



BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May/June 2026

Newsletter No 8

The spring months are always a very busy time of year for Parish Councils. As with many, the month of April is the start of the new financial year which means finalising accounts for the previous year. Parish Councils are scrutinised thoroughly as funds are "public" money. The books are balanced, reviewed by the Council, then an Internal Auditor who is appointed by the Council reviews the accounts and processes adopted by the Council. Once the Internal auditor's report is received the Council must approve it and the accounts are submitted to an external auditor for review. The whole process can take up until the end of September to complete. BPC provide complete transparency of financial information through the website. Over the last couple of years, we have worked hard to increase Council reserves to the required levels through careful budgeting and management of contracts. Grass cutting in rural areas is an area where lots of discussion often occurs by residents. Buckinghamshire Council are responsible for grass cutting in parishes, however due to financial restraints they will only cut the grass twice a year within the Parish. BPC decided several years ago that it needed to be cut more frequently. We receive a small amount of income from Buckinghamshire Council which is used towards grass cutting. Grass cutting costs account for 20% of our expenditure. This year the Council has had additional work due to changes in the way we are audited in relation to GDPR. We have carried out a thorough review of our activities to ensure we are compliant and that our website is fully compliant.

In addition to financial matters the Annual Parish meeting is held and the Annual meeting of Buckland Parish Council in April & May respectively. The Annual Parish Meeting is called by the Chair of the Parish Council and local community groups come together and report on what's been happening through the past year. This year we heard from All Saints Church and Buckland Old School Trust. This annual parish meeting is open to all Buckland residents.

Speeding in Buckland

Speeding throughout the parish is a big issue at the present time. As a parish council we receive complaints about this issue on a weekly basis from residents. Speeding used to only be an issue on Tring Hill/Buckland Wharf area however it now seems to be everywhere! Since the introduction of traffic calming in Aston Clinton there has been a big increase in traffic on Buckland Road where vehicles are using it to avoid the speed humps in the Aston Clinton, and unfortunately not adhering to the 30MPH speed limit. We ask EVERYONE to stick to the speed limit. There are some very elderly residents along Buckland Road who now feel unable to walk along Buckland Road because of the speed of vehicles. This is leaving them feeling vulnerable and isolated. Buckinghamshire Council have installed some temporary signage to try and encourage people to drive safely. BPC continue to petition Buckinghamshire Council to install more effective measures throughout the parish. You can see copies of correspondence relating to this issue on our website.

You may remember that in April the A41 was closed for filming one Saturday. BPC, along with Aston Clinton Parish Council, are due to receive a small payment from the filming company. This is to be used for community funds. BPC will be using some of this money towards a Speeding Campaign that we will be running with Aston Clinton school. We will be asking children at the school to design a poster. Winning posters will be displayed throughout the parish.

Community Litter Pick

On March 21st we held our litter pick. We were very lucky with the weather! 18 people turned out to help, and we collected 20 bags of rubbish including gas cannisters, shopping baskets and more! The volunteers worked from the canal in Lower Buckland all the way up to and along the Lower Icknield Way. Many thanks to All Saints Church who allowed us to provide cake and refreshments for everyone afterwards! Sadly within 24 hours of holding this event we were plagued by people dumping rubbish down past the A41 bridge. We are working with Buckinghamshire Council to try and prevent this happening. If you do notice litter that has been dumped, please report it on Fix My Street.

If you fancy doing some of your own litter picking, we do now have a supply of litter pickers and rubbish sacks in the office that can be loaned out to you. Get in touch!

Thames Water Booster Station

BPC have been keeping a close eye on any possible developments with Thames Water Booster Station. No formal plans have been submitted, only a request for pre-application advice, to Buckinghamshire Council. BPC held a

meeting with Thames Water and Laura Kyrke-Smith MP where we were updated on the progress of the project. Until pre-application advice is received from Buckinghamshire Council Thames Water are unable to submit formal plans. However, they did tell us that they have taken on board residents' views from last time and are seeking to run pipelines and the booster station nearer to the A41. They have also said there will have to be a lot of archaeological surveys taking place before any building happens. This is common practice and given the number of finds that occurred with ARLA and the A41 it is very wise. They will let us know when these take place and we will post updates on our Facebook page.

Buckland Community Orchard

We have been working again with The Chiltern Society in our community orchard in Lower Buckland and the area is starting to really take shape. If you have half an hour to spare and would like to get involved in the watering, please get in touch. As a result of a grant from the Gib Lane Community Fund, we now have hosepipes across the orchard to make the job a bit easier.

Odours in the Parish

We are still getting reports of odours in Buckland. BPC continue to work with the environment agency and local service providers to minimise these issues. If you notice any smells, please can you report them to <https://www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem> or call 0800 80 70 60. These are details for the Environmental Agency. If you are also able to let BPC know and include the reference number, it would be appreciated.

Digital Switchover

By January 2027, the UK's old copper phone network will be switched off, area by area. For older or vulnerable residents, particularly those with telecare alarms or no mobile phone, it can be confusing and potentially risky if they're not prepared in time. Further information can be found on our website or by contacting your telephone provider directly.

Your Local Councillors



In this newsletter we are introducing Heather McKenna.

I am very pleased to be serving as a Parish Councillor for our village. My areas of responsibility include BPC burial ground and I serve as BPC representative to BOST.

Having lived here for 26 years, I care deeply about our community and the wonderful people who make it such a special place to live. I decided to become a councillor because I wanted to play a more active role in supporting the village and helping with local issues and projects. I hope to make a positive contribution by listening to residents and working with others to keep our village welcoming, well cared for, and enjoyable for everyone.

Do you live between 178-232 London Road?

Buckland Parish Council are looking for a few more volunteers who would be willing to deliver our newsletter, and we are looking for people who live in the above area. (Alternatively, if you live nearby and would like to volunteer you are also welcome 😊) We produce the newsletter every 3 to 4 months.

Theres a lot happening in Buckland over the Summer:

12th – 14th June – Buck Pub including Seniors Lunch on Saturday and Music Festival

15th June 6pm Buckland Old School Trust Annual General Meeting

21st June 1-5pm Buckland Open Gardens

27th June 4.30 – Late Music Under the Stars

3rd July 7pm – Belfry Bar & Live Music All Saints Church

31st July 7pm – Belfry Bar & Live Music All Saints Church

7th August 6pm Buckland Baggies Cricket Match



Website details: buckland-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: Buckland Parish Council

Contact details: Tel: 01296 630962 email: 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. If you wish to talk to the clerk please make an appointment or use the doorbell at the entrance. The hall door is locked when the hall is not in use by hirers.