**NEW BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of New Buckenham Parish Council held at New Buckenham Village Hall on Tuesday 11th March 2025.

Present: Andrew Bingham (AB) Chair, Paul Martin (PM) Vice Chair, Karen Hobley (KH), Mary Manning (MM), Mary Dowson (MD) and Don Crossman (DC)

Apologies: Steve Highton (SH)

Also in attendance: A Thornton (AT) (Clerk – minutes)

County/District Councillor Steve Askew (SA) 3 members of the public.

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| **Minute** |  | **Action** |
| 2425/125 | **Absent –** S Highton |  |
| 2425/126 | **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2025**  KH proposed MM seconded. Minutes approved. | **AT** |
| 2425/127 | **To record declarations of interest not already recorded in the current Members` Register of Interest:**  None |  |
| 2425/128 | **To receive reports of matters arising from February minutes for update and information only.**   1. Old Buckenham Footpath 14 (High London Farm) Norfolk County Council has contacted landowner re defects. 2. Drain outside Lovells - Highways Officer contacted. | **AT** |
| 2425/129 | **District and County Councillor Report**  SA reported that:   * The Local Plan process has stalled as Central Government has increased new house building requirements across the country. The call for sites will go out again and it is likely that Service Centre Villages, i.e.Old Buckenham and Banham, will be required to provide an additional 200+ houses. New Buckenham’s Neighbourhood Plan may help in limiting development in New Buckenham but this is not a guarantee. Breckland DC wishes to engage with parishes to consider any possible sites for consideration. * SA talked through his understanding of Local Government Reform (LGR) and Devolution. Discussion took place. It was agreed that the Parish Briefing Note from Breckland will be attached to these minutes. | **AT** |
| 2425/130 | **Chair and Parish Councillors Reports.**   * MM reported a lack of road markings across the village. SA offered to contact Highways to include these in 2025/26 works schedule. * DC reiterated that footpath FP14 is almost impassable due to overgrown hedgerows and churned up mud. This is with Highways -see 2425/128 * AB reported that taxis may be using the Play Area car park as a “day car park.” This will be monitored. * AB reported that the Anglian Water Mast has been approved by Planning. As Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall, NBPC is required to lodge in writing its` support for the installation of the aerial mast. * AB fed back from his attendance at the LGR and Devolution workshop concluding that it is likely to happen. It is how and when it will happen that is to be considered - see 2425/129.   The Parish Briefing Note will be available on the website, noticeboard and on the village Facebook page. | **AT/**  **SA**  **AB**  **AT**  **AT** |
| 2425/131 | **Public Participation:**   * Member of public requested that the posts in front of the Village Gateway be removed as now unnecessary. AB reported he is addressing this issue. * Member of the public raised concerns regarding the planning application for the Inn On The Green including:  1. lack of parking, 2. that the application is the old application 3. inaccessible bin access/ storage. 4. site notice was posted on 6th March with consultation closing on 14th March, the date neighbouring property owners are invited to meet with the applicant at the Inn on the Green and have an opportunity to discuss the application. | **AB** |
| 2425/132 | **Financial Matters:**  a. Bank reconciliation for February was accepted. |  |
|  | b. Payments for March 2025 (below) were approved for processing. Proposed AB Seconded KH. All agreed. | **AB**  **DC** |

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| **Payment Approved Date** | **Invoice Date** | **Payment reference** | **Payee** | **ITEM** | **Gross expenditure** | **VAT** | **Net** |
| 11/03/2025 | March | Online payment | A Thornton | Clerk Salary March | 578.59 |  | 578.59 |
| 11/03/2025 | March | Online payment | A Thornton | Clerk Pension March | 174.42 |  | 174.42 |
| 11/03/2025 | 11/03/2025 | Online payment | A Thornton | Clerk Travel | 24.75 |  | 24.75 |
| 11/03/2025 | 14/02/2025 | Online payment | Voluntary Norfolk | DBS set up | 84.00 | 14.00 | 70.00 |
| 11/03/2025 | 19/02/2025 | Online payment | A Thornton | Microsoft 365 annual licence VAT. Not paid originally |  | 19.44 | 19.44 |
| 11/03/2025 | 02/03/2025 | Online payment | J Bowering | Renovation of 2 benches | 550.00 |  | 550.00 |
| 11/03/2025 | 28/02/2025 | Online payment | TT Jones | April-June Street Lights maintenance | 26.33 | 4.39 | 21.94 |
| 11/03/2025 | 07/03/2025 | Online payment | NALC | NALC annual membership | 172.61 |  | 172.61 |
| 11/03/2025 | 11/03/2025 | Online payments | CCS Drivers | Community Car Scheme Drivers - mileage | 36.45 |  | 36.45 |
| **totals** |  |  |  |  | **1647.15** | **37.83** | **1611.75** |

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|  | c. Community Project Fund Applications - none at this meeting.  d. Audit - KH proposed and MM seconded that we should remain with current internal and external auditors for the 2024/25 accounts. All approved. |  |
| 2425/133 | **To consider planning applications and to receive Breckland District Council’s decisions made on any planning applications received before the meeting:**  Application Reference No: PL/2024/1036/FMIN  Proposal: Conversion of existing dwelling to three dwellings  Site: Inn On The Green, Chapel Street, New Buckenham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR16 2BB  The application is available to view online: https://publicportal.breckland.gov.uk/planning/index.html? fa=get Application&id =197209&language=en  Discussion took place and concerns were raised including insufficient time to consider the application fully.  AT to request an extension to enable full discussion. | **AT** |
| 2425/134 | **To consider any issues raised regarding NBPC amenities as follows:** |  |
|  | a. Grounds Maintenance - None |  |
|  | b. Closed Churchyard - AB and PCC representative had met and agreed some tidying up of bushes along south wall will be highlighted to current NBPC maintenance contractors. | **AB** |
|  | c. Cemetery - None |  |
|  | d.Allotments –   * Still 1 vacant plot with no one on waiting list. * Debris is mounting at the far end of allotments. AT to write to all tenants. | **AT** |
|  | e. Play area - Safety inspection works to be carried out and paid for from 2025-26 budget. Order to be submitted late March | **AT** |
|  | f. Public Footpaths - no new issues at this meeting. |  |
|  | g. Community Car Scheme – It was reported that the scheme is going well. 2 more drivers would be of benefit. |  |
|  | h. Street Lights – nothing to report |  |
|  | I Defibrillator – Member of the public reported pads may need replacing in the Summer. KH aware and has note of date. | **KH** |
| 2425/135 | **Key Documents for review:** none presented at this meeting |  |
| 2425/136 | **Correspondence received not considered elsewhere on this agenda:**  VE80 email noted. |  |

The meeting closed at 20.48 pm.

**The Next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7pm on 8th April 2025 followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8pm. Both meetings will be at New Buckenham Village Hall and light refreshments will be available.**