



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 12th JANUARY 2026 – 7:30pm**

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, D Hiam, R Dobbs, J Hill (Chairman), M Owen, D Stoddart, M Summerscale, P Townsend, R Vivian, A Webb, J York, Clerk – Sue Porter and 6 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES – D Lister, J Rigby, B Spokes

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: J York (Payment)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 8th DECEMBER 2025 – The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting by all and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Station Hill Bench – This bench will be installed in the better weather.

3.2 No Parking Signs – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – Awaiting permission from the WNC Regulations Team.

3.3 Christmas Tree/Lights – J York would like to record special thanks to those that made the event possible with all their hard work and dedication, Greg from Welford Christmas Tree Farm, Tom & Nick Roberts, Trish York, Simon Edington and Guy Roberts. This first year was a challenge and lessons have been learnt from the experience. B Spokes and M Owen are already planning for Christmas 2026.

4. PUBLIC TIME – C Myers advised that the PC submission for Buckby Buzz is required by 16th January. C Banks spoke regarding the Community Larder grant application. The Community Shelf has been operating since the end of 2023 with donations from the public. The Community Larder ran for 6 weeks over the summer, which was funded by the PC, and this continues to run with 85 householders registered. The food is provided by FayreShare, through the Food for Thought charity, and run by volunteers in the Church. A request for annual payment of £2,514 was discussed by the PC. R Vivian proposed that the figure is approved, seconded by D Hiam and all voted in favour. Many thanks were given to all that volunteer on both projects.

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – No report.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – Nothing to report.

6.2 Report on the B5385 – Long Buckby to Watford Road – A detailed 142 page report provided by D Hiam and D Stoddart has been circulated to all councillors on email. There are many defects to record, with the road collapsing at the sides. It was requested that this report is sent to the Chief Executive of WNC and Stuart Andrew (MP). Details will also be published on the parish website and social media. An article will be written for the Buckby Buzz, and it will be sent to the local newspapers. Proposed by R Vivian, seconded by J Christie and all voted in favour.

6.3 Buckby Library & Hub

6.3.1 Rent Review 2025 – Defer until February.

6.3.2 Valuation of Building - Defer until February.

6.3.3 INPOST Lockers – These were not approved by the PC last month due to parking and increase in traffic. The site is also in the Conservation Area of the village. Feedback will be provided to the Library.

6.3.4 Parking Bollards – R Vivian has investigated guidelines which are available regarding the bollards. These are in a conservation area and not ideally placed, with poor visibility. R Vivian and R Dobbs will arrange to meet with Sam Holst, Library Manager.

6.3.5 Roof Repairs – J Hill has obtained a quote to either repair the flat roof, or provide the complete replacement, from Alderman Roofing. As per the financial regulations two other quotes are ideally required.

6.4 Grass Mowing Contract (3 Years) – Recreation Ground – Defer to February, two quotes have been provided in with another one due in this week.

6.5 Traffic Calming Measures in the Village – Await a meeting date from Helen Howard (WNC Highways) to meet with J Hill.

6.6 Community Emergency Plan – D Hiam and R Vivian will generate a draft plan for the PC to approve.

6.7 Grasscroft, Greenhill Road & South Close Tree Maintenance – Grass Mowing – A quote has been received from Norse for £550.00 plus VAT to lift the remove the epicormic growth from these trees and crown lift the mature lime in South Close to assist the grass mowing. It was proposed by P Townsend that this be approved, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour.

J Hill and M Owen will have a walk along Grasscroft and send photos of the raised tree roots damaging the footpath and causing a trip hazard. The Clerk will send these to Fix my Street. Discuss further at the February meeting.

6.8 Parking Wardens – The parking warden visit numbers have been circulated by D Lister on e-mail. These figures appear to be very inflated and further discussion is required at the February meeting.

6.9 Traffic Regulation Order/Double Yellow Lines – Parking on Pavements (Community Centre) – Defer to February.

6.10 Rye Hill Lodge – Planning Permission – Defer.

6.11 WNC Local Plan – 1000 proposed houses for Long Buckby – Defer.

6.12 WNC Draft Budget Consultation 2026/27 – Concerns over the parking charges planned for the Daventry car parks, will damage the local shops and businesses. Petitions are available to sign in some of the Daventry shops. All councillors are urged to respond to the consultation by the end of January deadline.

6.13 Consultation on Draft Active Travel Strategy, Draft Mobile Hub Action Plan & Draft Rail Action Plan – Councillors advised to view the consultation and respond.

6.14 Assets of Community Value (Old Kings Head) – Defer to the February Meeting.

6.15 Discuss Budget Proposals for 2026/27

6.15.1 Long Buckby Community Larder – As approved earlier in the meeting, the grant payment of £2,514 will added to the final figure for 2026/27.

6.16 Approve Precept Figure for 2026/27 - It was proposed by D Stoddart, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour that the Parish Council do precept upon West Northants Council the total sum of £224,630, payable in two instalments in April & September 2026. This is a rise of 14% from the previous year.

The final precept figures agreed for 2026/2027 are as follows:

Clerks Salary	£26,000.00	Stationary Costs	£ 300.00
Poors Land Lease	£ 1,500.00	DACT	£ 250.00
Street Warden	£ 7,000.00	Wharf Village Hall	£ 500.00
Grass Verges Mowing	£12,000.00	Rec Ground Mowing	£ 3,500.00
Meetings Rent	£ 100.00	Village Maintenance	£ 3,000.00
Insurances	£ 1,400.00	Canal Maintenance-Wharf	£ 250.00
Public Toilets:		Newsletter/Adverts	£ 300.00
- Elec/Water/Rates	£ 1,500.00	Hanging Baskets/Troughs	£ 3,500.00
- Cleaning	£ 6,000.00	Website/IT	£ 1,500.00
- Maintenance	£ 1,500.00	Christmas Decorations	£ 5,000.00
Audit Costs/NCALC	£ 2,600.00	Training	£ 150.00
Street Lighting:		Section 137	£ 100.00
- Replacement	£15,000.00	Seat Maintenance	£ 1,000.00
- E-On Costs/Maint	£22,500.00	Library Lease/Repairs	£15,000.00
CCTV Monitoring Costs	£ 9,000.00		
Waste Bin Emptying	£ 2,750.00		

Additional funding requests and projects:

Recreation Ground	£ 9,808.00	Long Buckby Green Spaces	£ 4,000.00
Mill Park Reserve	£ 2,493.00	Long Buckby Community Centre	£ 5,000.00
Trees/Raised Beds/Troughs	£ 4,000.00	CAN Champion Scheme	£ 500.00
Community Larder	£ 2,514.00	Poppies (Street Names)	£ 100.00

Topping up Reserves	£ 38,015.00	Infrastructure Funds	£ 20,000.00
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Money carried forward from 2025/26 from Grants/Projects:

Buckby Feast	£250.00	Beacon Maintenance	£ 2,623.00
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Revenue Budget - Street Lighting Maintenance, Election Costs, Buckby Library & Hub, Canal Maintenance (Wharf), Cemetery and Allotments will all carry forward their remaining balances from 2025/26

CIL money of £19,080 will be allocated for the Library Roof Repairs/Replacement.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

7.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

It was proposed by D Stoddart, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour to pay the following accounts online:

S Porter	Clerk Salary December 2025	£ 1,724.73
S Porter	Expenses – December 2025	£ 101.67
West Northants Norse	Waste Bins – November/December 2025	£ 183.38
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – December 2025	£ 240.00
	Public Toilets – December 2025	£ 210.00
Edge Services	Maintenance Services – December 2025	£ 220.00
	Cemetery £ 65.00	
	Maintenance £ 155.00	
Long Buckby Electrical	Christmas Lights	£ 820.00
Sparkx	Emergency Call Out – Street Light (No 47)	£ 720.00
Land & Planning Consultants	Planning Consultation – Brington Road	£ 1,750.00
Mr J York	Christmas Tree/Decorations	£ 179.75
E-On	Public Toilets – December 2025	£ 44.72
Yu Energy	Street Lighting - December 2025	£ 2,256.32

TOTAL £ 8,450.57

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Various	Allotment Rents	£ 30.00
McNulty	Cemetery Services	£ 100.00
Ecclesiastical	Insurance Claim (Street Light – Spencer Rd)	£ 1,800.65

TOTAL £ 1,930.65

BALANCES AT BANK;	£ 2,170.96	(Unity Current - 31/12/25)
	£ 65,323.05	(Unity Savings – 31/12/25)
	£ 98,871.67	(Nat West – 31/12/25)

8. PLANNING

2025/5108/ADV – Display of externally illuminated fascia sign and one projecting sign on the shop front (retrospective) – **2a High Street, Long Buckby**

The Parish Council have no objections to the externally illuminated fascia sign but do object to the projecting sign on the shop front as this is within the conservation area and not in keeping with the street scene.

2025/5098/FULL – Erection of double storey rear extension and new first floor side window – **4 Watson Road, Long Buckby**
No Objections

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – All OK. War Memorial clean will be planned for 2026.

9.2 Allotments – All OK.

9.3 Public Toilets - There was some vandalism to the store cupboard door and toilet rolls stolen. The lock has since been repaired. CCTV footage is being investigated by Crime Secure. Commercial businesses are using the waste bins on the Market Place; this will be reported in to Environmental Health, via D Lister. The walkway through to the Co-Op from the High Street and their car park needs cleaning up. The Clerk will write to the store management and ask for assistance with tidying these areas to support the village.

9.4 Cotton End Park – All OK. Wassail Event planned for Sunday 18th January.

9.5 Police – Councillors were reminded that any incidents need to be reported to the Police, such as the Public Toilets vandalism. D Stoddart advised the lack of response over some recent illegal parking makes it feel like a waste of time. Fly tipping has been reported in Brington Road and Long Lane.

9.6 Library & Hub - 2026 is off to a busy start with routine activities having resumed from 2nd January, and with the SNVB Community Connect van and mobile vaccinations unit having already visited the car park. The vaccinations team also check blood pressure and offer help with the NHS app or other public health services. The SNVB van will be back again on 4th February. A "flash" book sale will be starting on Tuesday 13th January and will run to Saturday 31st. All books will be 20p each. With a prolonged spell of cold weather, they are keen to remind everyone that BL&H is a warm, welcoming space during our opening hours. We offer complimentary cuppa soups between 2.00 – 4.00pm in the afternoons. From this month, the Chatty Café will be weekly instead of fortnightly, alternating between Tuesday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. The next session will be on 13th January between 2.00-3.30pm - and then in the afternoon again on 27th. Morning sessions will be between 10.30-12.00 on 20th January and then again on 3rd February. The Chatty Cafe is hosted by one of the volunteers and is part of a national scheme to bring people together and get people e chatting and making new friends. Refreshments will be available for all sessions. The next Wellness Sessions will be on Tuesday 20th January. These fortnightly sessions offer tips and simple tools to help people and their families feel calmer, healthier and happier. The new, volunteer-led discussion group convenes once again on the afternoon of Friday 23rd January at 2.30pm. This group has already attracted a core group of participants but everyone is welcome to join in. Our January film will be shown on the evening of Tuesday 27th January. The film being Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale. The SPRING link workers return at 2.00pm on Wednesday 28th January. SPRING is for people living with a physical or mental long-term health condition who would like to make some changes in their life to improve their own wellbeing. At the same time on 28th January, the Long Buckby Practice team will be providing a drop-in session for people who might want to know more about e.g. online services, support available for carers, or would like some help with a social problem or wellbeing. The January Art Exhibition is "Long Buckby-on-Sea" by former Long Buckby resident Faye Spencer. Faye's work draws on folk traditions, carnivalesque imagery and ecological movements. Looking forward to the next school half-term, they are planning a children's story and craft session on Tuesday 17th February from 2.30pm.

BL&H is offering a refreshed "retail offer" by selling items in support of the Rugby Bareboards Trust, a charity that helps local families in need by providing furniture and household items. Proceeds from the sales go to the charity with a commission levied to support BL&H.

9.7 Recreation Ground – Nothing to report.

9.8 Youth Club – No report received.

9.9 Community Centre – Bookings are going exceptionally well, with focus on serving community groups and regular hirers. Malcolm Longley has joined as Treasurer, and Jane Tress as a Trustee. The next big project is to complete the refurbishment of the stage area in the Main Hall.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 WNC Highways – Road Closure (Overnight - 8pm-6am) – Station Hill – 11th January 2026 – Date change to 25th January.

10.2 High Street – Dangerous Parking – The parking wardens have been advised of the problem, this is out of the remit of the PC.

Meeting Closed: 9:15pm