MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB
MONDAY 12th OCTOBER 2026 – 7:30pm

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Present: J Christie, R Dobbs, D Hiam, J Hill, D Lister (Chairman), M Owen, B Spokes, D Stoddart, M Summerscale, P Townsend, R Vivian, A Webb, J York, Sue Porter (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

1.2 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - M Owen, J Rigby

1.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non Pecuniary: Nil

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: B Spokes – Payment (Edge Services), R Vivian – Payment (Land Reg Refunds)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 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 – Awaiting the sign to be installed.

3.2 Overgrown Path/Hedge Cutting – Cotton End to A428/Railway Station – The reports are on Fix my Street. The farmer will be asked to quote for this work to be done by the PC.

3.3 Harbidges Lane – Update on Dropped Kerbs/Untidy Verges/Unsafe Fallen Tree – The dropped kerb request is being assessed by Highways, and the PC awaits the outcome. The fallen tree has been reported to National Grid and Highways are also aware.

4. PUBLIC TIME – A request was made for a litter bin to be installed outside the Library to stop the raised beds being used for dumping rubbish. Discuss in November.

5. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – Despite the Local Plan failing at WNC, a directive has been issued by the Government that the Local Plan must proceed; so the threat of the 1,000 new dwellings remains. The PC will instruct Planning Consultant, Ian Gidley, to prepare a response to the Regulation 19 document. Concerns have been raised about the Stagecoach bus to Daventry not stopping on the Market Square, it was confirmed in the meeting that this is because that bus stop is for the Rugby buses. The Daventry stop is opposite the Library on Station Road. Clarification will be posted on social media to inform parishioners.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Protection of the Environment and Combating Climate Change – The watering budget has been used up due to the very hot summer which required extra watering to be scheduled in. The Gardening Club have been regularly tending to the flower beds, boundary and raised beds and a record of thanks is noted to all involved, it has been much appreciated. The community group 'A Legacy for Long Buckby' is progressing well.

6.2 Parking Wardens Visits – The high figures provided by the Parking Wardens were clarified by the Chairman. More specific questions are needed as to numbers in certain areas to obtain a better picture.

6.3 Parking issues opposite Costcutter - Highways Report – Due to the limited options available, with the narrow width of the path, the meeting with Helen Howard (WNC Highways) was not too helpful. The double yellow lines can be repainted but as this is within a conservation area, a special yellow paint is required, and the weather conditions need to be perfect.

6.4 Replacement Wooden Posts – Railway Station – A quote from Yates to replace 28 wooden posts at the Railway Station has been received for the sum of £1,180.94.

After discussions as to the need for the posts to be situ, P Townsend proposed that the quote be accepted, seconded by J Christie, and with 5 votes in favour and 4 against. Carried. An order will be given from the Clerk for the works to commence.

6.5 Replacement No Parking Signs – Station Road – A quote has been received from Yates to replace the damaged signs outside the bungalows, this will be £867.98, it was proposed by J Hill that this work goes ahead, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour to proceed. The quote to install the memorial bench on the Market Square will be discussed with Yates once the order is given for the other two projects.

6.6 Anti-Social Behaviour Meeting – Productive meetings have been held with the Schools and the Police. Improved communications are essential to reduce the anti-social behaviour. There is a meeting planned in the Library on 20th October for the PC to engage with the teenagers in the parish, D Stoddart, R Dobbs and B Spokes will be hosting and the Police will be in attendance.

There were a couple of incidents when the Fair visited last week, with verbal abuse aimed at the fair workers, which has not happened previously.

6.7 Allotment Rents Review – The annual invoices have been sent out for 2026-27.

6.8 Project 508 - Request for support with a Northamptonshire Rural Road Safety Initiative (Maidwell & Draughton Residents) – Response from the PC has been produced by D Hiam and circulated to all on email. It was proposed by D Hiam that this to sent to the Action Group, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour. Many thanks were given to D Hiam for completing the response.

6.9 Hedgerow Maintenance – Pytchley Drive/Tebbitt Close – R Vivian has investigated the land ownership in this area, which is not straightforward. With the streetlight being affected by the overgrowth, a quote has been received from Edge Services for £240 to reduce this hedgerow. R Vivian proposed that the works be carried out, seconded by P Townsend and all voted in favour to proceed.

6.10 Buckby Library & Hub – Purchase of Building Update – To purchase the Library building would require a Public Works Loan, for the purchase price of £250,000, and additional funds to allow for major expenditure which will be needed when replacing the roof, boiler and resurfacing the car park. Further discussions will be required to agree the amount to be borrowed and over what period of years to repay; this would be an extraordinary meeting for this subject, once the systems are in place for the purchase of the building from WNC to proceed.

6.11 Community Centre Lift Replacement – Request for funding for £20,000 has been received and discussed at the last meeting, when the figures were presented to the PC. From the PC side, there is £20,000 in the infrastructure funds and £19,080 in CIL monies available. R Vivian proposed that a £20,000 loan is offered from the PC, seconded by J Christie, and with three votes in favour and three against, casting vote from the Chairman was against. Not Carried. D Lister proposed that £10,000 is used from Infrastructure funds and the further £10,000 from the CIL monies, seconded by J York and with 9 votes in favour. Carried. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with the Community Centre Trustees.

6.12 Community Emergency Plan – D Hiam has prepared the Plan, with assistance from D Stoddart and R Vivian, and circulated to all on email. It was proposed by D Hiam that this be adopted by the PC, seconded by R Vivian and all voted in favour. This will be added to the website.

6.13 Recreation Ground – CCTV/Temporary Closure – D Lister has obtained a quote for a temporary CCTV tower to cover the Recreation Ground for £200 per week, for around a 10-week period, including half term. Signs will be posted in advance to warn residents of the temporary closure. The Recreation Ground Committee will oversee the planning and maintaining of this.

6.14 Village Elderly Support Scheme – PC to act as an administrative host to potential project – After discussions, it was noted that no funding is being requested and that grants are being applied for. It was agreed that the PC supports the initiative but cannot help with the payroll process of a part-time co-ordinator for 16 hours per week.

6.15 S106 Requests – It was agreed that with potential developments coming to the parish that a wish list of requests be compiled by the PC, so that the preparation works is done in advance. Keep this as an agenda item whilst this list is being generated.

6.16 NCALC - To consider making a response to WNC Reg 19 Local Plan Consultation – Ian Gidley will be preparing a response on behalf of the PC. Proposed by D Stoddart, seconded by B Spokes and all voted in favour to proceed.

Local Plan Briefing – Wednesday 21st October 10-11:30am (Online) – Noted.

6.17 WNC – Street Consolidation Order P2149 – Consultation – This is an order to bring all the parking/waiting/stopping restrictions and on street parking places under one single consolidated order within the Daventry, Northampton and South Northants areas.
6.18 WNC – Consultation on Draft Northampton Area Transport Strategy – Noted, mainly involving Northampton and the vision for the town's transport network to 2036.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Expenditure Report Update enclosed

7.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID:

J Hill would like it recorded that Wright Road was missed off the mowing rota by WNC Norse last week.
It was approved by all that the following accounts be paid;

S Porter	Clerk Salary September 2026	£	1,776.60
S Porter	Expenses – September 2026 (incl Cemetery - £50.00)	£	101.99
Jenny Ablett	Street Warden – September 2026	£	480.00
	Public Toilets – September 2026	£	420.00
WNC Norse	Grass Verges Mowing x 2	£	1,763.81
Edge Services	Services for the PC – September 2026	£	1,251.20
	Cemetery Services – £105.00		
	Watering (Trees/Beds/Troughs) - £613.00		
	Hanging Baskets - £255.00		
	General Maintenance - £ 278.20		
Mr S Hartwell	Grass Mowing x 1 – September 2026	£	522.00
	Cemetery – £162.00		
	Allotments – £60.00		
	Recreation Ground - £ 300.00		
Long Buckby Green Spaces	Grant Payment 2026-27	£	4,000.00
Mr R Vivian	Land Registry Info	£	42.00
Mill Park Reserve	Grant Payment 2026-27	£	2,493.00
WNC	Library Lease Oct-Dec 2026	£	2,250.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath (S137)	£	23.00
Harris Plumbing	Public Toilets Maintenance	£	72.00
E-On	Public Toilets - September 2026	£	33.61
Yu Energy	Street Lighting – September 2026	£	1,536.64
	TOTAL	**£**	**16,765.85**

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

WNC	½ Year Precept	£	112,315.00
	TOTAL	**£**	**112,315.00**

BALANCES AT BANK

£ 14,079.94	**(Unity Current – 02/10/26)**
£189,445.72	**(Unity Savings – 02/10/26)**
£ 89,430.58	**(Nat West – 31/08/26)**

8. PLANNING

2026/3918/TCA – Works to 1 x mature cherry tree within the conservation area – **Bakery Cottage, 6 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby**
No Objections

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS and RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Cemetery – There have been a couple of burials. The Autumn maintenance jobs have been scheduled.
9.2 Allotments – The annual invoices are being sent out in October. The junk heap remains.
9.3 Public Toilets – A water leak has been repaired. A waterless urinal system has been put in place but appears to require some more attention.
9.4 Cotton End Park – A cheque for £150 was received from the Holywell Steam Rally; over £75,000 was handed out to various charities and groups throughout the evening. The recent Apples & Pears Day raised £175.00.
9.5 Police/CCTV Monthly Update – 53 anti-social behaviour reports were recorded in June/July/August, out of a total of 95 incidents. R Dobbs attended the recent PLR meeting, with the following points recorded, budgeting for the Police is based on population figures of 2012. There are 1.8 police officers per 1,000 residents in Northamptonshire, which is extremely stretched. A shoplifting incident in Costcutter, was posted over social media, and the persons are known.
9.6 Library & Hub - September was a highly successful month for Buckby Library & Hub, they raised just over £500 from our Craft Fayre and we came second in the Waitrose green token scheme, raising £1000. Huge thanks go to all those people who supported us. They have also been chosen by the Co-op Local Community Fund under the community cohesion theme, which will help us raise money over a period of 12 months from the end of October towards the costs of printing the Buckby Buzz. The Buzz goes in paper copy to 2000 households in the village as well as being published on the BL&H website. All Co-op members can choose the cause they wish to support. October got off to a great start with the library space packed to the gunnels on 8th with people coming to listen to David Sweeney's - sometimes gruesome, sometimes comical - reminiscences from a career as a forensic detective. Next week, on Friday 16th October, Professor Paul Behrens (Oxford University), who grew up in Long Buckby, will be at BL&H for the National Emergency Briefing - a UK initiative highlighting the urgent climate and nature crisis. This event is fully booked and comprises a film screening followed by questions to be answered by Professor Behrens. Similar themes will be picked up during Green Libraries Week (21st -28th October) when there will be a "Green" hunt for climate-related facts around the village.
One of the local Police Community Support Officers will be holding a surgery in the library on the morning of Saturday 17th October for anyone who has concerns about Halloween and "trick or treaters". She will be giving out signs for people who would like to ask people not to call as well as offering practical advice. And you will be aware that Rachel Dobbs is hosting an early evening drop-in meeting in the library on Tuesday 20th for teenagers and young people to share their views and ideas with the aim of reducing anti-social behaviour in the village.
There will be a Ukulele evening on the evening of Thursday 22nd October, featuring our local ukulele band, and October's film "The Sheep Detectives" will be on the evening of Tuesday 27th.
On the morning of Saturday 31st October (10.30-11.30) debutante local author, Jenni McDonnell, will be signing copies of ***The Maegen,*** first in a series of four books, (the series is called *The Crossroads of Time)* an urban fantasy story for young adults. Also from the end of October, they will be resuming the Warm Spaces initiative for the winter months.
Looking ahead, the one and only James Hornsby is returning with his telling of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations on the evening of Tuesday 17th November. James will bring to life a host of wonderful characters in a show that can be enjoyed by adults, and children over 10 years old.
Finally, BL&H is participating in "Book Bingo" as part of the National Year of Reading to encourage over 16s to discover the joy of reading. Book Bingo encourages participants to explore six themed reading challenges that are flexible, accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Six stamps on a participants' Book Bingo card means they enter a prize draw to win a £50 book token. A bonus challenge allows a second entry in the draw. The reading window lasts until mid- March next year
9.7 Recreation Ground – As discussed earlier in the meeting.
9.8 Youth Club – The Youth Club has reopened the weekly sessions in September, following the summer break, with 18/20 well behaved children regularly attending. It will be closed for October half term week.
9.9 Community Centre – As discussed earlier in the meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Road Closure – West Street – 28th -30th October 2026 (Anglian Water) – Noted.

10.2 Road Closure – King Street – 1st-3rd December 2026 (Anglian Water) – Noted.

10.3 Library & Hub Car Parking – A complaint was received regarding the Library parking from a driver whose vehicle was blocked in, on a Monday evening, whilst the PC Meeting was on. To advise them that this is a private car park and only for those using the facility.

10.4 Overgrown trees obstructing light and possible damage to property – Holmfield Terrace – National Grid is due to undertake extensive tree works along this lane and hope this will assist the problem.

10.5 The Old Kings Head, Harbidges Lane – The scaffolding is up and the replacement thatching works have started.

Meeting Closed: 9:12 pm