

**MINUTES of meeting of the Old Buckenham
Parish Council
held on 3rd July 2025 at 19:30
at Old Buckenham Village Hall**

**Old Buckenham
Parish Council**



The minutes are recorded in line with the terms of reference for meeting and the numbered items on the agenda. Copies of the Agenda will be issued alongside the final ratified minutes.

Present: Councillors N Bailey - Chair (NB), D Irons – Vice Chair (DI), S Burton (SB), L Evison (LE), S Gowers (SG), D Taylor (DT), P Twissell (PT).

Apologies: - None

In Attendance: - Megan Elvin – Clerk (ME)

Also present: 5 members of the Public

Meeting opened: 19h31

Chair signed as approved:

Date:

Vice chair signed as approved:

Date:

Minute	Action
25.07. 01	Apologies for absence SG & DT will be late arrivals.
25.07. 02	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2025 Propose By LE and Seconded by PT to approve (5 in favour) APPROVED
25.07. 03	To record declarations of interests not already recorded in the current Members' Register of Interests None
25.07. 04	Complaints NB: Going back again to social media posts that are circulating. None of the Councillors are paid – it is a volunteer basis. The post that has been circulated makes it out that the Councillors are being paid by using the statement "Out of Office Hours". It is part of the Councillors role to deal with complaints. If you have a complaint. Please come to the Council about it. We are happy to help.
25.07. 05	Financial Matters

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Please can all payments be in to Donna our RFO by the Wednesday before the meeting at the latest. Any payments handed in after this date will need to wait for next month's meeting.

Community account balance	£27,430.99
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Payments for Approval

Cheques:	Cheque No	
M Elvin Clerk	100098	£304.20
RFO	100099	£256.80
R Curtis (Comm Car)	100100	£41.05
L Gedge (Comm Car)	100101	£55.80
Stuart Barker	100102	£300.00
1: Total Cheques 03/07/2025		£957.85

Sos/DDR/s/BACs:	Reference	
2: TOTAL SOs/DDRs/BACs		£0
GRAND TOTAL (1+2)		£957.85

Propose By PT and Seconded by SB to approve (5 in favour) APPROVED

25.07. 06

To receive Councillors and District Councillors reports and reports of matters arising from those minutes: for update and information only

NB: Email from Steve Askew sending apologise. He has informed the council of the Norfolk Community Fund. It backs community led projects that bring quality of life to the county. Potential area for this is the Playground could do with updating. ME to look into this.

LE thanks to NB & ME for cleaning the play area after human faeces was left there. Thanks to Phil and Zona little for providing water which aided with the clean.

Spoken to Stuart Barker – footpath beside the high school has had a bit of clearing, however not a lot can be done until October.

If it is left – all the hedging and brambles will grow back.
The Council will pay for Stuart B to do the work.

Propose By NB and Seconded by LE to approve (5 in favour) APPROVED

SG arrived 19:42

PT: Village hall committee – now up to 12 members on the committee after the appeal.

Request for a basket ball hoop to be set up for the village. The car park was suggested but this is not practical.

Recreation area is a suggestion but there are stipulations to that area.

PT to liaise with the windmill committee.

SG: New speed sign at the war memorial. Playground inspections next week.

ME: Broken drain and silt on road at Cake Street has been reported to Highways. Luke has advised that someone will be out to inspect.

25.07. 07

To consider planning applications and to receive Breckland District Council's decisions made on any planning applications received before the meeting:

(All planning applications are available for viewing on the Breckland District Council planning portal – www.breckland.gov.uk/article/2933/Search-Planning-Applications - Parish Councillors have been asked by the chairman to view the new applications in advance of the meeting)

New planning applications

I. Ref: PL/2025/0853/CL0PUD

Proposal: Convert two adjoining semi detached dwellings into a single residential unit (Class C£) – certificate of lawfulness – proposed use.

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1 & 2 Abbey Road, Old Buckenham
No Issues.

- II. Proposal: Planning Reconsultation -
PL/2025/0529/FMIN Proposed erection of 8No
self build dwellings.
Site: The Stables, Hargham Road, Old Bucken-
ham, NR17 1SS**

Opinion still stands from original application. Not
the best location for any form of houses. That
area of the village can not cope with any addi-
tional houses when it comes to water works.

**Propose By NB and Seconded by SG to de-
cline (6 in favour) DECLINED**

Amended Applications (for information)

- III. Proposal: Discharge of condition 3 on pp
PL/2024/1120/RMIN
Site: The Homestead, Old Buckenham**
- IV. Proposal: Discharge of conditions 4, 7B, 8, 9
10 on pp 3PL/2021/1564/O
Site: The Homestead, Old Buckenham**
- V. Proposal: Non material amendments to
PL/2025/0167/FMIN – revising the proposed
windows and doors from PPC Aluminium
(Grey) to PVCu (Anthracite), revising the pro-
posed rainwater goods from metal to PVCu
(Black)
Site: 3, Mill Cottages, Mill Road, Old Bucken-
ham**

- 25.07. 08 **Green Working Committee Update**
Meeting 10th July.
Started building the bug hotels with the schools.
1st one by the bus shelter. Another will be on built on the 10th
July.
The bench by the village sign will be taken down the next time it
rains.
- 25.07. 09 **Relocation of Defib from Ox & Plough**

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We have been asked by the property owner of the Ox & Plough to remove the defib from the side of her property.

This has been done, we just need an electrician to come in and fully remove the electrics.

We now need a new home for the Defib.

The Church rooms are unavailable – the church do not wish to have the defib on their building.

There is not an appropriate amount of wall at the post office. The front is all glass and there is no room for the instillation of the defib.

The Gamekeeper was another suggestion – this is a listed building and we would require planning permission to be able to instal the defib.

The phone box is an option. We would no longer be able to use it as a notice board.

The Community Heartbeat Trust can help with the adoption of the Kiosk. It will be a cost of £1 to BT and then BT will pay for the electricity for the first 7 years.

The Defib at Fen Street is solar powered. ME to check if this one is also solar powered.

Suggestion of putting it on a pole near the play area if it is solar powered – planning required?

Suggestion of putting a plea in the village magazine and on social media for volunteered location. ME to organise this.

25.07. 10

Postman Dave to put feelers out on his rounds.

Parking Update

Been in touch with both schools and advised that The game-keeper is available for school pickup – 14:30 – 15:30. Not all day.

High school has confirmed this has been shared to the parents. Primary school yet to confirm that it is has been shared.

Standards of parents driving has gone down. This is causing a hazard. Schools should talk to the parents regarding driving safety.

The verge of the Green has been cut in the hope that it will encourage safer driving. But it hasn't.

NB

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The driveway at the back of Chapel Green is not an option for parking.

Paul from high school has asked for parking at the Village Hall as they have an open evening Wednesday 17th September. NB suggestion letting them use the Green where TWT is held. Weather Permitting.

We will stipulate that this is an overspill car park only.

Use of Green Application form required for this to cover health and safety,

NB Proposed to agree in principle if application is used. LE Second 6 in favour. APPROVED

Staff from Chapel Green identified as using the VH car park as an all day car park. This has been brought up with Chapel Green.

Only one has stopped. If this carries on, then the access to VH school parking will be cancelled to the rest of the parents.

25.07. 11 **Ottomer Pond (Ongoing)**

NB received correspondence from Mr Jenny. Trying to get an on site meeting with him.

There is a no dig policy on the driveway.

SG: Quotes received. Will pass this onto Mr Jenny.

SB: Priority – where we dug the chamber out, this needs to be made secure as it is the Green side of the wall. The problem is the ditch that the pipe goes onto. We should not be responsible for this as it is the land owners responsibility.

Qualified builder needs to come in and brick it up as it needs to be road baring.

The outlet will be done – can be done for about £30 as most of the materials are already acquired.

SG: Managed to get £150 back from Diamond Rod for not doing the work they said they would.

Waiting for the 3rd quote to get the entire job done. All quotes will take 6-8 weeks.

Last meeting we agreed SB would do the pond side so only the chamber will need to be done by a qualified builder. SG to go back to the quotes and ask for only the chamber side to be quoted.

25.07. 12 **Christmas Tree Location**

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SB suggested that we put out to the village where they would like the Christmas tree.

How do we make sure it is only the people in the village voting for this.

SG Questioned why we can't put it back in front of the Ox like it had been done 7 years before.

The reason it was not in front of The Ox last year was due to misinformation from J Hicks.

Others have had complaints about it being here before. E.g. lights were not kept on 24/7 when it was originally stipulated to for this to be the case.

Suggestion of alternating the location each year between the Ox and The Harrow & Ferne.

ME to contact Dave at Ox and Plough – agreement tree left on 24/7. We will donate the cost of the electricity. DI has a metre that was used on the tree last year that will tell us the exact amount of electricity cost.

The Council would like a full event for the tree switch on to be planned. It is a good community event that we can celebrate.

Next year the tree will go back to Harrow & Ferne.

25.07. 13

Charity Update

NB

No update to give.

25.07. 14

Solar Farm Update

ME

Still waiting for a response from the Solar Company. Does not look like any work has officially started.

ME to chase. And check that the solar farm traffic will not be coming through Old Buck.

Also want to reiterate that yes, some money should be coming our way regarding this, but we do not yet have this. We therefore can not be planning to use it before we have it.

25.07. 15

Lloyds Banking Update

DT. We now all have access to the online banking.

LE will have available time to sort out her access with DT & DI.

DO & NB to write a cheque of £100 to the new bank account initially.

25.07. 16

Footpaths and Mobility Scooters

SG

In AGM a member of public approached regarding the footpath that runs along Attleborough Road from St Andrews Close.

The pathway is unsafe for mobility scooters and prams.

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SG to contact Highways and Liaise with ME regarding this to find the areas that need resurfacing or if it is the full pathway.

Option to use the Parish Partnership Scheme to refurbish and put in a dropped curb.

- 25.07. 17 **Drainage outside Hargham Road Cottages.** SG
Large pothole outside Rose Cottage. Water does not drain here.
When it floods the water goes into the houses.

This is part of The Green so Council should deal with it.

- 25.07. 18 SG to get quotes on this to try and fix it.
Use of Green Application forms approval
TWT: Amendment to the agreement to include the Ice Queen.
Documents collected by NB & ME. This has now all been signed.
Updated Gas Certificate received for flying chef.

Goal Post on the Green Application form:

Will need to be renewed for next year. Anyone can use it. The liability is down to the goal owner for maintenance and loss/damage.

Although the area is mostly dirt under the trees Wildflowers were ripped up when the goal was first placed down. Some Councillors had reservations regarding keeping the goal on the Green permanently as it can effect the work of The Green Working Committee.

Propose By NB and Seconded by SG to approve (5 in favour 1 Abstained) APPROVED

Classic Car Show application form:

Propose By NB and Seconded by SG to approve (4 in favour 2 Abstained due to interest in attending) APPROVED

- 25.07. 19 **DT arrived 21:05**
Confirm VJ Day celebration event and date ME

VJ day is on the 15th August.

Old Buckenham Great VJ Bake off & Old School Sports Day.

Family event. To be held at the Old Buckenham Village Hall.

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The VH is available to hire on Saturday 16th August. We could hire from 10:30 for set up (11am start) allow 2 hours for the event then 30 minutes for pack up. Hire hall from 10:30 to 13:30.

Judges – Someone from WI, Windmill Trust, Village Hall.

Left with ME & DI to organise and advertise. NB on holiday this date so unable to attend.

Minimum of 10 contestants required for the event to go ahead for the Bake-Off.

£5 entry for the Bake-Off competition, £1 entry for each sports day race. Proceeds more than the cost of VH will go to Attleborough Royal British Legion.

25.07. 20 **Co – Option of new Councillor**

Not applicable.

25.07. 21 **Public Participation on agenda items only (3 minutes each)**

- Reporting Vehicles for Hargham Road. Weight limit is only from the bridge from level crossing to A11. A lorry can come through Old Buckenham. – We will look into it.
- Saturday Surgery due 26th July this is Old Buck Airshow. This will be cancelled. Move the day to the following week Sat 2nd NB & DT to attend this. 10:00am – 12:00pm Memorial Room. Village Hall.

25.07. 22 To consider items for next agenda

- Green Working Committee
- Charity Update
- Banking Update
- Parking Update (Ongoing)
- Ottomer Pond (Ongoing)
- Playground
- Footpaths
- Drainage on Hargham Road
- Defib Location
- Christmas Tree Location
- Solar Farm Update
- Co-option of new Councillor

25.07. 23 To Confirm date of next Parish Council meeting on **7th August 2025** at Old Buckenham Village Hall at 19:30.
Confirmed

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25.07. 24

To Confirm Meeting Closed at 21:27
Confirmed

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