



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 8th DECEMBER 2025 – 7:30pm**

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 4 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - Nil

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: B Spokes (Edge Services – Payment)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER 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 in the better weather.

3.2 Grasscroft and Greenhill Road Trees - A qualified Highways Inspector has assessed the location, and can confirm that in accordance with the WNC Highways Inspection Manual, the vegetation at this location is not currently meeting the intervention criteria. D Lister to investigate.

3.3 No Parking Signs – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – J Christie is preparing these signs. Permission will be required by the Regulations Team at WNC, as the grass verge is their property. It will be mentioned that these signs are already in use on Station Road, and do work well.

4. PUBLIC TIME - Nil

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – Planning application 2025/2664/FULL (Proposed Stable Building – Ryehill Lodge) was approved at Planning Committee. The government have announced that a default yes will be given to developments which are within 15 mins of a railway station. Several road repairs are planned in the Watford area by May 2026. The Long Buckby to Watford road was discussed as this road is very dangerous and is not maintained to a safe standard, the WNC Regulations Team will be contacted for advice. £1.6billion has been received for pot hole repairs and a FOI request should be sent to Highways to find out where this money is being spent.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – Nick Roberts has been appointed as the new CAN Champion. Plants have been planted in the raised beds on the Market Place. Roses will be planted shortly along with a memorial plaque for Alfie the Cat. Further investigations are required on the land ownership before the next phase of tree planting continues down past the Railway Station.

6.2 Buckby Library & Hub

6.2.1 Rent Review 2025 – No further update.

6.2.2 Valuation of Building – A valuation will be obtained by WNC to determine if the PC would like to consider the purchase of the Library.

6.2.3 INPOST Lockers – The lockers would be placed along the wall at the side of the building, and would generate an income for the Library & Hub. There are already parcel collection points in the village and delivery vans would add additional traffic to this already congested area. R Vivian proposed to object to this idea, seconded by D Hiam and with 10 votes in favour and 4 abstentions. Carried.

6.2.4 Parking Bollards – No further update.

6.2.5 Roof Repairs – J Hill to meet with Alderman Roofing to discuss the roof repairs. It was confirmed that CIL money will be used to pay for these works.

6.3 Christmas Trees/Lights – Many thanks were given to all involved in the preparation, the lights switch on event was a great success. Next year the budget will be for a much larger Christmas tree.

A quote received in July from H Mockett to remove the false acasia tree on the Market Place was discussed, another quote will be requested from Henry Cook (Complete Ground Management), with the lowest quote given approval to proceed.

6.4 Grass Mowing Contract (3 Years) – Cemetery & Allotments – Steve Hartwell who is the current contractor, has submitted the costs to continue, which are £135 per cut (was £121) for the Cemetery and £50 per cut (was £44) for the Allotments. With this being only a small increase and with no problems with the performance, the contract will be extended for a further three years.

6.5 Grass Mowing Contract (3 Years) – Recreation Ground – Martin Simons has decided he does not want to continue with the mowing contract. Many thanks will be given for the excellent work over many years. Quotes will be requested from other contractors and discussed in January.

6.6 Land at The Banks – PC Access to Cemetery & Allotments – The PC have implied access to the Cemetery and Allotments over this land, as has been the situation for 75 years.

6.7 Traffic Calming Measures in the Village – A meeting will be planned for the New Year with Helen Howard (WNC Highways) and J Hill to discuss the options available and costs involved. Dragon's teeth and 30 roundels on the road will be requested on the approach to the 30mph limits in the village. Mid carriageway humps on Station Road will also be discussed. The pedestrian railings have been arranged for the High Street. The bike rack hoop amendments will be chased up.

6.8 High Street – There are parking concerns around the Nursery and Infants School. Parents are regularly being advised about the parking but this appears to be ignored. Only parking wardens can enforce this. D Lister to request increased visits.

6.9 Flood Warden Scheme – D Hiam attended a workshop which was held by WNC/Environmental Agency. Flood warning training will be completed and a Community Emergency Plan for the parish needs to be generated, R Vivian has offered his assistance with generating this plan.

6.10 Mill Park Reserve – There have been brown trout spotted in the stream within the Reserve, these are to be encouraged and the PC are fully in support of this. A problem encountered is a sewage leak from Anglian Water which is flowing into the River Nene, and for a prolonged period of 67 hours over the past weekend. There are several leaks also noted on the map locally.

6.11 West Northamptonshire Local Plan – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people – Call for Sites – Noted, no sites to nominate locally.

6.12 Discuss Budget Proposals for 2026/27

6.12.1 Long Buckby Community Larder – A request from FareShare Midlands to run the Community Larder for 2026/27 has been received, which has an annual cost of £8,000. It was proposed by R Vivian, seconded by J Rigby that the company, along with the scheme, be investigated before a decision is made in January, with 11 votes in favour. Carried. A request to review the Grant Procedures Policy is required.

6.12.2 Poppies – Street Names – A poppy tribute to the veterans on the street names for Remembrance Day has been requested. A budget of £100 will be budgeted.

6.12.3 Citizen's Advice Bureau – Noted, no funding agreed.

6.13 Approve Precept Figure for 2026/27 – Defer to January meeting.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

7.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

It was approved by all that the following accounts will be paid by BACS;

Welford Christmas Trees	Christmas Tree & Lights	£	531.00
S Porter	Clerk Salary November 2025	£	1,934.53
S Porter	Expenses – November 2025	£	156.73
West Northants Norse	Waste Bins – October 2025	£	99.65
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – November 2025	£	420.00
	Public Toilets – November 2025	£	385.50
Edge Services	Maintenance Services – November 2025	£	320.00
	Cemetery £ 80.00		
	Maintenance £ 240.00		
Sparkx	Street Lighting Maintenance – Nov 2025	£	1,663.32
FareShare Midlands	Community Food Larder – August 2025	£	948.00
WNC	Uncontested Parish Election – May 2025	£	190.00
WNC	Library Rent – Jan-March 2026	£	2,250.00
Pear Technology	PearGIS Software – Annual Support/Updates	£	180.00
DD - E-On	Public Toilets – November 2025	£	43.00
DD - Yu Energy	Street Lighting - November 2025	£	2,049.05
	TOTAL	£	11,170.78

Previously Approved Payments (Cheques Cancelled – BACS Payment Requested)

Sparkx	Street Lighting Maintenance (Feb 2025)	£	2,000.04
Crime Secure	CCTV Monitoring (July 2025)	£	1,974.00

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Various	Allotment Rents	£	134.50
	TOTAL	£	134.50

BALANCES AT BANK; **£ 7,791.08 (Unity Current - 30/11/25)**
 £ 70,000.00 (Unity Savings – 30/11/25)
 £103,112.08 (Nat West – 31/10/25)

8. PLANNING

2025/4957/FULL – Proposed garage conversion to create an annexe – 5 Phillips Way, Long Buckby
No Objections

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – All OK. Hedges to be trimmed.

9.2 Allotments - All OK. Hedges to be trimmed.

9.3 Public Toilets - The new opening hours sign has arrived. The cleaner has two weeks holiday booked so the toilets will be monitored over this period. The Junior School will be holding a PHSE session on taking pride in the local area and the community services, regarding the door vandalism earlier this year.

9.4 Cotton End Park – All OK

9.5 Police – There have been reports of fly tipping of cabling containers, which has been investigated by the Police. The Beat Bus visited the Library car park.

9.6 Library & Hub - Although the BL&H team were disappointed not to win a Kings Award for Voluntary Service last month, they are very proud to have been shortlisted and pay tribute to the many and marvellous volunteers who enabled them to achieve that accolade. BL&H will be presented with a national Community Library Network Health and Wellbeing award on 9th December. This award not only recognises the efforts of the volunteers and Manager, but also the services offered in the library by local businesses, and voluntary and public sector organisations.

Many of the activities are continuing through December with the Chatty Cafe on both 9th and 23rd December at 10.30 am. The Cafe will then resume again – weekly, rather than fortnightly - on 6th January.

One of the regular Wellness sessions will take place at 11.15am on 16th December.

Also starting again from 6th January, routine weekly activities such as Rhymetimes, the Wednesday social games, the art club, walks etc will continue as normal while the library is open.

However, there will not be a SPRING drop-in session, or a meeting of the Evening Reading Group this month. Nor will there be a Friday afternoon monthly discussion group in December.

These will all return in January. Free soup continues to be available during afternoon opening hours as part of the Warm Welcoming Spaces initiative. They will be hosting our second Craft Room Clear Out between 10.00am to 12.00pm on Saturday 13th December. The Christmas theatrical spectacular with James Hornsby on 16th December has already sold out. The Crimbo Limbo magic show for children (up to age 9) will be at 2.00pm on the afternoon of Monday 22nd December. Christmas crafting activities for children will be on offer from 2.30pm on Tuesday 23rd.

Our December art exhibition is "Colourful Creatures by 5-year-old Long Buckby resident, Wyatt Watts.

We reserve our December exhibition for a display by local children or community groups at no charge.

Looking ahead, the SNVB Community Connect van will be in the car park from 2.00pm on 7th January and the mobile vaccination van will be there from 10.00am on 9th January.

The BL&H trustees are currently advertising for a new trustee to steer our fundraising efforts, supported by our volunteers, manager and two other trustees. They are looking into the possibility of creating a new digital support service and are seeking views from our newsletter subscribers, other groups as well as visitors to the library.

They will be closed from 24th December to 1st January. Reopening on 2nd January 2026.

9.7 Recreation Ground – All OK.

9.8 Youth Club – 25 children are attending on a regular basis. The Christmas Party will be held for the current members on 12th December, which will be the last meeting of 2025. The Junior School have offered an area of the Sportsfield to use, which will need to be confirmed in writing by a request to the Sportsfield Committee. R Vivian has advised that the Recreation Ground can be used as an alternative option.

9.9 Community Centre – J York attended the recent AGM. Many thanks were given to the PC for supporting, with a donation of £6,000, towards the solar panels installation, which have proven very cost effective. The booking system can be accessed by phone call or by dropping in, should there be an issue accessing the calendar online.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 WNC Highways – Road Closure – Cotton End to A428 – 8th-10th December 2025 (Anglian Water) – Noted.

10.2 WNC Highways – Road Closure (Overnight - 8pm-6am) – Station Hill – 11th January 2026 – Noted.

10.3 Public Bridleway Temporary Closure – EY22/FL7 – Long Buckby to Whilton – The temporary closure is planned for 6 months. This will be monitored in Spring 2026.

10.4 WNC Highways – Road Closure (1 day off peak) – Foxhill Road - 12th December 2025 – Noted.

10.5 Long Buckby Green Spaces – AGM 2025 – Chairman's Report – Circulated to all councillors on email.

Meeting Closed: 9:08pm