote you will need to bring a form of identification with you.

## **Thames Water Update**

Members of Buckland Parish Council met with representatives from Thames Water in December. Thames Water were fully transparent about delays they are experiencing with this project. They confirmed that there will be

nothing happening of relevance to the Buckland Booster Station in the next 6-12 months. They have agreed to give BPC an update towards the end of March 2025.

### **Parish Precept**

Over the last few months BPC have been working hard to finance Parish needs. Like many we have seen our costs rise over the past few years and we strive to ensure that we have the best contracts that offer good value for money. A large part of our budget is spent on grass cutting throughout the Parish. In addition to this we have to maintain our Burial Ground and other property owned by the Parish Council. As a goodwill gesture we currently cut the grass in the All Saints Churchyard. However, due to financial constraints we have had to reduce the number of cuts this year to 4, instead of two weekly cuts over the Spring/Summer. We are working closely with Rev Bottomer to create a Community Group to help with the grass cutting in the Churchyard as well as creating wildflower areas. If you would like to help with this project, please get in touch with Rev Bottomer via the Benefice Office 01296 632488.

Other areas of expenditure include the cost of street lighting. We have taken the decision to gradually replace our light bulbs in the streetlamps with LED bulbs. Whilst this requires upfront investment the environmental benefits and the fact that LED bulbs have a longer life make the change worthwhile.

### **Traffic in Buckland**

In November 2024 BPC carried out a traffic survey along Buckland Road. Two sets of truvello strips were laid, one set just after the Hope Cottages in the 40mph zone and the second within the 30mph zone. The data received was astonishing! 48% of vehicles using this road were travelling above the speed limit of 30mph. We have also received feedback from residents saying that the road has become busier since the installation of traffic calming measures in Aston Clinton. We have contacted Buckinghamshire Council for advice on what can be done to help slow the traffic on this road. If you are using the road, please be mindful of the speed limit. The road is used heavily by pedestrians, cyclist and dog walkers. There are many school children who walk along here as well and there are no footpaths for pedestrians to use.

Speeding vehicles continues to be an issue on Tring Hill both at the junction to the Upper Icknield Way and also at Buckland Wharf. BPC have written once again to Buckinghamshire Council regarding this matter and requested that traffic calming measure be installed. We will update you when we have received a response.

When the weather warms up we will start carrying out Speedwatch sessions. These are run by volunteers. If you are interested in taking part please get in touch with the clerk (details at the end of this newsletter).

### **Buckland Old School Trust**

Buckland Old School Trust are responsible for managing the Village Hall, the Old School House and the Glebe land behind the church. You may have seen recently that BOST has appointed a new chair, Richard Peel and another trustee Linda Oatley. They have also employed a Hall Manager to take on the bookings and manage the website and bookings system. BOST are asking residents for their views on how they would like to see the hall used. If you visit [www.BucklandVillagehall.com](http://www.BucklandVillagehall.com) you will find information about the hall and the new booking system along with a link to the online survey. If you do not have access to the survey but would like to make a comment, please contact the clerk who can drop a copy of the survey into you (Contact details at the end of the Newsletter).

### **Have Your Say on Proposed Car Parking Charges at Aston Clinton Park**

Aston Clinton Park is a popular destination attracting visitors from far and wide throughout the year. To help cover rising maintenance costs due to this increase in use Aston Clinton Parish Council is considering introducing car parking charges for non-residents of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp to help fund these essential expenses. To gather your views, we are holding a public consultation at the Aston Clinton Parish Council office (next to the Red Kite Pavilion) on Thursday, 20th February 2025, from 1 pm to 8 pm.

If you're unable to attend in person, you can complete an online survey <https://forms.gle/uSLWYZaghc5pUqqy7> which closes on 2nd March.

**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