

# Buckland Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Buckland  
held in Buckland Village Hall  
on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6.30 pm

Present:-

Cllr N Hayward (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs Gillingham

Cllr Mrs F Livingston

Cllr Mrs C Paternoster

Cllr J Sainsbury

Mr P Elwin

Clerk: Mrs Jane Lewis

Apologies:- Mrs P Graves – Buckland Old School Trust

## **Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed the attendees

### **1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

The minutes from the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed and signed

### **2. Chairman's Report on the Year 2022/2023**

The Chairman opened by acknowledging that the Parish Council are custodians of the environment and infrastructure of the village.

The Chairman reflected on the work of the previous Clerk, Mrs Fiona Richardson, in creating an IT system allowing communication and accessibility for councillors of all the documentation and finances, along with the village website. The Chairman welcomed the new Clerk, Mrs Jane Lewis, to Buckland Parish Council.

The Parish Council's burial ground will be required to include cremation plots as soon as All Saints churchyard ceases accepting further cremations later this year and the churchyard is officially closed. The work required to provide cremation plots in the burial ground will begin shortly.

The Parish Council has continued to create a community Orchard and Nature Reserve in the past year. Most trees planted in 2021/22 have survived the drought of 2022. Standpipes are now being installed to allow for regular watering. The Parish Council will reintroduce the opportunity for members or the public to plant trees this Autumn in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II.

There have been a large number of roadworks in Buckland village over the last few months. Whilst contractors had generally been helpful, the council had been frustrated by the volume of works and lack of control over them by Buckinghamshire Council, who had issued the licences for works on the highway.

Thames Water were proposing to build a pumping station on land off Buckland Road, next to Hope Cottages. An initial consultation meeting had taken place between councillors and Thames Water. It is hoped that Thames Water will work with council on siting, planning etc.

Over the past year Buckland Parish Council has continued to try and work more closely with Aston Clinton Parish Council and will continue to do so.

The Council has carried out a full review of all its costs over past year to ensure that all contracts are properly managed and prices competitive. The Parish precept has been set at a 4% increase for 2023/24.

A large part of the Parish Council's work for the past year has been the Neighbourhood Plan which has been approved at referendum by residents. By ensuring a Neighbourhood Plan is in place, the Council can ensure Buckland does not coalesce with Aston Clinton. The Chairman thanks Cllr Paternoster for all her work on the plan. He closed by thanking the members and Clerk, for all their work over the year.

### **3. Presentation of Accounts**

The Clerk to the Council, Mrs Jane Lewis, presented the unaudited accounts. The figures showed that the final figures were in line with the proposed budget for 2022/23. The Accounts have been strongly audited and spending has been kept within requirements. The Clerk was thanked for her work on these.

### **4. BOST TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

Due to the current financial crisis and substantial increases in the cost of gas and electricity, rental charges for hiring the Hall have been increased. This has resulted in only one long-term user being lost due to the price increase. However, the number of hirings is gradually increasing.

The Trustees are seeking to install 'Hive' to control the heating settings in the Hall before next winter. A smart meter has been installed and electricity usage can now be checked regularly. Both electricity and gas charges have increased, but both accounts are still in credit.

The tenancy on the Old School House was terminated at the end of March. The house is now undergoing maintenance before it can be let again. The windows are in dire need of replacement. The building is grade 2 listed, therefore replacement windows are being made up by a carpenter. The kitchen is also being replaced. BOST is anticipating losing 3 months' rent while this work is carried out. The house is the main source of income for both properties.

### **5. Questions from the Floor**

A member of the public asked why only full Parish Council minutes were shown on the Buckland website when other local parishes also display draft minutes. The Chairman responded that draft minutes do not become legal minutes until approved at the next meeting. Once this has occurred, the minutes are then displayed.

A member of public asked if the Parish Council receive s106 funding for any new residential developments within the Parish. The Council has not received any recent s106 funding, although previous s106 funds for Albert Orchard was used to purchase the community orchard land at Lower Buckland. The Buckland Neighbourhood Plan states where any future s106 money should be spent.

## Buckland Parish Council

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Cllr Mrs Paternoster thanked Cllr Hayward for all the work he has done over the past year and the new Clerk for joining Buckland PC

6. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He closed the meeting at 7.00pm.