



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

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, R Dobbs, D Hiam, 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 8 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - Nil

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

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

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 8th JUNE 2026 – The minutes were approved by all as an accurate record of the meeting, and these will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 No Parking Sign – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – This is now ready to be installed.

3.2 Overgrown Path/Hedge Cutting – Cotton End to A428 – The path needs reinstating to the correct width, and this has been reported in to WNC Highways with little success, even though there is a significant safety issue for pedestrians. The PC will obtain a quote for this maintenance work.

3.3 Tree on Syers Green Lane – The tree surgeon has provided a report on the tree and this along with the latest photos have been sent to Michael Venton (WNC) for his comments.

3.4 Public Toilets – Transgender Facilities – Await update on guidance from NCALC.

3.5 WNC – Local Transport Plan Workshop – New Freight Action Plan – J York attended and provided feedback.

4. PUBLIC TIME – Harbidges Lane, concerns regarding the lack of mowing of the grass verges and overgrown hedgerows. There is also no dropped kerb by the steps. Agenda – August.

Add an item in the Buckby Buzz on reporting in issues on Fix my Street.

E-Scooters are becoming more of a problem in the village, especially in the Station Road, Recreation Ground and alleyways off.

There is a joint project to be set up to tackle anti-social behaviour between the PC and Neighbourhood Policing Team.

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – The ongoing pot hole problem in Long Buckby Wharf will only be temporarily patched until the water leak can be repaired. A joint site meeting is planned for 7th August. There has been no update on the Local Plan. The Children's Trust now has an improved status of 'good'. There has been a change to the constitution at WNC as to how ask questions to the Cabinet. At the meeting earlier this evening, the support for high street businesses and pavement parking, due to legislation changes coming in October, were dismissed. George Lane, Buckby Wharf have had no bin collections in nearly a week. D Lister to assist. D Stoddart asked that the painting of white lines in existing pot holes be addressed, this was raised back in May.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – The three tree hydration bags have been replaced by M Summerscale due to damage from the strimmer; also the raised beds have been damaged by the mowers and are in need of repair. Norse will be advised to take more care. Anglian Water will need to be contacted regarding the watering of the hanging baskets, raised beds and trees, due to the hosepipe ban now in place in the region.

6.2 Buckby Library & Hub

6.2.1 Rent Review 2025 – No update.

6.2.2 Valuations/Purchase of Building & Repayment Costs – The disposal decision will be made at WNC on Thursday this week. D Lister proposed that should this be approved, that the PC purchase the freehold of the building for the sum of £245k, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour.

6.2.3 Roof Repairs – Await the outcome of the WNC meeting.

6.3 Community Emergency Plan (Draft) – Appendices will be added to the draft plan, a visit to the Rugby Club highlighted the fantastic facilities available, which can be included. A vulnerable persons register could be generated.

6.4 Parking Wardens Visits – D Lister has requested more information from the past two months regarding the visits.

6.5 Parking issues opposite Costcutter – D Lister will request for Highways to supply a bollard/high kerb to prevent the inconsiderate parking, which could be paid for by the PC. Await a quote.

6.6 Replacement Wooden Posts – Railway Station – Await a quote for the replacement posts.

6.7 VAS Signs – Repairs/Traffic Data Collection – The VAS sign at Cotton End is not working and a site visit from the contractor has deemed this unrepairable. R Vivian will obtain a quote for a replacement.

Traffic data from the other VAS units have been circulated to all the councillors. These figures indicate that there is no significant speeding problem within the parish. The worse figures are at Long Buckby Wharf, but that already has a regular visit from the mobile speed camera van.

6.8 Ownership of the Recreation Ground – Land Registry have confirmed that the ownership is registered with the Parish Council, with covenants attached. R Vivian will investigate these.

6.9 Proposed 30mph speed limit extension – Murcott – This has been proposed by the PC.

6.10 Public Toilets – Drainage Investigation Report – Following recent repair works by the plumber, it was discovered that the plumbing system may have a blockage problem outside of the Toilet Block, It will need to be investigated if this is a shared sewer system with Anglian Water before proceeding further.

6.11 Reporting Highway Faults – There was a query raised on how to report issues, however D Lister confirmed that all reports end up at Fix my Street.

6.12 Bench/Seats Update – Station Hill, East Street, Skinyard Lane, Memorial Bench – Market Place - The Station Hill seat is ready to be installed once the weather cools down. East Street and Skinyard Lane will be refurbished. The memorial bench and plaque for John Widdows, the family will make a donation of £500. A concrete base will be required on the grass next to The Pigeon, facing up the High Street.

6.13 Cemetery Fees Review – An increase to the Cemetery fees from 1st August, will bring these in line with neighbouring parishes.

6.14 Long Buckby Sportsfield – The Chairman read out the following Statement: -

"I want to bring this item to the Council's attention following correspondence I received from a member of the public relating to the Sportsfield Committee.

The correspondent asserts that the Sportsfield Committee is a sub-committee of the Parish Council, and asks whether the Parish Council is ultimately responsible for the Committee's actions. I have examined the original Trust Deed dated 25 March 1946, which is the document that constitutes the Committee, and I want to place on record the Council's correct legal position.

The Sportsfield Committee is not a sub-committee of this Council. It is an independent body established by the Trust Deed with its own constitution, powers, officers and procedures. The Parish Council's role under that Deed is limited to three things: it called the original public meeting in 1945 at which the arrangements were set up; it nominates two ex-officio members to sit on the Committee; and it initiates the process by which Elected Members are chosen every three years.

Our two nominated representatives sit on the Committee as members in their own right. They are not delegates acting under instruction from this Council, they have no obligation to report back to us, and their presence on the Committee does not give this Council supervisory authority over it or liability for its decisions.

I have responded to the correspondent to make this position clear, and I have invited him to attend this meeting to speak during public time should he wish to do so.

I would ask the Council to note the position as I have set it out."

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 June 2026	£ 1,724.73
S Porter	Expenses – June 2026 (incl Public Toilets supplies)	£ 144.97
West Northants Norse	Grass Verges Mowing x 2 – June 2026	£ 1,918.18
	Waste Bin Emptying – June 2026	£ 65.59
	Dog Waste Bin – Manning Way	£ 435.79
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – June 2026	£ 405.00
	Public Toilets – June 2026	£ 435.00
Edge Services	Services for the PC – June 2026	£ 1,619.59
	Cemetery Services – £170.00	
	Watering (Trees/Beds/Troughs) - £ 634.00	
	Hanging Baskets - £ 520.59	
	General Maintenance - £ 295.00	
S Hartwell	Grass Mowing x 3 – Rec	£ 900.00
	Grass Mowing x 3 – Cemetery	£ 486.00
	Grass Mowing x 2 – Allotments	£ 120.00
Community Centre	Grant Payment 2026-27	£ 5,000.00
H Mockett	Treeworks – Station Road	£ 570.00
Coeval	VAS Maintenance Visit	£ 729.60
Dennetts	Hanging Baskets x 19	£ 558.60
Asbestos Northampton Library	Asbestos Survey	£ 720.00
Mr R Vivian	VAS Signs – Tablet	£ 109.00
Sparkx Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 1,313.40
Cotswold Memorial Cleaning	War Memorial Clean – Deposit	£ 148.00
Anglian Water	Public Toilets April-June 2026	£ 123.73
M Summerscale	Market Place – Raised Beds	£ 77.98
M Summerscale	Station Road – Raised & Boundary Beds/Trees	£ 73.97
W Bailey	Public Toilets Repairs	£ 304.74
Crime Secure	CCTV Monitoring August-Oct 2026	£ 1,974.00
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee 2026-27	£ 47.00
WNC	Cemetery Rates	£ 52.00
E-On	Public Toilets - June 2026	£ 22.58
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – June 2026	£ 999.47

TOTAL £ 21,078.92

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Stamp & Sons	Cemetery Services	£ 200.00
Co-Op Funerals	Cemetery Services	£ 200.00

TOTAL £ 400.00

BALANCES AT BANK

£ 18,750.15	(Unity Current - 30/06/26)
£ 105,952.36	(Unity Savings – 30/06/26)
£ 85,840.29	(Nat West – 01/07/26)

8. PLANNING

2026/2158/PA – Determination as to whether prior approval is required (under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of the above Order) for Change of Use of a Building to the Rear of No. 6 High Street, Long Buckby from Class E to Class C3 Dwelling house Ancillary to the Class C3 Dwelling house Use of No. 6 High Street - **6 High Street, Long Buckby**
No Objections

2026/2313/HH – Installation of electric gates to the front access – **Rye Hill Lodge, Norton Junction, Long Buckby Wharf**
No Objections

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permissions granted;

2026/0055/FULL - Demolition of 2 no. existing agricultural buildings. Construction of new stable block for non-commercial use – **Panthers Lodge, Brington Road, Long Buckby**

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

PLANNING APPEAL DISMISSED

The following appeal decision was noted;

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

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – An application will be made to the Regulations Team at WNC regarding restricted parking in the bottom bay by the Church gate. This will prevent vehicles from parking there when funerals are on. A request was made to ask Anglian Water to identify where the sewer pipe crosses the Cemetery, as this will have an impact on future burials. The beacon maintenance works are to be booked in shortly.

9.2 Allotments – All OK.

9.3 Public Toilets – As discussed under Item 6.10.

9.4 Cotton End Park – The recent Green Flag report has been circulated to all on email. Very well done to all the volunteers.

9.5 Police/CCTV Monthly Update – Discussions are ongoing with the Neighbourhood Team about the anti-social behaviour. E-Bikes and Drugs are continuing issues, and requests have been made for school visits before the summer holidays begin.

9.6 Library & Hub - Things will now quieten down a bit following a "sell-out" concert by the Sixties Reunion Trio and the final film of the season last week, with a focus over the summer on children's activities and the Summer Reading Challenge (though our routine groups and activities will continue).

Northamptonshire ACRE will be holding a pop-up session on Rural Wellbeing on Tuesday 28th July between 10.00 and 12.00. The service provides an opportunity for people to come together, have conversations about health and wellbeing, access information and support, and reduce feelings of isolation.

Planning is also under way for a craft fayre on Saturday 26th September and for a book sale at the Buckby Feast on August Bank Holiday Monday. The new film season resumes with "Mother's Pride" on Tuesday 29th September.

9.7 Recreation Ground – All OK.

9.8 Youth Club – The stand at the Classic Cars show was a great fundraiser. The use of some open space has been requested to the Sportsfield Committee, which will be fully supervised. There will hopefully be some sessions running during the school holidays.

9.9 Community Centre – The lift is coming to end of life, and an action plan is to be agreed. The CCTV is working well. Bookings continue to be going well.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

10.2 Road Closure – King Street – Replacement of Telecom Pole – 30th July 2026 – Noted.

10.3 Apples & Pears Day – Saturday 10th October – Permission is granted to use the Market Place. The Pre School also booked the space in July for a fundraiser.

10.4 Road Closure – Church Street – BT Openreach – 1st – 3rd September 2026 – Noted.

10.5 Community Engagement Letter – Smart Meter Network for Anglian Water – Proposed development at Sandy Lane – Noted.

10.6 Anti Social Behaviour – Electric Bikes – This was discussed earlier in the meeting, and a plan of action is in place. A walkaround is planned with the PCSO on Saturday with R Dobbs.

10.7 Buckby Feast Trust – Thank you letter received following the recent grant payment.

Meeting Closed: 9:41pm