



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 8th JUNE 2026 – 7:30pm**

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, 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 6 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES – D Hiam, J Rigby

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: B Spokes (Payment – Edge Services), Planning Application 2026/1930/TCA

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING held on MONDAY 11th MAY 2026 – The minutes were amended to include the white lines in the potholes whilst waiting for repairs and the replacement bollard on the Market Place in the WNC Report. It was then approved by all that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Station Hill Bench – Awaiting installation.

3.2 No Parking Sign – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – Awaiting installation.

3.3 Overgrown Path – Cotton End to A428 – This will be reported in on Fix my Street. The hedge by the Railway Station to the Goods Yard is also overgrown, this is the responsibility of Network Rail.

3.4 Tree on Syers Green Lane – Following a meeting with the concerned resident, a tree surgeon report will be arranged to determine the condition of the tree before contacting Michael Venton at WNC with the details.

4. PUBLIC TIME - Nil

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – The 2025/26 budget is currently on a £7million overspend with this predicted to rise to £9million by the time the year end is completed. Concerns were raised with the lack of postal service provided to Long Buckby Wharf in the past few weeks. The Household Waste Recycling Centre, Daventry, is becoming a challenge to visit with the bins often already full by the afternoon, this problem does not appear to happen at Brixworth.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – The planting and watering of the flower and raised beds is underway. There is currently an environmental exhibition being held in the Library.

6.2 Review and Approve Model Standing Orders 2025 – It was approved by all that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are both updated to match, with the financial figures raised to £1,000 and £3,000 for work order approvals and tender processes. These were then approved by all and will be updated on the website.

6.3 Internal Audit Report 2025-26 – The contents were discussed and thanks given to the Clerk for another successful year.

6.3.1 Draft IT Policy – It was approved by all that this be adopted and uploaded to the website.

6.3.2 Accessibility Statement – Website – This has now been added.

6.4 Approve Annual Governance Statement 2025-26 - It was proposed by R Vivian that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the PC, seconded by J York and all voted in favour.

6.5 Approve Annual Accounting Statement 2025-26 It was proposed by R Vivian that the Annual Accounting Statement be approved and signed by the PC, seconded by J York and all voted in favour.

6.6 Buckby Library & Hub

6.6.1 Rent Review 2025 – No further update.

6.6.2 Valuation of Building – The valuation has been received from the surveyor, to retain the building as a community library, the purchase cost would be £147,000. To own the freehold, with no restrictions on use, would be £245,000. Investigate the repayment costs of a Public Works Loan for both options and discuss further in July.

6.6.3 Roof Repairs – (Await update from 6.6.1/6.6.2) – Defer.

6.6.4 Asbestos Report & Signage – The report has now been completed and the building confirmed as 'low risk'.

6.6.5 New Spotlights in Refreshments Area – The works can now progress following the asbestos survey.

6.7 Community Emergency Plan (Draft) – Defer.

6.8 Parking Wardens Visits – Extra visits have been requested, especially around the time of the planned tennis tournament.

6.9 Parking issues opposite Costcutter – J Hill will contact Highways and ask for a quote to provide a solution of the parking/blocked road issues that occur daily in King Street.

6.10 Replacement Wooden Posts – Railway Station – Awaiting quotes for the replacements.

6.11 Bench Repairs – East Street (outside The Grange) – This is one of the old concrete seats which is need of replacement, a three-seater replacement will be ordered from Glasdon. The other seat to consider in the future is located by the Kings Head.

6.12 VAS Signs – Repairs/Traffic Data Collection – A new tablet has been purchased by R Vivian, to enable the VAS data to be downloaded on a regular basis. 167,259 vehicles were recorded leaving the village via East Street, over the past month. 98% of the vehicles were recorded doing an average of 36mph.

6.13 20mph Advisory Speed Signs – R Vivian proposed that these signs are not required, seconded by P Townsend, and with 7 votes in favour. Carried. A quote will be provided at the next meeting for some flashing speed limit repeater signs.

6.14 Parking in Ryehill Close, Long Buckby – There is an issue with vehicles parking to visit the Recreation Ground and therefore taking up valuable spaces needed for the residents parking. The option of parking permits would not be possible.

6.15 Public Toilets – Transgender Facilities – Following new legislation, NCALC will be asked to provide advice to avoid any discrimination.

6.16 Ownership of the Recreation Ground – The land ownership will be checked and this will be discussed further in July. The insurance quote was much increased this year and conversations need to be had between the charity and the PC as to the way forward.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

7.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

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

S Porter	Clerk Salary May 2026	£ 1,724.73
S Porter	Expenses – May 2026 (Public Toilets/Printer Ink/APM)	£ 324.74
West Northants Norse	Grass Verges Mowing x 2 – May 2026	£ 1,918.18
	Waste Bin Emptying – May 2026	£ 99.65
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – May 2026	£ 315.00
	Public Toilets – May 2026	£ 316.00
Edge Services	Services for the PC – May 2026	£ 1,455.00
	Cemetery Services – £105.00	
	Watering (Trees/Beds/Troughs) - £ 710.00	
	Hanging Baskets - £185.00	
	General Maintenance - £ 430.00	
	Allotments - £25.00	
S Hartwell	Grass Mowing x 3 – Rec	£ 900.00
	Grass Mowing x 3 – Cemetery	£ 486.00
	Grass Mowing x 1 – Allotments	£ 60.00

DACT	Affiliation Fees 2026-27	£ 30.00
The Mower Shop	Mower Service (Buckby Wharf Canal)	£ 171.47
WNC	Library Lease July-Sept 2026	£ 2,250.00
Buckby Feast	Grant Payment 2026-27	£ 250.00
Community Larder	Grant Payment 2026-27	£ 2,514.00
Poppy Design Studio	E-Mails/Website (Annual Fees)	£ 1,512.00
Buckby Health & Leisure	CCTV – Electricity Costs 2026-27	£ 180.00
WNC	Cemetery Rates	£ 52.00
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – May 2026	£ 1,167.04

TOTAL £15,725.81

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

HMRC	VAT Return 2025-26	£ 12,798.91
Heart of England Co-Op	Cemetery Services (Goode)	£ 400.00

TOTAL £ 13,198.91

BALANCES AT BANK

£ 32,865.62 (Unity Current - 31/05/26)

£ 105,588.19 (Unity Savings – 31/05/26)

£ 88,496.75 (Nat West – 30/04/26)

8. PLANNING

2026/1916/FULL – Single storey rear extension – 1 Marriotts Road, Long Buckby

No Objections

PROPOSED TREE WORKS

2026/1930/TCA – Conifer tree. Reduction in canopy size by over half as it is getting large and rubbing on surrounding buildings and encroaching on properties nearby - **7 Station Road, Long Buckby**

No Objections

TREE WORKS - PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following permissions granted:

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 pollard back to previous points. T4 to trim back to the boundary line 1 x hedge row consisting of multiple species of tree – **Beechwood, 15 King Street, Long Buckby**

2026/1623/TCA – Pollard a large weeping willow tree – **Church Farm, 26 Church Street, Long Buckby**

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – Preparation work for the two burials next week is underway.

9.2 Allotments – Two plots have been re-let and some untended plots chased up.

9.3 Public Toilets – Discussed earlier at Item 6.15.

9.4 Cotton End Park – The Park has now been open for 13 years. Nick Roberts is arranging for a flora and fauna inventory to be undertaken.

9.5 Police/CCTV Monthly Update – A few incidents have been recorded, door knocking on elderly residents, and kids breaking into vacant premises,

9.6 Library & Hub – There was a lovely little ceremony last month for the winners of our first short story competition. All the stories are now on display in the library.

On the morning of Tuesday 9th June an Admiral Nurses Dementia Support drop-in session will take place in the library. The Admiral team work with the NHS to offer tailored support in relation to e.g. skills and techniques to stay connected to a loved one, managing behaviours, and benefits availability.

Our second talk to mark World Environment Day will be given by local farmer Mark Jelley on the evening of 11th June. His subject is "Mega Farms vs Family Farms: what do we want and why?". There was a very good turnout for our first talk by Jenni McDonnell on 4th.

On the 19th and 26th of June (from 1.30 to 3.30pm) there will be free Adult Learning courses on "Confidence with Smart Phones". These will provide general support and answer any technical questions.

Our final film of this season will be showing on the evening of Tuesday 30th June. It is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" starring Sally Field. Our films will resume in September.

The Sixties Reunion Trio will be performing at BL&H once more on the evening of Thursday 2nd July from 7.30pm.

This concert is supported by the UK's music licensing organisation PPL PRS.

The Summer Reading Challenge will be launched at the beginning of July (4th) and will run to mid-September. The aim is to encourage 4–11 year-olds to read six books over the summer and this year's theme is "Read to the Beat" exploring the connection between stories and songs. Finally, we currently have a display in our porch for BL&H's environment week, which will run until Friday June 12th.

9.7 Recreation Ground – Many thanks were given to R Vivian from B Spokes for agreeing to the more accessible equipment being installed, which is proving to be very popular and well used.

9.8 Youth Club – They are considering opening during the school holidays to keep funds coming in. The lease is due for renewal, which can be extended, with the agreement from the Sportsfield Committee, for a further 3 years.

9.9 Community Centre – The lift refurbishment is the next project, the grant funding from the PC for 2026-27 has been requested for July.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

10.2 Lime Avenue – Trees need pollarding/Paths sweeping – This work has been undertaken.

10.3 WNC – Local Transport Plan Workshop – New Freight Action Plan – Thursday 2nd July 2026 2-4pm – The Clerk will book J York on the workshop.

Meeting Closed: 8:48pm