



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

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, D Hiam, R Dobbs, J Hill (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 – D Lister

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: B Spokes (Payment – Edge Services), M Summerscale (Expenses Refund)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026 – The minutes were approved by all as an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. GUEST – Chris Healey (Crime Secure – CCTV Monitoring) – Crime Secure assisted following reports of a serious assault in Church Street, and this resulted in an arrest being made. Drug dealing is regularly being reported and anti-social behaviour from the younger community in unsociable hours has been noted. With incidents/crimes reported to the Police, feedback/any outcome is not often received, unless the courts are involved. It was advised that monthly incident reports from Crime Secure are received by the PC to review each month, even if there is no activity.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Station Hill Bench – This will be installed by J York once the better weather arrives.

4.2 No Parking Signs – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – Await approval from the WNC Regulations Team.

4.3 Overgrown Ash Tree – Syers Green Lane – WNC have inspected the ash tree and advised no action is necessary.

4.4 Grit Bin – Mountcroft – Following the request from the resident in Hickman Drive, a grit bin can be purchased by the PC for £108, and then filled and placed on the grass verge. With the Jelson site still under development, permission will be required from them, until the estate is adopted by WNC. R Vivian will also make contact with the Buckby Meadows development to enquire about the adoption of their street lighting.

5. PUBLIC TIME – C Myers attended the WNC presentation in the Community Centre on the Local Plan, and the proposed 1,000 new homes. It was urged that the leaflet drop takes place to reach those residents not on social media to object to the proposals; the more individual responses received the better.

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

7. BUSINESS

7.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – The boundary beds have been planted up and watered. Flower beds' planting is underway. More trees are planned in West Street (by the bus stop) and by Station Garage to the Railway Bridge. Land ownership and utilities will need to be identified in the first instance by M Summerscale.

7.2 Buckby Library & Hub

7.2.1 Rent Review 2025 – No further update

7.2.2 Valuation of Building – No further update

7.2.3 Parking Bollards – A satisfactory meeting was held with R Vivian and the Library team, it was agreed that the bollards will be disabled until an alternative solution is available.

7.2.4 Roof Repairs – (Await update from 7.2.1/7.2.2)

7.2.5 Asbestos Report & Signage – WNC are investigating the latest Asbestos Survey Report and will advise.

7.2.6 New Spotlights in Refreshments Area – The approval of the spotlights will be delayed until the asbestos results are known.

7.3 Community Emergency Plan – Many thanks were given to D Hiam for producing the draft plan, this will be amended using additional information provided from councillors. The ideal use for this plan will be to announce road closures, flooding, or emergencies in the parish, along with agreeing the best communication method to use. D Hiam will be attending a Flood Warden Meeting on 26/03 to find out any more useful information.

7.4 Parking Wardens Visits – Defer to April.

7.5 Request for Double Yellow Lines Extension – East Street/Berryfield junction – J Hill and R Dobbs will have a walkaround the village to identify the double yellow lines that need repainting and reporting these on Fix my Street. Discuss further at the April Meeting.

7.6 WNC Local Plan – The Planning Consultant is providing the response on behalf of the PC. Social media posts and the website will be regularly updated to encourage parishioners to respond.

7.7 Annual Parish Meeting 2026 – Date/Agenda/Format/Promotion – It was agreed that D Stoddart will prepare the presentation for the date, up to two slides per group, this will be planned around the start of May, and held in the Library. Refreshments will be provided. Discuss further at the April Meeting.

7.8 Dog Fouling on the Village Pavements – There is a bad problem with dog fouling around the High Street, Hall Drive, and Buckby Meadows areas. Signage will be requested from WNC. M Summerscale will produce a poster for the noticeboard, website and social media to highlight the issue and educate the public.

7.9 Hedge overhanging the path on property on the corner of Skinyard Lane, opposite The Green – A letter will be sent to the residents to ask that this hedge be dealt with, along with the same letter being issued to Chard House, Brington Lane.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

8.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

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

S Porter	Clerk Salary February 2026	£	1,724.73
S Porter	Expenses – February 2026 (incl Litter Picker/Hoops/Disinfectant)	£	134.70
	Website Maintenance Oct25-March26	£	520.00
West Northants Norse	Waste Bins – February 2026	£	81.50
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – February 2026	£	420.00
	Public Toilets – February 2026	£	315.00
Edge Services	Cemetery Services – 10th Feb/3rd March 2026	£	65.00
M Summerscale	Printing/Raised & Flower Beds - Expenses	£	70.21
Sparkx	Street Lighting Maintenance – Feb 2026	£	504.00
Poppy Design Studio	Domain Renewal	£	120.00
WNC	Library Lease April-June26	£	2,250.00
Yu Energy	Street Lighting - February 2026	£	1,779.24
	TOTAL	£	7,984.38

BALANCES AT BANK;	£	1,796.76	(Unity Current - 28/02/26)
	£	49,323.05	(Unity Savings – 28/02/26)
	£	96,838.81	(Nat West – 31/01/26)

9. PLANNING

2026/0831/FULL – Erection of first floor rear extension – **3 The Mounts, Long Buckby**

No Objections

PROPOSED TREE WORKS

Works to 1 x Silver Birch within a conservation area – **3 East Street, Long Buckby**

No Objections

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permission granted;

2025/5098/FULL – Erection of double storey rear extension and new first floor side window – **4 Watson Road, Long Buckby**

10. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

10.1 Cemetery – All looking good, grass mowing season has started.

10.2 Allotments - All looking good, grass mowing season has started. There are plots to be re-let.

10.3 Public Toilets – The disabled toilets door has swollen due to the wet weather and J York will take a look to remedy this. Door handles have been requested on the Ladies and Gents to aid the locking up of the facilities.

10.4 Cotton End Park - The Park is still very wet. Pruning of the apple and pear trees has been undertaken.

10.5 Police – Following an unprovoked attack in Church Street, resulting in extensive injuries to the victim, an arrest was made. Recent reports of teenagers being approached to get in vehicles has led to a social media alert post and Guilsborough School will be advised of these incidents. Reports of anti-social behaviour in the churchyard has been occurring recently, this is being monitored. Drug dealing is happening daily in the churchyard. There is a problem with pavement parking affecting those with mobility scooters, reports can be sent to the Police for action to be taken. The A5 crossroads are particularly dangerous and Kevin Fagan (WNC) will be attending the next JAG meeting and he was asked to report back to the Clerk with any information.

10.6 Library & Hub - Last week, to mark World Book Day, Buckby Library & Hub launched its first short story competition, with the theme “The Day Everything Changed”. There are three age categories allowing everyone to participate – the competition is free to enter. The competition will close on 23rd April. On 12th March the Long Buckby Ukulele Group will be providing evening entertainment (doors open 7.00pm). The event is ticketed but free of charge. Donations to BL&H will be invited. Chatty Café this month will be on Tuesdays 10th and 24th in the morning and the 17th and 31st in the afternoon. Wellness sessions will be running from 11.15 to 12.00 on the 17th and 31st. On 25th March we will have a combined health and wellbeing drop-in session from 2.00pm with Gro Health, Long Buckby Practice and the SPRING social prescribing team. The March film is ‘The Choral’ starring Ralph Fiennes, this will be on the evening of Tuesday 31st – doors open at 7.00pm. Our Warm Welcoming Space initiative, offering free soup, will conclude at the end of March. This month’s exhibition is photographic art and portraiture by Amanda and Brandon from Culver House Photography. They will be in the library on Thursday afternoons all month to discuss their work with anyone who is interested to find out more. The SNVB Community Connect van will be back in the car park on Wednesday 1st April. Also in April – on Saturday 18th from 2.00pm – BL&H will host a Spring Fayre with a variety of stalls including bric-a-brac, crafts, cards, cake, clothes and accessories, cosmetics, floristry, glitter tattoos, plants, a raffle and a tombola.

Finally, Hazel Johnson will be concluding her final term as a trustee for BL&H at the end of March. She will continue to support as a volunteer, but they are immensely grateful for everything she has done for BL&H especially in terms of fundraising through grant applications and events, and arranging talks and presentations.

10.7 Recreation Ground – The grass mowing is underway for the season. The new roundabout for the toddler area is now being planned, this will include disabled access.

10.8 Youth Club – All going really well, more volunteers have come forward to help. Visits from NAYC have proved popular with crafts and games nights.

10.9 Community Centre – A very successful Robbie Williams tribute night was held. The defibrillator is now back in action. New Treasurer, Malcolm Longley, joined at the end of February. Interest from new hirers is picking up. Many thanks were passed on by M Owen to the committee for allowing the use of the Hall for the Local Plan presentation free of charge. The parking concerns were also noted.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Grand Union Canal Transfer – Launch of Phase Two Consultation – Noted.

11.2 Road Closure – Northampton Road – Anglian Water – 18th May 2026 (one day) – Noted.

11.3 WNC - Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Public Consultation – Send to the CAN Champion (Nick Roberts) and M Summerscale.

11.4 Northants CALC Strategic Plan – Engagement Sessions - Monday 23rd March 2026 – Noted.

11.5 NCALC – Monthly Prize Winner (Prize awarded -Training Course) – Noted.

11.6 WNC - Parish & Town Council Election Recharge Consultation – Noted.

Meeting Closed: 9:38pm