

**Meeting of Buckland Parish Council**  
**On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
at Buckland Village Hall @7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Cllr Nigel Hayward (Chair), Cllr Jon Sainsbury (Vice Chair), Cllr Carole Paternoster, Cllr Fiona Livingston, Clerk Jane Lewis.  
Heather McKenna and Buckinghamshire Cllr Mike Collins also attended

**24.58 Apologies** There were none

**24.59 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**24.60 Open Forum**

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

**24.61 Minutes**

The minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair Cllr Nigel Hayward.

**24.62 Co-option of Parish Councillor**

The Parish Council co-opted Heather Mckenna as a member of Buckland Parish Council. Cllr Carole Paternoster proposed and Cllr Fiona Livingston seconded the appointment.

**24.63 Clerk's Report**

Bucks Best Kept Village competition is once again open for Parishes to apply. BPC agreed not to enter this year.

The Clerk presented all Councillors with copies of Declarations of Interest, Code of Conduct forms and Meeting dates for the next 12 months. **ACTION: All councillors to return forms to the Clerk at the May 2024 meeting.**

In response to a request for information on cost of emptying dog bins at March meeting, Buckinghamshire Council had quoted £78 per bin per annum. This cost is paid for by Buckland Parish Council.

New Road – Clerk has contacted courier companies to remind that that New Road is not a public thoroughfare. Clerk is investigating the costs and possibility of signs on New Road entrances. Google Maps can receive updates on information on this service. The Clerk has contacted the resident to share this information.

**24.64 Finance**

a. Payments and bank balances for March were approved.

4/3/2024	SSE Energy	£353.92
6/3/2024	Cloudy IT	£74.16
7/3/2024	Nest Pension	£38.48
8/3/2024	HugoFox	£23.99
14/3/2024	Buckinghamshire Council (Dog Waste Collections)	£210.31
14/3/2024	M Nicholls	£325.00
18/3/2024	E Sharp Electrical	£308.40
21/3/2024	Nest Pension	£38.48
21/3/2024	J Lewis – Stationery	£175.07
21/03/2024	Purple Cat Ltd (Sound system)	£406.59
25/3/2024	Aylesbury Town Council	£42.00

25/03/2024	Jane Lewis – Stationery	£34.59
25/03/2024	Jane Lewis – Megaphone	£12.99
28/03/2024	One Com – phone and broadband	£60.70
28/3/2024	Clerks Salary	£1027.52
28/3/2024	HMRC	£78.72

### **Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Opening Balance	£33199.54
Monies In	0
Money out	£3210.92
Closing Balance	£29988.62

### **b. End of financial year 2023/2024**

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 still slightly below 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.

### **c. Asset Register**

The Clerk presented the Asset Register to the Council . This was approved.

### **d. Savings Account**

The Clerk has spoken with other local clerks to look at possible options. Flagstone has been recommended. **ACTION: Clerk to investigate.**

### **e. HMRC PAYE**

BAS Payroll have suggested that HMRC payments can now be paid by Direct Debit. The Council approved this. **ACTION: Clerk to Set up Direct Debit payment to HMRC.**

### **f. Review of IT Contract**

The Clerk has looked at alternative providers for IT support; however the prices have been far higher. Council agreed to continue with Cloudy IT.

### **g. Clerk laptop**

Council approved the expenditure for replacement laptop for clerk. Previous laptop had been purchased in 2014. Expenditure will be £535 + VAT and cost for data transfer between £60-£90.

### **h. Castle Water**

Meter readings have been taken at end of March. Clerk contacted Castle Water to close account who then requested closing fee of £360 + VAT. Council agreed to close contract. **ACTION: Clerk to try and negotiate no fee for closure and action.**

## **24.65 Planning Applications/Matters**

- **Planning Application 23/03923/APP** 200 London Road Aston Clinton Buckinghamshire HP22 5LE Demolition of the existing detached C3 dwelling and all ancillary buildings and replacement with proposed new build C3 detached dwellinghouse  
Application has been changed to meet requirements of Neighbourhood Plan. Buckland Parish Council has no objections to the amended plans.
- **Land ownership detail**  
Land Registry documents have now been received for plots of land north of the canal at Lower Buckland and Clerk is reviewing them.
- **Planning tracker**  
Issues have been raised by website users relating to the planning tracker on council website. The tracker is not updating information regularly. Clerk has raised the issue with Buckinghamshire Council, both parties are now discussing and trying to solve issues.

## 24.66 Thames Water Pumping Station

Petition to Parliament will be presented by Rob Butler MP at some point in next few weeks once Parliament returns from Easter recess. No further information has been received from Thames Water.

## 24.667 Consultations and Correspondence

- **Chiltern Society**

Chiltern Society have contacted Buckland Parish Council offering help and advice for local community projects. Buckland Parish Council have agreed to meet with them to discuss possible help in Community Orchard and also Primrose Copse. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise**

- **Buckinghamshire Council's Licensing Policy**

Received from Buckinghamshire Council in relation to street trading on public land. This does not affect Buckland Parish Council.

## 24.68 Roads and Transportation

Updates on:

- **Tring Hill/ Buckland Wharf – Speedwatch**

Speedwatch session took place on 28<sup>th</sup> March. 20 vehicles were caught exceeding the 30mph within an hour, with the fastest speed recorded as 47MPH. Aston Clinton Parish Council were also running a session at Wenwell Close and caught 5 vehicles, two of which were also caught by BPC. Due to GDPR rules number plates cannot be exchanged so comparisons were made by type of vehicle and times of incident. **ACTION: Clerk to contact ACPC in future when Speedwatch sessions taking place on Tring Hill to ensure no crossover**

- **MVAS request**

A resident has requested that Buckland Parish Council purchase MVAS equipment. The council voted against this due to lack of funds.

- **Accident details and other data to respond to Bucks Council's letter received in November 2023**

Clerk will be responding to the letter received from Richard Barker regarding the number of accidents on Tring Hill, including recent injury accidents, and speeding traffic at Buckland Wharf. Cllr Mike Collins requested copies of the correspondence.

## 24.69 Maintenance of Land Holdings

To receive reports and agree any actions relating to the Parish Council's Land Holdings:

- a. **Burial Ground maintenance** and preparation of site for cremated remains:

The Council agreed to start the May BPC meeting at the Burial Ground to discuss the possible location of cremated remains and also to discuss the use of part of the land as a wildflower meadow following a suggestion from a resident at the Annual Parish Meeting.

## 24.70 Footpaths and Environment

To receive reports and agree any actions:

- **Hedge cutting in the Parish**

A local landowner had been contacted regarding cutting of hedge in the village. The reply received was that this is done on a three year cycle and will possibly be actioned in Autumn 2024.

- **Grass cutting in the Parish**

The Council noted that Buckinghamshire Council had cut the grass vision splays at the crossroads in Lower Icknield Way but not the verges. **ACTION: Clerk to follow up with Buckinghamshire Council.**

- **Halton Canal Extension**

Council noted the response from Halton Parish Council but will not be able to comment without seeing any plans.

- **Footpath no 7 in the Glebe land behind the church**

The Clerk reported that a local resident had complained about walkers not following the footpath in the Glebe behind the Church. Recent heavy rainfall has made many paths impassible due to saturated ground. **ACTION: Council to carry out audit of all local footpaths in May.**

- **Bridleway Lower Buckland**

There are now two bollards and padlocks missing from Lower Buckland Bridleways. These have been reported to Alastair McVail. During the Annual Parish Meeting a resident reported that some hardcore had been laid on the Puttenham side of Bridleway no 3.

- **Litter Bin request – Tring Hill bus stop opposite Crow's Nest**

The Clerk reported that the cost of a new bin would be £124.99 with no additional costs for emptying. **ACTION: Clerk to apply to Wendover Community Board for funding.**

- **Pest Issue at Buckland Wharf**

Following complaints from residents the Clerk reported that Buckinghamshire Environmental Health are investigating pest control issues at Mela restaurant. However, due to the large amount of rainfall and location near to the Canal there is likely to be an increase in pests.

#### **24.71 Website, Social Media and Communications**

- **Parish Newsletter**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Newsletter has been distributed to all properties in the Parish. Approximately 30 people have submitted emails for electronic distribution. Three local residents have come forward to help with the distribution. The Clerk had received positive comments about the introduction of the newsletter. The next edition will be sent in September 2024.

- **Broadband supplier**

Gigaclear have failed to install the Community Broadband in the village Hall. Clerk has investigated costs of other suppliers and the Council agreed to go with BT. **ACTION: Clerk to follow up**

#### **24.72 Grants**

- Wendover Community Board Funding 23/24 has been received for the Sound System.
- There has been no further information on the application for a pedestrian Kissing Gate at the Community Orchard. Cllr Mike Collins reported that Wendover Community Board are trying to fund smaller projects. **ACTION: Cllr Mike Collins to follow up application.**

#### **24.73 Matters of Report**

For Councillors to report any additional issues not included on the agenda. Any decisions will need to be included on the next agenda.

Buckinghamshire Cllr Mike Collins reported that he will be hosting two D-day celebrations on June 6<sup>th</sup>. **ACTION: Clerk to advertise on website and noticeboards.**

Cllr Paternoster attended a Buckinghamshire Council LNR strategy meeting. Discussion took place regarding the environment act and alignment with planning. Buckinghamshire Council will be producing a written strategy including a map with areas of natural habitat. The draft will go to public consultation in June. The survey is due to become the finalised strategy in 2025. BPC Community Orchard and Primrose Copse have now been added to the locations on the strategy map.

Review of Neighbourhood Plan – Council agreed to review the NHP at Annual Meeting May.

Cllr Livingston had been informed that ACPC will be holding an EGM to discuss the appeal of the refusal of application for 95 houses on land next to Chapel Drive. This application is now with the Planning Inspectorate.

There is an increasing amount of rubbish by the rear gate of ARLA. **ACTION: Clerk to report to ARLA**

**24.74 Circulars**

**There were no circulars to discuss.**

**24.75 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Buckland Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of Buckland Parish Council and will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 @ 6.30pm and will begin in BPC's burial ground.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed

Date: