

Meeting of Buckland Parish Council
On Monday 3rd June 2024
at Buckland Village Hall @ 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Nigel Hayward (Chair), Cllr Jon Sainsbury (Vice Chair), Cllr Carole Paternoster, Cllr Fiona Livingston, Jane Lewis (Clerk)

24.102 Apologies Cllr Heather Mckenna

24.103 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

24.104 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

24.105 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair Cllr Nigel Hayward.

24.106 Clerk's Report

The Clerk attended the Clerks Forum in May

- Wendover Community Board has £75000 available this year. Projects this year include working with local youth clubs, and looking at digital inclusion for older people.
- Concern was raised by fellow Clerks that Buckinghamshire Council have not been entirely fair in some processes. These include a recent parking consultation where the consultation closed and a few days later the report was published, suggesting that consultees comments had not been listened to.

The clerk shared with the council the website statistics report. A QR code has been created for village noticeboards that will take users directly to the Parish Council website.

Castle Water Update - The Clerk met with Thames Water to identify site of meter for removal. No clear date has been provided for removal at present.

Replacement light bulbs have been replaced outside New Road and Neild Farm. There is an ongoing issue with one at Buckland Wharf. This is being investigated. Councilors also mentioned two other lights which need attention.

A report has been received into vandalism of the light opposite Peggs Lane. Black paint has been splashed over the light casing making it less visible at night. This is a danger to pedestrians and cars at night as the light is on a blind bend. Clerk will report to the police and post notice relating to vandalism on Facebook. **ACTION: Clerk to follow up with Thames Valley Police.**

Noticeboards - The Clerk met with Wendover Sheds to discuss repair to the two public notice boards. Work should begin in 2 weeks. This is being funded by a grant from Wendover Community Board.

Speedwatch – 1 new member has joined the group and there is another possible volunteer joining the group. The Clerk is investigating making one of the volunteers a co-ordinator to help increase the number of sessions.

Information Commissioners Office – Renewal is £40 due in July but if paid by direct debit reduces to £35. Clerk actioning.

Increase in Grass keep rental – Tennant has agreed to increase in rental to £500 per annum.

MVAS signs – A resident has requested that fundraising takes place to position a sign on London road opposite Buckland Road. The council refused this as there is already a sign further down the road by Wenwell Close. MVAS sign in this location would remove a speedwatch site.

Benefice office have requested a spot on the Parish Council Newsletter. **ACTION: Clerk to ask what the purpose is as there already a number of outlets for benefice and Newsletter had been planned a Parish Council news.**

24.107 Finance

- a. Bank statement for May is not yet available. Closing balance for end of May 2024 was £46540. Details will be presented at July meeting.
- b. Insurance renewal has been paid. Clerk has contacted Insurance company regarding areas of policy that are not applicable such as marquee hire, these cannot be removed as they are standard. Photos of lock on office and building have been sent to insurers. Insurance company require a rental agreement with BOST for rental of parish office. **ACTION: Clerk to follow up.**

24.108 Review of Policies

- Complaints Policy - Approved
- Financial Regulations – First draft – Amendments have been made. This will be presented again at July meeting.
- Risk assessment – Approved.
- Grievance policy – Approved.
- Data Retention and Security Policy – Appendix A – Approved.
- Dignity at work policy – Approved.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Paternoster for all her help on the policies.

24.109 Review of Burial Ground procedures and costs

The clerk presented revised rules for the burial ground. These were approved by the council. Council agreed to increase cost for burial of cremated remains to £200 and internment of ashes into an existing Burial plot to £100.. This brings the rates in line with the local burial grounds. **ACTION: Clerk to contact All Saints Church to ask if a notice can be displayed on noticeboard with new rules.**

24.110 Planning Applications/Matters

RE: 3342894 - Land north of Brandon Close, Aston Clinton

Buckland Parish Council have not received any documents relating to the planning appeal. The Clerk has contacted the Planning Inspectorate case officer to register the opportunity to speak at enquiry. Cllr Paternoster will represent Buckland Parish Council.

The Clerk has been approached by a developer regarding possible development of site opposite Hope Cottages. The developer was unaware of the proposed Thames Water Booster Station.

ACTION: Clerk to ask for proposed plans.

24.111 Consultations and Correspondence

- Aston Clinton Scout Hall – Letter received from Wendover Community Board stating that they cannot be involved in matters relating to boundary disputes.
- Thames Water Pumping Station – Rod Butler MP has sent letters to all residents within Buckland updating them on progress. Thames Water have stated there will be no further updates until July.

24.112 Roads and Transportation

- Tring Hill/ Buckland Wharf – A reply has been sent to Richard Barker following up on his reply regarding road safety measures.

24.113 Maintenance of Land Holdings

a. Burial Ground maintenance –

Contractor has cut the grass again in Burial ground and churchyard. The standard of cut was very poor again. They have been asked to improve and also cut weeds around old graves. The benefice have received an enquiry from possible contractor for churchyard. Buckinghamshire Council are due to cut the verges week commencing 3rd of June. Clerk has reported safety issue of grass at Buckland crossroads. **ACTION: Clerk to look at alternative contractors for 2025. Clerk to write to church re stating that the council cutting the graveyard is done on voluntary basis by the council.**

24.114 Footpaths and Environment

- Hedges – Due to high levels of rain and warm temperatures many hedges and footpaths are becoming impassible due to excess growth. The hedge on Main road Buckland, between New Road and Model Row, is becoming very overgrown. The landowner has no plans to cut at present, Buckinghamshire Council have agreed to inspect.
- Bridleway – Dacorum Council will be installing two bollards towards the end of the summer at the Puttenham end. Buckinghamshire council have agreed to review bollards at Buckland end of the bridleway. New padlocks have been placed on bollard on Bridleway 1 .

24.115 Website, Social Media and Communications

- Gigaclear will be installing cables to hall on Tuesday 4th June. Date for installation in hall is set to be 19th June.

24.116 Grants

Wendover Community Board are reviewing application for grant for kissing gate in Community Orchard. Application for waste bin at bus stop at the top of the hill should be made by Aston Clinton Society. WCB will not fund signs for New Road. Council agreed to contribute £250 to signs only. Payment for signs could be made via the council in order to reclaim the VAT. **Action : Clerk to follow up.**

24.117 Arla/Olleco

Liaison meeting taking place on 12th June.

24.119 Matters of Report

Cllr Paternoster and Cllr Livingston will be meeting Chiltern Society on 20th June to discuss possible help with Community Orchard.

24.120 Circulars

There were no circulars.

24.121 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Buckland Parish Council will be held on Monday 8th July 2024. The Clerk will not be in attendance, Cllr Paternoster will take minutes as Assistant Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed.....