**NEW BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of New Buckenham Parish Council held at New Buckenham Village Hall on Tuesday 10th June 2025.

Present: Paul Martin (Chair for this meeting PM), Steve Highton (SH), Karen Hobley (KH), Mary Dowson (MD) Mary Manning (MM), and Don Crossman (DC).

Apologies: Andrew Bingham (AB Chair)

Also in attendance: Steve Askew District Councillor (SA), Angela Thornton (AT - Clerk Minutes) and 6 members of the public.

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| **Minute** |  | **Action** |
| 2526/26 | **Apologies for absence**  Andrew Bingham |  |
| 2526/27 | **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May, 2025:**  MD proposed DC seconded. All agreed. |  |
| 2526/28 | **To record declarations of interest not already recorded in the current Members Register of Interest:** None. |  |
| 2526/29 | **To receive reports of matters arising from May minutes for update and information only:**  Drain outside Lovells – confirmed this work is complete.  Confirmation that the majority of road markings have been re-painted. |  |
| 2526/30 | **Public Participation:**  1.The owner of The Grange explained that the moat by the cricket pitch entering Moat Lane is shared ownership between The Grange, the Parish Council and “no man`s land,” the owner of which is unclear. The owner of the Grange asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute to maintenance of the part that is in “no man’s land.”  MM requested NBPC have a look and bring any thoughts to the next meeting.  2.A member of the public requested clarity re £1200 Broadland Trees payment. Clerk explained that this is the tendered maintenance contract that is paid over 8 months.  3.A member of the public requested information on roadside verge signs that have appeared in Cuffer Lane adjacent to Hunts Farm.  Cllr Askew clarified this site is in Old Buckenham, these road signs indicate areas of verge that are designated ‘Roadside Nature Reserves’ by Norfolk County Council.  4.A member of public raised the upcoming sale of land (Grade 3 agricultural arable) behind Village Hall. The Chair stated this will be discussed under Item 10 Correspondence | NBPC |
| 2526/31 | **District Councillor-**  SA updated as follows:  1.Local Plan - another call for sites ended in April. Breckland District Council (BDC) is keen to engage with parishes to identify any sites. NBPC does not have any sites identified for development at this stage.  2.Local Government Reorganisation/Devolution-  Proposed Service Delivery Models have to go to central government in September. Any Mayoral elections will be in May 2026. BDC`s  Council Tax is likely to increase as it is the lowest in Norfolk and any averaging will mean an increase.  PM suggested this item may require an open meeting to seek and collate residents’ views on the different models being proposed. AT to ensure current models are available on website | AT  AT |
| 2526/32 | **Chair and Parish Councillors Reports.**  KH raised recent Facebook posts re village sign. NBPC has had no further update since minutes 2526/7 and 2526/20.  MM expressed thanks to District Council for the white lines although there are none at the entrance to Play Area. MM to highlight outstanding areas to SA. | **MM** |
| 2526/33 | **Financial Matters:**  a. Bank reconciliation for May was noted. |  |
|  | b. Community Project Fund:  The Project Fund Group (PFG) had considered an application for Village Hall Theatre Lighting, requesting a contribution of 5k towards a total cost of 32K.  KH, on behalf of PFG, reported that the PFG is recommending that NBPC should make a grant of 5k.  This was supported in principle subject to satisfactory viewing of NBVH accounts. | **KH** |
|  | c. Payments for June 2025 (below) were approved for processing. Proposed PM seconded by DC. All agreed. | **DC AT** |
|  | d. AT presented Redwood as a potential higher interest account on savings. This was deferred whilst alternative investment opportunities are considered. |  |

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| **Payment Approved Date** | **Invoice Date** | **Payment reference** | **Payee** | **ITEM** | **Gross expenditure** | **VAT** | **Net** |
| **10/06/2025** | **13/05/2025** | **Online payment** |  | **New Buckenham Parish News** | **1500.00** |  | **1500.00** |
| **10/06/2025** | **June** | **Online payment** | **A Thornton** | **Clerk`s June Salary** | **578.59** |  | **578.59** |
| **10/06/2025** | **June** | **Online payment** | **NCC** | **Clerk`s June Pension** | **171.36** |  | **171.36** |
| **10/06/2025** | **300525** | **Online payment** | **Broadland Trees** | **May Maintenance** | **1230.00** | **205.00** | **1025.00** |
| **10/06/2025** | **21/05/2025** | **Online payment** | **Playdale** | **Play Area repairs** | **3299.36** | **549.89** | **2749.47** |
| **10/06/2025** | **21/06/2025** | **Online payment** | **Live 4 Soccer** | **CPF Goals** | **2735.00** | **455.83** | **2279.17** |
| **10/06/2025** | **04/06/2025** | **Online payment** | **M Marsh** | **Brown Bin Churchyard** | **62.00** |  | **62.00** |
| **10/06/2025** | **04/06/2025** | **Online payment** | **TT Jones** | **Oct - Dec24 & 5.00 underpay streetlights maintenance** | **30.25** | **6.05** | **24.20** |
| **10/06/2025** | **04/06/2025** | **Online payment** | **A Thornton** | **Printer paper** | **5.49** | **1.09** | **4.40** |
| **10/06/2025** | **06/06/2025** | **Online payment** | **TT Jones** | **June-Sept 2025 streetlights maintenance** | **26.33** | **4.39** | **21.94** |
| **June Totals** |  |  |  |  | **9638.38** | **1222.25** | **8416.13** |

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| 2526/34 | **To consider planning applications and to receive Breckland District Council’s decisions made on any planning applications received before the meeting:**  PL/2025/0620/LB Bailey - no objections.  NBPC noted that no decision is available on Inn on the Green on Breckland Portal. Highways have objected to proposed parking provision. |  |
| 2526/35 | **To consider any issues raised regarding NBPC amenities as follows:** |  |
|  | a. Grounds Maintenance – not discussed at this meeting. |  |
|  | b. Closed Churchyard – MM highlighted that volunteers will be working on flowerbeds. |  |
|  | c. Cemetery – not discussed at this meeting |  |
|  | d. Allotments – There is no-one on the waiting list and no vacant plots. MM highlighted how nicely maintained the allotment plots are at present. | **AT** |
|  | e. Play Area/ Cricket Pitch - all Playdale maintenance has taken place. The fence has been mended. Thanks were expressed to Phil Anderson. | **DC** |
|  | f. Public Footpaths - nothing new to report at this meeting |  |
|  | g. Community Car Scheme – nothing to report at this meeting. |  |
|  | h. Street Lights – nothing to report at this meeting. |  |
|  | i. Defibrillator – KH clarified pads expire at the end of August and payment for new pads will need to be agreed in July. | **KH** |
| 2526/36 | **Key Documents for review:**  None |  |
| 2526/37 | **Correspondence received not considered elsewhere on this agenda:**  Discussion took place on a parcel of land that has become available to the rear of New Buckenham Village Hall. It is believed to be 17 acres with a guide price of 140k and is in New and Old Buckenham. Could this be bought for a community woodland/extending football pitches?  Exploration to take place and comments to be brought to next meeting. | **DC/PM** |

The meeting closed at 20.54

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 8th July at 7.30pm.**