



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 13th APRIL 2026 – 7:30pm**

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, D Hiam, R Dobbs, J Hill (Chairman), M Owen, J Rigby, 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, B Spokes

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: Nil

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 9th MARCH 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 - Due to the slope, the original sleeper bench will be renovated by J York and installed. The new seat will be positioned elsewhere in the parish.

3.2 No Parking Signs – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – These will be prepared and installed on the grass verge.

3.3 Dog Fouling on the Pavements – M Summerscale has produced a poster, which will be laminated and posted around the problem areas of the village, such as Hall Drive and the Churchyard. This will be reviewed in May.

3.4 Replacement Bollard – The metal bollard which was knocked down on the Market Square has been replaced with a plastic version, which is surely not acceptable in the Conservation Area. D Lister will be asked for an explanation from Highways.

3.5 Crime Secure – The monthly report, which was agreed at the last meeting, has not been received for March. This will be chased up by J Christie, even if there is nothing to report from them.

4. PUBLIC TIME – Nil

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – No report received. D Lister will be reminded that these are necessary, even when not attending the meeting.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – A meeting has been held with M Summerscale and CAN Champion, Nick Roberts, regarding the pond becoming part of the Long Buckby Green Spaces. The PC discussed the historic issues with the sewage situation, and the cost implications. M Summerscale will provide some costings for the 2027/28 budget meeting with regards to planting 8 trees (Autumn 2027) on highways land between the Station Garage and the Railway Bridge. The grass verge on West Street, by the bus stop and Old Kings Head, will also be considered for some trees or raised beds.

6.2 Buckby Library & Hub

6.2.1 Rent Review 2025 – No update.

6.2.2 Valuation of Building – WNC have confirmed that they are prepared to sell the Library to the PC, and await a valuation on the basis of market value for the restricted user.

6.2.3 Roof Repairs – Await update from 6.2.2.

6.2.4 Asbestos Report & Signage – Await an update from John Slack (WNC) regarding the Asbestos Report.

6.2.5 New Spotlights in Refreshments Area – As per 6.2.4

- 6.3** Community Emergency Plan – D Hiam has completed the Flood Warning training and he has received a pack. There are limited funding options available for a plan, and insurances would need to be checked. Feedback from vulnerable persons is required along with the resources available. The draft plan is ongoing.
- 6.4** Parking Wardens Visits – Defer to May.
- 6.5** Request for Double Yellow Lines Extension – East Street/Berryfield junction – Following a site visit from J Hill and R Dobbs it was agreed that the double yellow lines in this area are sufficient. Any pavement obstruction parking should be photographed and sent to the PCSO.
- 6.6** Repainting existing lines around village – J Hill will take photos of the worst places and report on Fix my Street.
- 6.7** Parking issues opposite Costcutter – There is an almost daily problem with the parking of delivery vans parking on the corner opposite the store and blocking the road. The pot holes in King Street (especially outside No's 1-3) have been reported by D Stoddart, but with no action taken as yet, it will be asked that this be chased up by D Lister.
- 6.8** Traffic concerns – East Street & High Street – A resident in East Street has requested that 20mph advisory signs are erected to deter the speeding traffic. VAS data ideally needs to be downloaded to assess the extent of the problem. R Vivian will investigate.
- 6.9** Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 6th May 2026 – M Summerscale has produced the poster and this will be placed in the noticeboard, social media and website.
- 6.10** Watering Quotes – Trees and Raised Beds – One quote has been received from Edge Services, await a quote from WNC Norse and this will then be discussed at the May meeting.
- 6.11** Street Sweeping – Village Centre – A mechanical sweep has been requested for the centre of the village. There is still an ongoing problem with commercial waste being put in the waste bins around the Market Place, and rats have been spotted. D Lister will be asked to contact Environmental Health for some action.
- 6.12** Overgrown Footpath – Cotton End to A428 – This path has become very narrow and overgrown and dangerous for walkers. It will be reported on Fix my Street.
- 6.13** Community Transport Scheme – Many residents are disappointed with the withdrawal of the Ability Community Bus. This will be discussed further in May.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

7.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

It was proposed by D Stoddart that the following accounts be paid, seconded by A Webb and all voted in favour;

S Porter	Clerk Salary March 2026	£ 1,724.73
S Porter	Expenses – March 2026 (MS Office – Annual/Toilets Supplies)	£ 218.67
West Northants Norse	Waste Bins – March 2026	£ 83.74
	Grass Verges – March 2026	£ 959.09
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – March 2026	£ 390.00
	Public Toilets – March 2026	£ 360.00
Edge Services	Cemetery Services – March 2026	£ 95.00
	Watering – March 2026	£ 40.00
	Strimming – March 2026	£ 150.00
S Hartwell	Grass Mowing x 2 – Rec	£ 600.00
	Grass Mowing x 1 – Cemetery	£ 162.00
	Grass Mowing x 1 – Allotments	£ 60.00
D Lister	Local Plan Leaflets x 2000	£ 79.04
NCALC	Annual Membership/Audit 2026-27	£ 2,165.93
Land & Planning Consultant	Local Plan Response – March 2026	£ 1,000.00
E-On	Public Toilets – February 2026	£ 24.52
	Public Toilets – March 2026	£ 23.66

TOTAL £8,136.38

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Ecclesiastical Insurance	Insurance Excess Refund	£ 250.00
TOTAL		£ 250.00

BALANCES AT BANK	£ 3,833.27	(Unity Current - 31/03/26)
	£ 41,588.19	(Unity Savings – 31/03/26)
	£ 91,621.47	(Nat West – 28/02/26)

9. PLANNING

PROPOSED TREE WORKS

2026/1232/TCA - T1 Cherry to reduce the side back by approx. 4ft growing towards house, over driveway and over footpath – **62a High Street, Long Buckby**

No Objections

TREE WORKS - PERMISSION GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permission granted:

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

10. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

10.1 Cemetery – It has been a busy period, but looking good and under control.

10.2 Allotments – There are some plots to let, a walk around will be planned.

10.3 Public Toilets - There was a problem with a valve causing a blockage, which Warren Bailey has fixed.

10.4 Cotton End Park – The Easter Egg hunt attracted 60 children.

10.5 Police – E-Scooters are causing problems for pedestrians.

10.6 Library & Hub - Key events include the Spring Fayre which is a fundraising event for BL&H on the afternoon of Saturday 18th April - at the library. Looking ahead to May, there will be a concert by the Long Buckby Community Band on Wednesday 13th May. Entry will be free but are hoping to raise funds through donations.

Also next month, BL&H are having a pop-up stand at the Althorp Literary Festival on Sunday 10th May. The aim is to raise their profile locally and hopefully attract new members to the "Friends" scheme, and possible business sponsors. There might also be the opportunity to recruit volunteers and new trustees - and to collect a few donations.

10.7 Recreation Ground – Nothing to report.

10.8 Youth Club – All going well, activities have included crafting, metalwork and bingo, with 3D printing prizes.

10.9 Community Centre – All going well, the PC have a regular item on their committee meeting agenda should any issues want to be raised.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

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

11.2 Road Closure – Foxhill Road – 14th-15th May 2026 (Highways – Repairs to post and rail over a structure) – Noted.

11.3 HGV's – West Street – P Townsend will advise the concerned resident that this is a regular occurrence for the log lorries to come through the village.

Meeting Closed: 9:10pm