



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB  
MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2025 – 7pm**

**1. OPENING PROCEDURES**

**Present:** J Christie, D Hiam, R Dobbs, J Hill, D Lister (Chairman), M Owen, J Rigby, B Spokes, D Stoddart, M Summerscale, P Townsend, R Vivian, A Webb, J York, Clerk – Sue Porter and 35 members of the public

**1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES – Nil**

**1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: B Spokes – Payment to Edge Services

**2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2025** – It was approved by all that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**3.1** Station Hill Bench – This will be installed when the weather conditions are right.

**3.2** Grasscroft and Greenhill Road Trees – These trees were reported in on Fix my Street and following an inspection it was deemed no action was necessary. D Lister will investigate.

**3.3** No Parking Signs – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – J Christie is arranging for the signs to be made.

**4. PUBLIC TIME** – The public were invited to provide comments following a summary of the planning consultant report for 2025/4146/MAO. Concerns raised were the lack of car parking available in the village centre. There has been no response from Highways as yet. The application focuses on the Brington Road but not the whole community, it mentions step free access at the Station (incorrect!) and cycle ways to Daventry. Additional photos will be submitted of Brington Road to show the full extent of the problem, rather than just the entrance from High Street. There are no site notices visible. Pedestrian access to the village is dangerous and unsuitable. The traffic survey provided in the application is out of date and not accurate. Lack of safety concerns for the residents of Watts Way. There is a petition underway with over 1200 signatures so far. Objections can be posted to WNC Planning Department if parishioners do not have email access.

**5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister)** – Inspections are being planned for the Watford Road and East Street. The PC are still awaiting the yellow box junction at the end of Sanders Terrace. The Clerk will chase up the time limited parking disabled bays and the fire hydrant 'motorcycle parking only' requests. The road repairs that Anglian Water have undertaken in West Street are shocking, Highways will be asked to inspect these, along with the impact to Harbidges Lane.

**6. PLANNING**

**2025/4146/MAO** – Outline application (all matters reserved except access) for up to 69 dwellings and associated green space and biodiversity enhancements - **Land to the South of Benbow Farm, Brington Road, Long Buckby**

*The independent Planning Consultant has reviewed the application and provided a full report for setting out the reasons for refusal.*

*Main objections are that the development is outside of the confines of the village, contrary to local and national planning policy and has major concerns over road safety, flooding, ecology, heritage loss and pressures on local services.*

*It was proposed by D Stoddart that the Parish Council submit a formal objection to this proposed development, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour.*

**2025/4052/TCA** - T1- mature Norway Spruce- to raise crown and reduce lower horizontal growth by approx 6ft. T2- Young Ash- to reduce the crown by approximately 30%. T3 young Damson tree- to reduce the crown by approximately 40%. T4 mature Apple tree- to reduce the crown by approximately 40% - **10 East Street, Long Buckby**

**No Objections**

**2025/3891/FULL** – Change of use of wooden garden shed 3m x 4m to a dog grooming room – **19 Berryfield, Long Buckby**

**No Objections**

**2025/4214/FULL** – Install PV panels to rear roof slope and associated battery installed to side of existing porch – **5 The Mounts, Long Buckby**

**No Objections**

## **7. BUSINESS**

**7.1** Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – The plants in the raised beds are being replaced. There are plans to plant some new trees from Station Garage to the Railway Bridge, once the land ownership is determined.

**7.2** Street Lighting Attachments – Policy Document Review – The notes from R Vivian have been circulated and it was agreed by all that the PC will uphold and support the law. Questions do need to be answered by WNC, but the amended policy should be adopted, approved by all.

**7.3** Library & Hub - Parking Bollards – The response from the Library and Hub was that the bollards conform to the correct specification and do have reflective strips. It was requested that the specification of these is supplied to the PC and that these are not used until the PC has researched the information. R Vivian and B Spokes to investigate.

**7.4** Buckby Library & Hub Rent Review 2025 – No further updates, D Lister is chasing for information.

**7.5** Christmas Trees/Lights Switch On – The festive lights switch on is planned for Saturday 29th November at 5pm, with the event starting at 4:30pm. The Community Band will be playing, along with the Community Choir and Guides. The quote for the 9ft Christmas Tree, Festive Lights, Civic Stand, Delivery and Collection is £531.00 (including VAT). All in approval to proceed.

**7.6** Grass Mowing Contract (3 Years) – Cemetery & Allotments – Steve Hartwell will be asked if he wishes to continue for a further three years, and for a quote to be provided for the December meeting.

**7.7** Grass Mowing Contract (3 Years) – Recreation Ground – Martin Simons will be asked if he wishes to continue for a further three years, and for a quote to be provided for the December meeting.

**7.8** Beacon Maintenance – The budget is already allocated for the maintenance required.

**7.9** Waste Recycling Centres – Booking System – This system is in place to be reduce the congestion at the sites, and is using ANPR cameras.

**7.10** Land at The Banks – PC Access to Cemetery & Allotments – There has been access to the Cemetery and Allotments for over 75 years, which gives implied access that this can continue due to the length of time. Clarification may need to be obtained from the PC minutes held in the Records Office.

**7.11** WNC - Pedestrian Rail Guard – High Street, Long Buckby – The existing rail guard will be removed and replaced with two longer sections on the Co-Op side for safety purposes. There is insufficient room for these on the opposite side of the road.

**7.12** WNC – Waiting Restriction Review – The PC are all in agreement that the double yellow lines are put in place on the Skinyard Lane/Hall Drive junction.

**7.13** Traffic Calming Measures in the Village – There were discussions on reducing speed throughout the village, including the advisory 20mph signs, speed humps and chicanes. There is natural traffic calming on West Street and East Street with the amount of cars parked. The Clerk will contact Helen Howard (WNC Highways) for advice on moving this forward.

## 8. FINANCE

### 8.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

### 8.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

It was approved by all that the following accounts be paid:

S Porter	Clerk Salary October 2025	£ 1,724.93
S Porter	Expenses – October 2025	£ 74.99
West Northants Norse	Grass Verges x 2 – October 2025	£ 1,862.33
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – October 2025	£ 630.00
	Public Toilets – October 2025	£ 360.00
Edge Services	Maintenance Services – October 2025	£ 587.50
	Cemetery £ 177.50	
	Maintenance £ 240.00	
	Gateway Troughs/Hanging Baskets £ 170.00	
Simons & Sons	Rec Ground – Mowing x 2 – Oct 2025	£ 480.00
Mr S Hartwell	Grass Mowing – October 2025	£ 198.00
	Cemetery x 1 - £ 145.20	
	Allotments x - £ 52.80	
H Mockett	Tree Maintenance – Market Place	£ 210.00
Pear Technology	Land Registry Titles	£ 51.00
Trees for Station Road	Bulbs for Station Road	£ 84.91
M Summerscale	Raised & Flower Beds	£ 240.87
E-On	Public Toilets – October 2025	£ 71.14
Yu Energy	Street Lighting - August 2025	£ 1,297.86
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – September 2025	£ 1,535.17
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – October 2025	£ 1,869.55
HMRC	PAYE 2025/26 Q2	£ 1,529.71
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£12,807.96</b>

### PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Various	Allotment Rents	£ 195.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 195.00</b>

**BALANCES AT BANK;**     £ 14,702.91 (Unity Current - 31/10/25)  
                                  £ 70,000.00 (Unity Savings – 31/10/25)  
                                  £ 103,112.08 (Nat West - 30/09/25)

## 9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

**9.1 Cemetery** – The Remembrance Sunday service went really well. The hedges are due to be cut soon; and all as it should be this time of year.

**9.2 Allotments** – All OK.

**9.3 Public Toilets** - Nothing to report. The opening hours sign is due to be delivered any day. The CCTV footage shows not enough evidence of the damage caused.

**9.4 Cotton End Park** – Nothing to report.

**9.5 Police** – Concerns of drug dealing in the Railway Station car park, and also in Burnham Way. There have been reports of a suspicious white van driving around. CCTV options were discussed in the Rec, R Vivian to discuss with R Dobbs.

**9.6 Library & Hub** - They have been recognised for our contribution to Health and Wellbeing - not just for our local area but for the wider libraries sector across England & Wales and will formally be presented with the award at an event on 9th December.

They have enjoyed two successful writer-related events over the past couple of weeks - one with novelist Lorna Marlow and the other a reading of children's book "Olly Oak" by the author, Jon Gilbert, who helped mark Green Libraries Week over half-term. They have a book sale on the morning of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November with book bargains for all ages and interests.

The Chatty Cafe will be convening on the mornings of 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November.

The Northants Association for the Blind van will be in our car park on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Wellness Sessions will be taking place on the mornings of 18<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

The next Long Buckby Practice drop-in session will be on the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> November, followed by the SPRING integrated healthcare drop-in from 2.00pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>.

The November film is The Ballad of Wallis Island, a British comedy-drama that scored 96% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Doors open at 7.00pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>.

The community policing Beat Bus will be in the car park on the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> from 2.00pm.

On the afternoon of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November the new discussion group will be meeting once again.

The SNVB Community Connect van will be visiting the car park from 2.00pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to provide help and advice on e.g. welfare and social care. This service also provides an opportunity to explore cheaper energy tariffs and discuss energy saving tips.

November's art exhibition is "Inspired by Nature" - featuring paintings and drawings by Maria Summerscale. In addition, we have a display of knitted poppies in our porch to mark Remembrance Sunday.

Tickets are now on sale for James Hornsby's one-man performance of A Christmas Carol (16<sup>th</sup> December - doors open at 18.00pm) and the Crimbo Limbo Magic Show at 2.00 pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Throughout the winter months, they are once again offering free cuppa soups. This service is available on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.30pm during library opening hours.

They will be closing for Christmas from 24<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**9.7 Recreation Ground** – Nothing to report.

**9.8 Youth Club** – The Friday night session for 7-11 years old is underway, with a successful bingo night held and a quiz night planned. The older group sessions have been put on hold for now.

**9.9 Community Centre** – The AGM is planned for 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm, all invited to attend.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

**10.1 WNC Highways** – Road Closure – Cotton End to A428 – 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December (Anglian Water) – Noted

**10.2 Stagecoach** – D4, D5 & D6 – Cashless Services – Noted

**10.3 Parking at St Joseph's Court, Long Buckby** – There are currently no plans for the road to be adopted, but advisory signage re parking is to be put in place.

**10.4 Long Buckby Parish Register** – 1558-1689 (Northamptonshire Record Society) - Will be added to the parish website and posted to social media.

**Meeting Closed: 9pm**