



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 10th AUGUST 2026 – 7:30pm**

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, R Dobbs, D Hiam, J Hill (Chairman), M Owen, D Stoddart, M Summerscale, P Townsend, R Vivian, J York, Clerk – Sue Porter and 6 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - D Lister, J Rigby, B Spokes, A Webb

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: R Vivian (Finance - Refund)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 13th JULY 2026 – It was approved by all that the minutes were 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 – Sign is ready, awaiting an installation date.

3.2 Overgrown Path/Hedge Cutting – Cotton End to A428 – J Hill will report on Fix my Street. Previous reports have been closed with 'no action required' stated. A local farmer will also be contacted for a quote should the PC need to undertake this work, along with the hedge from the Railway Station to Buckby Meadows, which is the responsibility of Network Rail.

3.3 Tree on Syers Green Lane – M Venton (WNC) has confirmed that the tree needs to be removed due to the excessive trimming in the past from National Grid. Await an update on the next step.

3.4 Public Toilets – Transgender Facilities – No update from NCALC.

3.5 Memorial Bench (Widdows) – Market Place – The bench has been ordered and will be delivered to J York. This will be installed on the small grassed area beside The Pigeon, facing up the High Street.

4. PUBLIC TIME – The fenced off footpath behind the Church needs to be monitored when the wet weather arrives. There is also a footbridge further along the path which is sagging and rotten, this was reported over three years ago but no action has been taken. A dropped kerb is requested for access to Greenhill Road from Harbidges Lane, this is in addition to the one requested at the end of the Lane by the steps. There is no access provision for a mobility scooter.

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – A brief update was sent from D Lister. A new CEO and CFO have been appointed at WNC. The Library has been approved for purchase but terms need to be negotiated. The Library have requested a meeting to discuss. New parking charges for premium spaces is coming to Northampton.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – The flowering beds are being maintained by a small gardening group with additional watering. Three extra trees have been added to the watering schedule whilst the drought is here, at a cost of £50.00 per tree per week, for the three watering sessions. M Summerscale identified additional trees which are suffering and would benefit from watering. R Vivian proposed that no watering is provided for these and to let nature take its course, seconded by J Christie and with 7 votes in favour. Carried. Following the upgrading of the street lighting to LED since 2019, cost savings have been around 40%. An idea for the gardening club is to produce drought friendly flower beds.

6.1.1 Public Meeting re gifting of the Lake to the Village – This will be held in the Library on Tuesday 8th September. A charity is looking to be formed with key members appointed. PC members are urged to attend.

6.2 Buckby Library & Hub

6.2.1 Purchase of Building – An update will be provided by D Lister at the September meeting.

6.2.2 WNC - Public Notice of ACV (22.07.26 – 02.09.26) – Notice displayed on the website and noticeboard.

6.3 Community Emergency Plan (Draft) – D Hiam is working on a new draft and will advise the Clerk when this is ready, and this item will be added back to the agenda to discuss the updated copy.

6.4 Parking Wardens Visits – R Dobbs has details of the recent visits and D Lister will also update with more information at the September meeting.

6.5 Parking Bollard Request (opposite Costcutter) – J Hill will arrange a meeting with Helen Howard (WNC Highways) and include D Stoddart in the visit to discuss the options available.

6.6 Replacement Wooden Posts – Railway Station – Quotes to be obtained and discussed in September.

6.7 VAS Sign (Cotton End) – Quotes for replacement – R Vivian has obtained three quotes to replace the VAS Sign. It was agreed that the lowest quote, provided by Coeval, for the sum of £4,140 be accepted. Proposed by R Vivian, seconded by D Hiam, and all voted in favour. Carried.

6.8 Public Toilets – Drainage Investigation Report – Anglian Water have visited the site and removed the blockage free of charge.

6.9 Long Buckby Cemetery – Proposed Paths Extension – Discuss further once the quotes are received by P Townsend.

6.10 Harbidge Lane

6.10.1 Overgrown Grass Verges/Hedges & Bank – Discussions are to be had with D Lister regarding the tidying up of the bank and the hedges. The fallen tree needs to be removed due to safety concerns.

6.10.2 Dropped Kerb Requests – Requests will be placed with WNC. J Hill will include this in the site visit with Helen Howard from Highways.

6.11 Recreation Ground – Land Ownership Information – There are no covenants that have been identified by R Vivian in his recent searches. The Deed of Trust needs to be checked by a legal advisor for clarification. Speak further with D Lister.

6.12 Proposed 30mph speed limit extension – Murcott – Noted.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

7.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

It was proposed that the following invoices be paid by D Stoddart, seconded by D Hiam and all voted in favour to proceed;

S Porter	Clerk Salary July 2026	£ 1,724.73
S Porter	Expenses – July 2026 (incl Cameras and SD Cards)	£ 282.95
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – July 2026	£ 450.00
	Public Toilets – July 2026	£ 475.11
Edge Services	Services for the PC – July 2026	£ 1,726.00
	Cemetery Services – £60.00	
	Watering (Trees/Beds/Troughs) - £ 758.00	
	Hanging Baskets - £ 826.00	
	General Maintenance - £ 62.00	
	Allotments - £20.00	
Mr R Vivian	Land Registry Fees – Recreation Ground	£ 14.00
Through the Keyhole	Lock Repairs – Public Toilets Cupboard	£ 60.00
E-On	Public Toilets - July 2026	£ 23.81
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – July 2026	£ 1,097.20
HMRC	PAYE 2026/27 Q1	£ 1,496.09
TOTAL		£ 7,349.89

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Lesley Keevil	Memorial Bench	£ 500.00
Western Power	Wayleave Payments	£ 33.98
Co-Op	Cemetery Services	£ 150.00

TOTAL £ 683.98

BALANCES AT BANK	£ 5,071.22	(Unity Current - 31/07/26)
	£ 98,952.36	(Unity Savings – 31/07/26)
	£ 85,840.29	(Nat West – 01/07/26)

8. PLANNING

PRE PLANNING CONSULTATION LETTER

WHP Telecoms Ltd – Whilton STW, Whilton Road, Whilton – Site Upgrade – Noted. No concerns from the PC.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permission granted;

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**

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – The sewer pipe has been identified in the cemetery by Anglian Water which will enable the pathway extensions to be planned. There has been an issue with fouling in the churchyard and Mill Park and wildlife cameras have been set up which are solar powered. D Stoddart is the data controller and many thanks were given to Nick Roberts for his help with the setting up of these. The appropriate signage is in place.

9.2 Allotments – The process of registering the roadside allotments need to be started.

9.3 Public Toilets – All OK.

9.4 Cotton End Park – Trees are being lost due to the drought and streams have dried up.

9.5 Police/CCTV Monthly Update – A recent walkaround with the PCSO was successful. The access to the property in Grasscroft was identified from the Castle site and investigations will continue. There was a disturbance with youths in the Cemetery on Saturday night and the Police attended.

* **6 Monthly Crime Figures Update (Andrew Ablett)** – Anti-social behaviour has increased by 26.2% against the same months in 2025. Criminal damage/arson is down by 45.5%; with overall crimes down by 7.1%. 117 crimes have been recorded for the first 6 months of 2026.

9.6 Library & Hub – The latest newsletter was circulated to councillors on e-mail. The token fundraising scheme is operating in Waitrose, Daventry.

9.7 Recreation Ground – The roundabout has been installed with the recent grant from the PC. The purchase of the 'springies' is on hold due to cost increase of the wet pour safety surface required; this will be discussed at the Precept meeting for 2027/28.

9.8 Youth Club – An area of the sports field has been allocated to the Youth Club for outdoor activities.

9.9 Community Centre – Nothing to report, August is a quiet month. It was asked that the weekend bookings from a Gospel Choir be monitored, along with any possible parking issues which may arise.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

10.2 Concerns regarding traffic and parking in The Banks – Noted by the PC; very little can be done to relieve these traffic and parking problems.

10.3 NCALC Annual Conference – Saturday 3rd October 2026 – Moulton Community Centre (9am-1pm) – Noted.

10.4 WNC – Road Closure – High Street/East Street – 17th-21st August 2026 (off peak) – Drainage Investigation – Noted.

Meeting Closed: 9:30pm