



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026 – 7:30pm**

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, D Hiam, R Dobbs, J Hill, D Lister (Chairman), M Owen, B Spokes, D Stoddart, M Summerscale, P Townsend, R Vivian, A Webb, J York, Clerk – Sue Porter and 7 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES – J Rigby

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 12th JANUARY 2026 – The minutes were approved by all as an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Station Hill Bench – Await better weather for the bench installation.

3.2 No Parking Signs – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – Await approval for these to be installed by the WNC Regulations Team.

3.3 Grasscroft Pavement – Fix my Street Response – Following a report and photos sent to Fix my Street, this was closed as no action considered necessary, and will be monitored on a regular basis. Highways have been advised the tree roots along the path are causing a trip hazard.

3.4 Long Buckby to Watford Road – The road is closed at intervals this week for pot hole repairs.

3.5 Tree Works – Greenhill Road/Grasscroft and South Close – The works have been completed and a decent job made.

4. PUBLIC TIME – Nil

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – WNC have published the draft budget which shows a rise of 4.95% in Council Tax for 2026/27. Car parking charges will be coming to Daventry, with the finer details still to be agreed, to minimise the impact on businesses. D Stoddart reported that many drains are blocked at Cotton End and despite reporting these on Fix my Street, no action has been taken. D Lister advised to report again and use the #whatthreewords app to identify the location. The Chronicle & Echo have recently reported that in 2025 there were 19,000 reports of fly tipping, but with only 12 convictions. P Townsend will arrange to litter pick from the Station to the Wharf.

6. BUSINESS

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

6.2 Buckby Library & Hub

6.2.1 Rent Review 2025 – WNC have provided no update.

6.2.2 Valuation of Building - WNC have provided no update.

6.2.3 Parking Bollards – R Vivian provided a detailed presentation of the two parking bollards in the car following a meeting with R Dobbs and Sam Holst, Library Manager. These were installed to reserve space for the public Service vehicles and a pedestrian walkway. These are not locked down; therefore children have been putting these up. The height is 52cm, and the installation is ineffective as cars can still park in the spaces. There is already an insurance claim in for damage caused. There are few regulations or laws on bollards, only guidelines. Suggestions are to remove or lock down the bollards, install bigger ones or improve the car park lighting.

The cost implications are unknown. It was proposed by J Hill, seconded by A Webb that the bollards are not used, a solution for locking these down investigated, and a safer alternative can be found. 6 votes in favour, none against. Carried.

6.2.4 Roof Repairs – No further quotes have managed to be obtained. The quote from Alderman Roofing is £22,000 for a full replacement or £11,000 for just the flat roof overlay. The PC will await the building valuation and rent review from WNC before making a decision.

6.3 Grass Mowing Contract (3 Years) – Recreation Ground – Three quotes have been received from Norse, Steve Hartwell and Leicestershire Gardens, all quotes were very similar. The preferred option for the three year contract was Steve Hartwell, at a cost of £250 per cut based on a cut every two weeks, weather dependant.

6.4 Traffic Calming Measures in the Village – The meeting was held between J Hill and Helen Howard (WNC Highways). There are no suitable areas throughout the village for a chicane to be placed, apart from by Mill Park Reserve on West Street. Costs are around £50,000 and the PC would be asked to contribute 50% of the cost. Speed humps are no longer supported by WNC.

6.5 Community Emergency Plan – D Hiam has contacted WNC for a pro forma, however, this document is currently under review. A draft will be produced for the PC to discuss.

6.6 Parking Wardens – The monthly figures provided to D Lister seem very inflated for just Long Buckby and this will be investigated.

6.7 Traffic Regulation Orders/Double Yellow Lines:

6.7.1 Parking on Pavements (Community Centre) – M Owen will ask this to be discussed at the next Community Centre meeting and some alternative solutions suggested for visitors to the Centre.

6.7.2 Waiting Restrictions – Traffic Regulation Order – Hall Drive/Skiyard Lane – Approved.

6.7.3 Double Yellow Lines Request – High Street – A request will be sent to Highways for the double yellow lines to be repainted in this area.

6.8 Rye Hill Lodge – Planning Permission – Nothing further to report.

6.9 WNC Local Plan - Consultation

6.9.1 1,000 proposed houses for Long Buckby – The consultation is out for comments until the end of March 2026. Planning Consultant, Ian Gidley, will prepare a detailed response to object on behalf of the PC for £1,000, all voted in approval to proceed.

6.9.2 Public Meeting – Thursday 19th February 2026 – This is planned for 7pm, currently at Buckby Library & Hub, although the offer of the Community Centre will be investigated, as there is far more room for the public to attend.

6.10 Assets of Community Value – A request will be submitted by the PC for the Old Kings Head.

6.11 Grit Bins Request – Mountcroft – A resident from Hickman Drive has requested a grit bin. There are none on the estate currently, which has not yet been adopted by WNC. J York will investigate a suitable location and the PC will purchase one and maintain the filling of this.

6.12 Fencing of Right of Way – Church Farm – The Rights of Way officer has approved the fencing of this path (EY14/EY15) and the correct width has been allowed for.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

7.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

A request for regular CCTV reports from Crime Secure will be submitted. There have been very little received recently.

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

S Porter	Clerk Salary January 2026	£	1,724.93
S Porter	Expenses – January 2026 (Public Toilets/Printer Ink)	£	197.02
West Northants Norse	Waste Bins – January 2026	£	81.50
	Tree Maintenance – Grasscroft/Greenhill	£	660.00
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – January 2026	£	405.00
	Public Toilets – January 2026	£	390.00

Edge Services	Maintenance Services – January 2026	£ 155.00
	Cemetery £ 15.00	
	Maintenance £ 140.00	
Fuchsia Pinks	Christmas Trees/Lights	£ 1,868.30
Sparkx	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 2,766.68
W Bailey	Public Toilets Maintenance	£ 67.50
Crime Secure	CCTV Monitoring Feb-April 2026	£ 1,974.00
Anglian Water	Public Toilets Oct-Dec25	£ 119.44
E-On	Public Toilets – January 2026	£ 46.11
Yu Energy	Street Lighting - January 2026	£ 2,184.37
HMRC	PAYE 2025/26 Q3	£ 791.31

TOTAL £13,431.16

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Bailey	Cemetery Services	£ 200.00
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TOTAL £ 200.00

BALANCES AT BANK;	£ 6,213.63	(Unity Current - 31/01/26)
	£ 55,323.05	(Unity Savings – 31/01/26)
	£ 96,838.81	(Nat West – 31/12/25)

8. PLANNING

2025/2445/FULL – Proposed conversion of an existing garage and alteration to the roofline, construction of a front and side extension, and construction of raised decking – **2 Parkfield Road, Long Buckby**

No Objections

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permissions granted;

2025/4957/FULL – Proposed garage conversion to create an annexe – **5 Phillips Way, Long Buckby**

2025/4491/FULL - Change of use of existing property to Airbnb, replacement of existing roof covering and new rooflights – **Gillyflower Cottage, Cotton End, Long Buckby**

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery - All in order.

9.2 Allotments – Some re-lets are to be sorted once the weather improves.

9.3 Public Toilets – The wooden disabled door is sticking, most probably swollen due to the wet weather. There are litter issues in the Market Place and Church Street, along with commercial businesses using the waste bins for rubbish. D Lister will report to Environmental Health.

9.4 Cotton End Park - The area is very wet. Pruning is underway and a digger will be coming in to clear the ponds. Gate posts are also being replaced.

9.5 Police – A large exhibition trailer was recently stolen from the Station Goods Yard.

9.6 Library & Hub - There was a strong turnout of people to raise issues with Kier Transportation's customer team when they held a drop-in session at the library on 5th February to answer questions about highways maintenance amongst other things. In the meantime regular activities continue to be well-supported; The Chatty cafe is now taking place every week, alternating between the mornings and afternoons on Tuesdays. The NAB van will be visiting in the morning on Thursday 12th February and the Police Beat Bus will be there on the afternoon of 19th at 2.00pm. The SNVB Community Connect service will be back in the car park on 4th March. During half-term they will be offering a children's Chinese New Year themed story and craft session on the 17th at 2.30pm. This will finish with a themed "treasure" hunt around the library.

Wellness sessions are continuing with the support of Lou Tassell of Optimal Vitality on Tuesday mornings at 11.15am and the SPRING health advisory team will be there again on 25th February. In terms of entertainment, the next film will be the true-crime comedy drama "Roofman" on the evening of Tuesday 24th February.

The Long Buckby Ukulele Band will be back on 12th March. The new discussion group continues to attract plenty of interest. The February session will be on Friday 27th at 2.30, when the theme will be The Importance of Art. The February Art Exhibition is "Through the Lens" showcasing the wonderful wildlife photography of Sue Ebbage. They are keen to attract new members to our "Books in the Afternoon" reading group, who meet on the first Wednesday of the month between 3.00 and 4.30pm. There is a small charge of £2.00 per session. They are also continuing to advertise for new trustees to help guide and support Buckby Library & Hub as the last of our original trustee team complete their final terms. Next month, on 25th March, we will for the first time be hosting a "Gro Health" drop-in session between 2.00 and 4.00pm. This is a weight management service commissioned by West Northants Council to support individuals to achieve a healthier lifestyle. This will be an opportunity for anyone who might be interested in, or benefit from the services to ask any questions and register. The SPRING and Long Buckby Practice teams will be on hand for the same session.

Advice will be taken from the Conservation Officer with regards to the In-Post Lockers.

9.7 Recreation Ground – The annual safety inspection has been undertaken and R Vivian is pleased to say there is nothing significant to report, which is great news.

9.8 Youth Club – More helpers have been recruited to assist with the sessions. A member from the NAYC took an Arts and Crafts session which was very well received by the children. More sessions will be arranged. Additional volunteers are always welcomed.

9.9 Community Centre – The defibrillator, which was deemed irreparable, is being replaced as a matter of urgency. Many thanks were given for the PC grant for 2026/27; the stage refurbishment project is underway with a planning meeting arranged. A small decoration programme is starting in the Hobro and Jubilee rooms.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Overgrown Ash Tree in Syers Green Lane – This tree has been reported in to Fix my Street due to complaints from residents affected in Parkfield Road. J York provided photos to support the Clerk's request for action.

10.2 National Grid – Tree Safety Works (Holmfield Terrace) – Noted, many trees require work due to the overhead cables.

10.3 Charter Fayre 2026 Dates – 28th April to 3rd May and 29th September to 4th October – Noted.

Meeting Closed: 9:10pm