



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 11th MAY 2026 – 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 3 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - Nil

1.2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – P Townsend proposed that D Lister be elected as Chairman, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour.

1.3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN & ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – A Webb proposed that J Hill be elected as Vice Chairman, seconded by B Spokes and all voted in favour.

1.4 REVIEW DOCUMENTS:

Standing Orders – The new Model Standing Orders 2025 will be reviewed and adopted at the June meeting.

Financial Regulations – All Ok.

All PC Policies – All OK. A draft IT Policy to be presented for the June meeting for review.

PC - Risk Assessment – All OK.

1.5 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

Community Centre Representative – M Owen

Mill Park Reserve Representative – D Stoddart

Sports Field Representative – M Owen & Geoff Spokes

Cotton End Park Representative – D Stoddart

Buckby Library & Hub Representative – J Hill

Police Liaison Representative – R Dobbs

Recreation Ground Representative – B Spokes & R Vivian

Youth Centre Representative – B Spokes & J Rigby

CAN Champion – Nick Roberts

1.6 COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

Internal Checker – D Stoddart, D Lister & J York

Planning Applications – J York, D Stoddart & A Webb

Footpath Wardens – Rights of Way – D Stoddart & J York

Street Lighting – R Vivian

Public Toilets - B Spokes & P Townsend

Highways & Footways – J Hill

Youth – J Rigby & B Spokes

Cemetery/Allotments – P Townsend

Street Furniture – J York

Grass Verges Mowing – P Townsend

CCTV – J Christie

Long Buckby Wharf – A Webb & J Rigby

1.7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: B Spokes (Edge Services), B Spokes & R Vivian (Rec Ground)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 13th APRIL 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 – A more suitable location has been found for the bench and J York will install,
- 3.2** No Parking Signs – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – The sign will be prepared by J Christie to be installed on the grass verge.
- 3.3** Dog Fouling on the Pavements – A poster campaign is underway throughout the village, thanks to M Summerscale. The Clerk will contact Environmental Health and ask for a regular visit from the Dog Warden.
- 3.4** Crime Secure – CCTV Monitoring Update – J Christie advised that Crime Secure have advised of no issues to report in the last month.
- 3.5** Grit Bin (Jelson's) – R Vivian advised that the S278 adoption process is approaching.
- 3.6** VAS Signs – R Vivian is unable to download the data from the signs due to the tablet being very out of date. It was proposed by P Townsend that a new tablet is purchased for this task, seconded by A Webb and all voted in favour to proceed.

4. PUBLIC TIME – C Myers was very impressed with the annual reports at the APM from the Community Centre, St Lawrence's Church, and the PC Chairman.

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – Sad news to report the passing of ex doctor to the parish, Norman How, at the weekend. There will be a thanksgiving service in the Church arranged. Condolences will be sent from the PC.

The new S106/CIL system is to be launched. 2026-27 saw a 4.95% increase on the Council Tax from WNC. A parking charges consultation is out for car parks for over 3 hours. Disabled parking bays in car parks will be no longer free of charge. No updates on the Local Plan or Brington Road development. The implementation of 20mph advisory signs through the village will be discussed and voted on at the June meeting. D Stoddart requested that Highways be asked why the potholes were white lined whilst waiting for repairs, and the replacement bollard on the Market Place is not in keeping with the Conservation Area.

6. BUSINESS

- 6.1** Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – The planting programme is underway.
- 6.2** Buckby Library & Hub
 - 6.2.1 Rent Review 2025 – No update.
 - 6.2.2 Valuation of Building – Valuation has been arranged by WNC.
 - 6.2.3 Roof Repairs – (Await update from 6.2.1/6.2.2)
 - 6.2.4 Asbestos Report & Signage – Survey being arranged.
 - 6.2.5 New Spotlights in Refreshments Area – Await results from survey.
- 6.3** Community Emergency Plan (Draft) – 5 community buildings will be added to the Plan, these being the three Church Halls, Community Centre and LBRFC.
- 6.4** Parking Wardens Visits – Up to date figures will be requested by D Lister. The restricted parking bays outside the Sportsfield are being regularly used by the same vehicles.
- 6.5** Parking issues opposite Costcutter – Delivery vans are causing daily chaos, with HGV's getting stuck. The Clerk will write to Costcutter to highlight this problem and the noise from the very early morning deliveries.
- 6.6** Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 6th May 2026 – Reports were well received, very low turnout from the parishioners. Lanyards/Badges will be investigated by M Summerscale for councillors to wear and be recognisable.
- 6.7** Watering Quotes – Trees and Raised Beds – Two quotes were received from Edge Services and Norse. With Edge Services providing the lowest quote of £136.00 per week, it was approved by all that the annual contract be awarded, with good communication required at all times.
- 6.8** Community Transport Scheme – A new transport scheme is underway in the parish, Comm Minibus. More information is required so this can be promoted throughout the village.
- 6.9** WNC – Proposed New Off-Street Parking Order TRO (Car Parks) – Discussed earlier under WNC Reports.
- 6.10** DACT Funding Request for Feast Event – Scarecrow Trail & Garage Sale – All approved. Advise the group that the correct process is to apply at the budget meeting
- 6.11** Replacement Wooden Posts – Railway Station – Many replacements are required. Quotes will be obtained and discussed at the next meeting.
- 6.12** Review Annual Insurance Policy – It was approved by all that the policy meets the needs of the PC and only a slight increase in premium this year.

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:

S Porter	Clerk Salary April 2026	£ 1,724.73
S Porter	Expenses – April 2026	£ 132.12
West Northants Norse	Waste Bins – April 2026	£ 83.74
	Grass Verges x 2 – April 2026	£ 1,870.18
	Dog Bin – Foxhill Road	£ 435.79
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – April 2026	£ 330.00
	Public Toilets – April 2026	£ 330.00
Edge Services	Cemetery Services – April 2026	£ 165.00
	Watering – April 2026	£ 211.00
	General Maintenance – April 2026	£ 305.00
S Hartwell	Grass Mowing x 2 – Rec	£ 600.00
	Grass Mowing x 2 – Cemetery	£ 324.00
	Grass Mowing x 1 – Allotments	£ 60.00
SparkX Ltd	Street Light Replacement	£ 3,000.00
LB Rec Ground	Grant Payment 2026-27	£ 9,808.00
Clear Councils	Insurance Renewal 2026-27	£ 1,305.45
Crime Secure	CCTV Monitoring – May-July26	£ 1,974.00
Anglian Water	Public Toilets Jan-March26	£ 85.34
E-On	Public Toilets – April 2026	£ 36.60
WNC	Cemetery Rates	£ 51.74
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – April 2026	£ 1,369.76

TOTAL £24,202.45

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

WNC	½ Year Precept	£ 112,315.00
Faulkner	Cemetery Services	£ 250.00

TOTAL £112,565.00

BALANCES AT BANK	£ 112,819.56	(Unity Current - 30/04/26)
	£ 35,588.19	(Unity Savings – 30/04/26)
	£ 89,819.87	(Nat West – 31/03/26)

8. PLANNING

2026/1619/FULL - Replacement of 2 No. windows with a french doorset and window, insertion of 3 No. rooflights, a replacement insulated floor slab, insulated wall and ceiling linings, insertion of a chemical dpc, and a replacement boiler with underfloor heating to the room and electrical installations related to a new kitchen arrangement – **20 West Street, Long Buckby**

No Objections

2026/1621/LBC - Listed Building Consent for replacement of 2 No. windows with a french doorset and window, insertion of 3 No. rooflights, a replacement insulated floor slab, insulated wall and ceiling linings, insertion of a chemical dpc, and a replacement boiler with underfloor heating to the room and electrical installations related to a new kitchen arrangement – **20 West Street, Long Buckby**

No Objections

2026/1678/MAF - Repowering of current 2 No. wind turbines, including access, landscaping and associated works – **White Barn Farm, Station Road, Long Buckby**

No Objections

PROPOSED TREE WORKS

2026/1484/TCA - T1 Liquidambar to reduce by approximately a third and raise the crown off the garage roof. T2 Conifer to reduce the height by approximately a half. T3 to repollard back to previous points. T4 to trim back to the boundary line | x hedge row consisting of multiple species of tree – **Beechwood, 15 King Street, Long Buckby**
No Objections

2026/1623/TCA – Pollard a large weeping willow tree – **Church Farm, 26 Church Street, Long Buckby**
No Objections

PLANNING APPEAL

The Parish Council noted the following appeal has been submitted:

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

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted that the following planning permissions have been granted:

2026/0831/FULL – Erection of first floor rear extension – **3 The Mounts, Long Buckby**
Works to 1 x Silver Birch within a conservation area – **3 East Street, Long Buckby**

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – The path step warning will be painted. Weed killing has been undertaken.

9.2 Allotments – Walkaround is needed to re-let the vacant plots.

9.3 Public Toilets - The gents flush needed to be replaced and there is a problem with the water in the store cupboard.

9.4 Cotton End Park – The dawn chorus was a popular event.

9.5 Police – Walkaround with the PCSO is planned.

9.6 Library & Hub – They had a stand at the Althorp Literary Festival. The aim for attending the festival was to raise the profile and get on the radar of people who are fans of reading and libraries but might not be aware that the Library & Hub exists - or that it depends on community support for both funds and people.

They received a lot of positive feedback from people for keeping the library going and they were very appreciative of everyone who is supporting the library in terms of funding and/or time and effort. Several people took away leaflets about the "Friends" scheme so hopefully will get some extra financial support through that. They also collected £86 in donations on the day.

They have benefited recently from several talks and book-signings by local authors and another one had a chat at Althorp yesterday. Jenni McDonnell will be giving a talk on the evening Thursday 4th June to celebrate World Environment Day. Jenni will give a layman's introduction to how to make teas, tinctures and salves from the plant life in your garden to sooth common summer ailments. Tickets are free but they will be inviting donations.

9.7 Recreation Ground – The accessible roundabout has been installed. The grass mowing has been excellent this season.

9.8 Youth Club – Very well attended. A meeting will take place to discuss the school holidays plans for opening.

9.9 Community Centre – CCTV is being considered in the Foyer and covering the Stables entrance.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

10.3 Tree on Syers Green Lane – WNC have inspected the tree and advise no action is required.

10.4 Road Closure – Three Bridges Road, Long Buckby Wharf – Bridge Examination Works (Network Rail) – 26th/27th July (overnight) – Noted.

10.5 Multi Parish Meetings – Upton Parish Council – D Lister will attend if dates suit the diary.

10.6 Charity Donation – In memory of the late John Widdows – P Townsend has suggested that a two-seater bench outside The Pigeon, facing up the High Street, will be offered to the family to consider.

10.7 Plant & Cake Stall – Long Buckby & District Gardening Club – Saturday 16th May 2026 – Permission has been granted.

10.8 Public Footpath – Church Farm – Complaints received regarding the muddy patches along the path, this is unavoidable in the rural area.

Meeting Closed: 8:55pm