MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026 – 7:30pm

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present: J Christie, R Dobbs, D Hiam, J Hill (Chairman), M Owen, J Rigby, B Spokes, D Stoddart, P Townsend, R Vivian, A Webb, J York, Clerk – Sue Porter and 3 members of the public

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES – D Lister, M Summerscale

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: B Spokes (Payment – Edge Services)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 10th AUGUST 2026 – It was proposed by D Stoddart, seconded by R Vivian, that the minutes were an accurate representation of the meeting and these will be signed and dated by the Chairman. All voted in favour.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 No Parking Sign – Syers Green Close, Long Buckby – Sign is ready and await a quote for the installation.

3.2 Overgrown Path/Hedge Cutting – Cotton End to A428/Railway Station – Continue to chase WNC for some action from Cotton End to the A428, and National Rail for the overhanging hedgerow by the Station.

3.3 Tree on Syers Green Lane – Await the removal of the tree by WNC/National Grid.

3.4 Public Toilets – Transgender Facilities – Update from NCALC states that by having two communal toilets, male and female, it is not physically possible to create a further option to accommodate the transgender facilities.

3.5 Harbidges Lane – Update on Dropped Kerbs/Untidy Verges/Unsafe Fallen Tree – A meeting is due to take place with Helen Howard (WNC Highways) regarding the dropped kerbs. The concerns of the fallen tree have been reported into National Grid. The verges and slabs will be reported in on Fix my Street, with the safety concerns mentioned.

3.6 Replacement VAS – Cotton End – The order has been placed, and this will be installed in October.

3.7 Bench/Seats Update – Station Hill, East Street, Skinyard Lane, Memorial Bench – Market Place – The Station Hill bench has been installed, East Street bench is on hold and Skinyard Lane is next on the refurbishment list. The PC awaits a quote for the Memorial bench to be installed on the Market Place.

4. PUBLIC TIME – The Buckby Buzz deadline is approaching; the PC are asked to promote the Fix my Street reporting service (Highways repairs) and also the 101/online Police reporting.

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister - Arrived 9:20pm) – Following the meeting this evening at WNC, the Local Plan was rejected. There is an overspend of £29million on the budget, mainly due to Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Home to School Transport. A meeting has been held with the Library Trustees to confirm that any proposed purchase of the building by the PC will have no effect on the operation of the facilities offered. Following complaints regarding the new LED floodlights in the Sportsfield, it was agreed after discussions with the LBRFC Chairman that they need to be adjusted.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – Report from M Summerscale; Hydration bags and mulch have been placed around 5 trees on Station Road and Buckby Meadows. The main flower bed and raised beds on the Market Square have been cleared and tidied with help from two members of the Gardening Club, along with the library car park and courtyard gardens. The raised beds and boundary beds are looking good thanks to the recent rain and additional watering by Edge Services. The Legacy for Long Buckby meeting was well attended on 8th September.

6.2 Buckby Library & Hub
6.2.1 Purchase of Building – It was agreed that this will be discussed at the next meeting when D Lister is in attendance.
6.2.2 Roof Repairs – Subject to the discussions on the purchase of the building, the roof repairs quote of £10,000 from Alderman Roofing was proposed as accepted by R Vivian, seconded by D Stoddart and with 7 votes in favour. Carried. Additional quotes were requested but no companies responded.
6.3 Parking Wardens Visits – Defer to October.
6.4 Parking issues opposite Costcutter – Meeting planned with J Hill, D Stoddart and Helen Howard (WNC Highways).
6.5 Replacement Wooden Posts – Railway Station – Await quotes.
6.6 Replacement No Parking Signs – Station Road **–** Await quotes.
6.7 Anti Social Behaviour – The summer holidays proved very challenging this year, with anti-social behaviour at Benbow Farm, the Police presence increased, with 14-16 warning letters issued to the youths involved. Jackson's now have 24/7 CCTV at the premises. This, however, moved the problem elsewhere, and resulted in damage in the Recreation Ground, Cemetery and Market Square (involving causing trouble to the Village Spice). Parent involvement is lacking, and the PC need to be seen to trying to provide a solution to the youth boredom, but not with rewarding the bad behaviour. The Police will be asked to visit the local Schools. Residents will be urged to report any instances witnessed online or by calling 101. R Dobbs proposed that a public meeting be arranged, seconded by B Spokes and all voted in favour.
6.8 Castle Site/Grasscroft – It was agreed by Futures Housing that the fence needs to be replaced and no access to the garden from the Castle site permitted.
6.9 External Audit Report 2025-26
* Internal Auditor – Consideration of Appointment – Noted by the PC for 2026/27.
* Assertion 10 – IT Policy/Accessibility Statement – These are now in place and on the website.

The Conclusion of the External Notice has been posted on the noticeboard and website
6.10 Allotment Rents Review – Defer to October.
6.11 Allotments – Request for a skip – To be deferred to the next meeting. Further discussions are required.
6.12 A5 - Highway Safety Update – D Lister has requested that the Safety Study Survey be completed on the A5 from Weedon to Kilsby following a spate of recent accidents.
6.13 Project 508 - Request for support with a Northamptonshire Rural Road Safety Initiative (Maidwell & Draughton Residents) – D Stoddart and D Hiam will produce a draft response on behalf of the PC.
6.14 Hedgerow Maintenance – Pytchley Drive/Tebbitt Close – A quote of £240 has been received to trim the laurel hedge and improve the street lighting which is obscured. R Vivian will investigate ownership and report back.
6.15 Youth in the Parish – PC Engagement (discussed with Item 6.7).
6.16 Street Lighting – Mechanical Testing and Inspection – This is required to be undertaken around every 5 years. Three companies were approached to quote, with only one response received from Sparkx Ltd, which is £5,292 for the 270 streetlights. Proposed to proceed by R Vivian, seconded by B Spokes and all voted in favour.

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 R Vivian and all voted in favour:

S Porter	Clerk Salary August 2026	£ 1,983.30
S Porter	Expenses – August 2026 (incl Public Toilets supplies)	£ 234.20
	Website Maintenance April-Sept 2026	£ 520.00
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – August 2026	£ 405.00
	Public Toilets – August 2026	£ 530.00

Edge Services	Services for the PC – August 2026 Cemetery Services – £200.00 Watering (Trees/Beds/Troughs) - £ 1,674.00 Hanging Baskets - £ 425.00 General Maintenance - £ 125.00	£ 2,424.00
DACT	Scarecrows/Garage Sales – 30/08/2026	£ 176.00
	Buckby Feast- 31/08/2026	£ 158.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2025/26	£ 756.00
Mr D Webb	Electrical Works – Wharf VH	£ 318.80
Poppy Design Studio	Annual Domain Registration	£ 120.00
Glasdon	Memorial Bench	£ 725.94
RJH Services	Window Repairs – Library & Hub	£ 360.00
E-On	Public Toilets - August 2026	£ 23.65
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – August 2026	£ 1,314.77
	TOTAL	**£ 10,049.66**

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

West Midlands Trains	Car Parking Payments (2024-2026)	£ 5,638.12
Heart of England	Cemetery Services	£ 500.00
RGR Memorials	Cemetery Services	£ 250.00
	TOTAL	**£ 6,388.12**

BALANCES AT BANK:

£ 1,077.83 (Unity Current – 04/09/26)
£ 98,952.36 (Unity Savings – 04/09/26)
£ 89,430.58 (Nat West – 31/08/26)

8. PLANNING

2026/3243/HH – Single storey rear extension **– 16 Ashmore, Long Buckby**
No Objections
2026/3386/TCA - Removal of 1 x Poplar Tree (dead) **- Hill Crest Cottage, 10 Church Street Long Buckby**
No Objections
2026/3376/TCA – Works to 1 x Hornbeam Tree **- Long Buckby Infant School, High Street, Long Buckby**
No Objections

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – It has been a busy time for burials, which is now starting to ease. The small gate has been repaired and repainted, the gate to the allotments repaired, and the bench has been strapped down. This work has been undertaken by a local resident on a voluntary basis. A letter of thanks and £50.00 cash will be sent as a thank you for his help, which has been much appreciated. Extra cameras can be erected in the churchyard if any anti-social issues continue.
9.2 Allotments – The roadside allotment has been re-let at the top of the village. The land registration process is underway of the roadside plots.
9.3 Public Toilets – All OK, considering it has been the school holidays.
9.4 Cotton End Park – All OK. Grant funding has been received from the Feast Committee for some maintenance equipment.
9.5 Police/CCTV Monthly Update – CCTV footage of the brawl outside The Goat and the youths on the Market Square have been forwarded to the Police by Crime Secure. The Clerk will write to Crime Secure regarding the lack of monthly reports and any information requests submitted recently by the Clerk which have not been answered.

9.6 Library & Hub **–** They are delighted to report that they had to print an additional run of tickets for Jenni McDonnell's evening talk on 10th September, and there was a full house for the Legacy 4 Long Buckby public meeting on 8th. They had a stall at Long Buckby Practice's Carers' and Veterans' event on 9th where they chatted to a range of people about our social and wellbeing activities and events, as well as the manifold benefits of volunteering in the community. The Summer Reading Challenge "Read to the Beat" has now come to an end - they have had 95 children starting the scheme and so far we have had 72 finish - BL&H's best ever tally.
On Thursday 17th and 24th September, Ability Net are offering free digital skills training for older people and disabled adults in the library. Sessions start at 2pm and will focus on how to use email, making appointments online and online shopping - as well as how to avoid digital scams.
The main events for the remainder of this month are the Craft Fayre on the afternoon of Saturday 26th and the resumption of the monthly film nights with a showing of "Mothers Pride" on the evening of Tuesday 29th. They are also participating in the annual Northants and Rutland Open Studios programme this month with an exhibition of work by local talent. They are in the last gasp of BL&H's participation in the Waitrose Green Token scheme - they continue to be a beneficiary until the end of September.
Looking forward to October, they are very excited to have an evening talk "Every "body" tells a story" by retired forensic detective and crime scene investigator David Sweeney on Thursday 8th, and one of the ever-popular ukulele evenings on Thursday 22nd.
9.7 Recreation Ground – Damage caused by the anti-social behaviour, discussed earlier, has been fixed. Wicksteed will be installing some new equipment shortly.
9.8 Youth Club – There was occasional opening over the summer holidays, but attendance was not great, the new term has now boosted numbers. Grant funding has been received to purchase a new outside bench. The stall at that Buckby Feast was very successful.
9.9 Community Centre – Volunteers from Cummins have been giving the outside spaces a complete makeover, over 4 days, which was much appreciated. The lift is no longer functional and will have to be replaced. All their resources are now focused on securing the funding for this. To boost the reserves, grants have been applied for and fundraising efforts have been ramped up.

10. CORRESPONDENCE
10.1 Road Closure – West Street – 28th -30th October 2026 (Anglian Water) – Noted.
10.2 Road Closure – Watford Road - 14th-18th September 2026 (Kier Highways) – Noted.
10.3 Road Closure – King Street – 1st-3rd December 2026 (Anglian Water) – Noted.
10.4 WNC Parish Conference – Thursday 26th November 10am-1pm – The Forum, Towcester – D Lister to attend.
10.5 Stronger Together Conference – Friday 2nd October 9:30am-3pm – Icon Innovation Centre, Daventry – Noted.

Meeting Closed: 9:38pm