

Meeting of Buckland Parish Council
On Monday 8th July 2024
at Buckland Village Hall @ 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Nigel Hayward (Chairman), Cllr Jon Sainsbury (Vice Chairman), Cllr Carole Paternoster, Cllr Fiona Livingston, Cllr Heather McKenna

Buckinghamshire Cllr Mike Collins

24.121 Apologies Clerk Jane Lewis

24.122 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

24.123 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

24.124 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman Cllr Nigel Hayward.

24.125 Clerk's Report

- Work is due to begin on the noticeboards within the next month.
- Speedwatch: two sessions have taken place recently. Low numbers of speeding vehicles were recorded due to sites being so visible and also the traffic lights on London Road, Aston Clinton, slowing traffic. One of the volunteers has offered to be a coordinator, which will happen in August/September. **ACTION: Clerk to use Facebook to seek further volunteers.**
- No news from Thames Water on when the water supply will be removed on the allotment land.
- Street lights in Buckland Road have been repaired. Awaiting quote from Sharp for replacement light cover opposite Peggs Lane, which has been vandalised.
- Grass cutting tender 2024/25 to be discussed at the August/September meeting.
- All Cllrs' declarations of interest have been sent to the monitoring officer.
- Grasskeep licence has been sent to CD Lane, who has agreed the price of £500.

24.126 Finance

- a. Payments for May were approved, and bank balances agreed.
- b. Approval was granted for payment of the Scribe invoice.

24.127 Review of Policies

Final approval was granted for the Financial Regulations.

24.128 Planning Applications

- **24/01811/APP** Land adjacent to 69 Buckland Road, erection of dwelling
No objection **ACTION: Clerk to notify the local planning authority**

- Planning appeal: Land north of Brandon Close, Aston Clinton: Cllr Carole Paternoster to represent Buckland Parish Council at the forthcoming public inquiry

24.129 Consultations and Correspondence

- Halton Parish Council meeting on LED lights, 11th July. Cllr Heather McKenna to attend on behalf of Buckland Parish Council

24.130 Roads and Transportation

- Tring Hill/ Buckland Wharf – No further correspondence regarding requested road safety measures has been received from Richard Barker, director, Bucks Council.
- Wendover Canal Trust: Buckland Parish Council has always supported the restoration of the Wendover Arm Canal, and Cllrs agreed that support for this should continue, although the type of restoration has never been defined. A meeting between Buckland Parish Council and the Canal and Rivers Trust took place in about 2018, and the discussion was that narrow boats would pass under the A41 bypass bridge on the Buckland/Drayton Beauchamp border, where they would then turn round. Only smaller craft would be able to continue to Wendover. At a meeting on 13th May with 3 BPC representatives Clive Johnson, Chairman of the Wendover Canal Trust, explained that the canal could be opened to narrow boats as far as Wendover. However, there are two low bridges at Buckland Wharf which prevent this happening. Buckland Parish Councillors discussed the rebuilding of these two bridges to enable narrow boats to access Wendover, instead of terminating at Buckland Wharf. It was agreed that the cost of raising the road bridge at Buckland Wharf to allow sufficient headroom would be so costly due to the road needing to be raised and all the utilities moved. This cost would be prohibitive and would negate the Parish Council making any decision on whether or not the height of the bridge should be raised.

24.131 Maintenance of Land Holdings

a. Report on site meeting with Chiltern Society on 20th June

Cllr Fiona Livingston reported on this meeting with Amanda Barnicoat of the Chiltern Society. Amanda explained the reason for a wildflower no-show this year is because the cuttings were not removed from the area when it was cut last year, which has made the soil too rich, favouring grasses over wildflowers. To remedy this the field needs to be cut in late July-August and all the cuttings to be removed, which can be left in a heap by the hedge next to the road, where they will rot down. Then we should ask Matt Nicholls to scarify the land and then we can sow more wildflower seed for next year. On the positive side, Amanda said we already have a very interesting mix of grasses on that site, with various interesting butterflies and bugs, showing how quickly nature is returning to the area. Amanda recommended that we should trim the newly planted boundary hedges to about 3ft in height to give them a chance to bulk up before they grow too tall. She is happy to do this with Chiltern Society and BPC volunteers. We discussed how to lay out the copse area with new planting, given that we have £500 from the Horticultural Society to spend this autumn. Amanda said we could ask the Chiltern Society volunteers to plant these trees for us. Amanda looked at the state of the hedge in the green lane leading to the burial ground. Despite its poor state, it can be saved. Chiltern Society and local volunteers can do this. We then went to have a look at the burial ground where we plan to reintroduce a wildflower area. Many years ago this area was planted with wildflower seed, but over the years it has been poorly maintained. Amanda's recommendation is that we have the area cut and all cuttings removed this autumn and then sow some yellow rattle seed before December. The following year the area can be planted with wildflower seeds and have the same maintenance regime as the community orchard. **ACTION: Clerk to ask Matt Nicholls for quotes for above work to community orchard and burial ground**

24.132 Footpaths and Environment

- Footpaths are now very overgrown and need cutting back, but it's unlikely Bucks Council will do this. Cllr Nigel Hayward and Fiona Livingston will carry out a footpath audit.
- The hedge and ditch in Buckland Village between Model Row and New Road is very overgrown and causing problems for all road users, including pedestrians. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Lewis Minney and ask him to write to Mr Shepherd Smith re cutting back the hedge and clearing the ditch**
- There was a complaint on Fix my street re the hedge growing over the footway between Manor Cottage and the crossroads. The Clerk has spoken to the Nicholls and the hedge has been cut back. **ACTION: Clerk to thank the Nicholls Family**
- Verges: these are now very overgrown in Buckland Road and Buckland village. Bucks Cllr Mike Collins reported the end of July will be that the earliest Bucks Council will be able to cut them.
- Bridleway 3: No bollard yet, but blue markings on the ground

24.133 Website, Social Media and Communications

- Gigaclear is now installed, and the speed is very high. Electrical sockets still to be installed in the cleaner's cupboard in the Hall.

24.134 Grants

- Grantscape: Cllrs agreed that BPC should install 3 x 2.2m benches in the community orchard at a cost of £2979.00, excluding VAT but including delivery and installation. The approved grant from Grantscape will cover this cost. **ACTION: Clerk to place order**
- Notices advertising the current round of Grantscape applications to be placed on BPC noticeboards on 12th July. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to action**

24.135 Arla/Olleco

The liaison meeting which took place on 12th June gave no information about a meeting regarding the LNG plant, as promised by Arla, the planning application for which has already been approved.

24.136 Matters of Report

There were none

24.137 Circulars

There were no circulars.

24.138 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Buckland Parish Council will be held on Monday 12th August 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed.....

Date

Chairman