

Old Buckenham Newsletter



June 2025



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We thank Old Buckenham Players for kindly sponsoring this June newsletter
If you are interested in 'sponsoring' an issue, it is a nominal cost of £10. You can now book for 2026 if you like as all the remaining months this year are taken. Should you have a special occasion that you wish to celebrate you may be able to share a month with someone else.

Milestone reached

The first newsletter that the present editor was allowed to do, all on his own, was the one for July 2000. He has therefore now done 25 years in the job producing a mere 300 individual issues.

Annual General Meeting

The Village Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 7 June at 10am in the Village Hall. This is your chance to talk to members of the Parish Council. The Green Working Committee plan to have a table at the AGM for their plan of the Green. The Lord of the Manor is to be invited and also Steve Askew, our local district and county councillor. The Village Hall Management Committee will also be invited to come along and recruit more committee members.

Roof raising

From the Trustees of the Robert Cocks Almshouses: As you walk, cycle, drive or meander along Hargham Road towards the A11, you will pass the Robert Cocks Almshouses on the edge of the village Green. This is a most beautiful building, with the most exquisite features; we are especially proud of our chimneys. These classic Victorian Almshouses were built by an Old Buckenham resident, a Mr Robert Cocks, in approximately 1860 and have housed possibly hundreds of village people since their beginning. Today, we are happy to tell you, we have ten residents living there, filling each of the homes we have available to local people, with local connections.

"Robert Cocks & Co." was one

The Old Buckenham Newsletter is published monthly and distributed free in and around Old Buckenham.

The editor is Ron Brewer of 'Crockslea', Cake Street, Old Buckenham, NR17 1PS who you can email with your news or your queries about advertising by going to obnewspostbox@aol.com

You can also keep up with the latest village news and see photos of the latest activities by going to <http://oldbuckenham.blogspot.com>

of the principal London music publishing firms of its time and his firm was deemed to be "By Special Appointment Music Publishers to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the late Emperor Napoleon III". Mr Cocks was a well know benefactor in the village who also helped to fund an infant school and a large stained-glass window in All Saints church.

Over the last decade, the Almshouses have undergone much refurbishment. Each home has a new modern kitchen, designed to maximise the space available. There is a walk-in shower room, with electric shower and the necessary facilities. Please note both of these rooms, being an additional part of the main building, required new roofs in 2014. Each almshouse has a new electric heating system, with controllable room temperature features plus hot-water on-demand gadgets in the kitchen and shower room. The sheds which, many years ago used to be the outside toilets, have also had new roofs in the last twelve months.

However, this year the charity is embarking on another massive refurbishment project. One that has taken more than ten years to plan, save and action. We are



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going to carry out essential major works to the main roof, which has been largely untouched since its construction in 1860, some 165 years. It will also be our third roofing project on our property. This work will comprise stripping and relaying slates and leadwork, along with repairing and re-pointing all of the chimneys and parapets. All the decorative features will be retained, supplemented and replaced if missing, with Listed Building Consent obtained for this work on a Grade II listed building. This is a huge project for us but one we have worked on and planned for and are ready to action at last. Our chosen roofing contractor,



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Aspect Group Services, is a local experienced roofing company based in Wymondham. They will start to erect scaffolding the week commencing Monday 23 June. The main works will then commence from Monday 30 June and should take around eight to ten weeks to complete.

The cost of this project is huge for us, a small village charity, but it must be done. We are run completely by volunteers, or 'Trustees', and with the right expertise on our team, we have been able to secure funding for 25% of the project from the Almshouses Association (www.almshouses.org). However, as a not-for-profit charity, the remaining 75% has taken us more than ten years to accumulate. We would like to thank the Parish Council for the precept grant, plus the contributions received from the village shop and previous residents' families, all of which we are extremely grateful for. Of course, if anyone in the village feels able to financially contribute to this essential project, we are in the process of setting up a Just Giving page to help with extra fundraising. More details to follow (or contact our administrator at admin@rcah.org.uk).

By the end of the summer, the major roofing project should be finished, the scaffolding removed, and one of our village's most iconic

building will be fit to last another 165 years!

Showtime again

The Old Buckenham Open Produce and Handicraft Show is back for 2025.

There are lots of opportunities to display your talents across baking, preserves, floral arrangements, handicraft, art, and fruit and vegetables.

Jams, preserves, chutney, and jelly are back, as is the hotly contested Victoria sandwich. It will be exciting to see what entrants come up with for the showstopper theme of 'is it cake?' You could disguise your cake as a book, mug, even a loo roll!

New classes this year include a vase of mixed flowers in the Floral Arrangement section, a floral arrangement in a small cup in the Children's section and a felted item in the Handicraft section. The date for your diaries is Sunday 7 September at the Village Hall. Exhibits to be deposited between 9.30am and 11am. Open to the public from 2pm and the prize giving at 4pm. All are welcome to attend, even if they are not exhibiting. There will be tea, coffee and cakes, plus a tombola. The show is a great opportunity to meet others from the local community.

Any questions or for an electronic

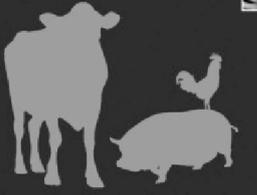
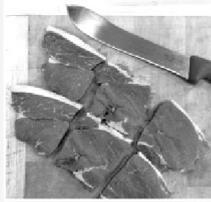
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Thrive is a new café and workshop venue opened by The Pantry in Kenninghall based at Redgrave and Lopham Fen, Low Common Road, South Lopham, IP22 2HX

Opening hours

Monday CLOSED – available for private bookings

Tuesday 10am to 12 noon Warm Space
Mindfulness cafe - All welcome
Café open 1pm to 4pm

Wednesday Café open 1pm to 4pm

Thursday 10am to 11am Yoga with Poppy

Friday 10am to 11.15am Monthly Yoga
6.30pm Monthly Sound Baths

Saturday Café open 9am to 12 noon

Sunday – CLOSED- available for private bookings

Don't just throw away your newspapers and bottles this month.

Please save them to take to the containers in the Village Hall car park.

Recycle your rubbish and make money for the Village Hall at the same time.

copy of the schedule, please email residentsofoldbuckenham@hotmail.com.

Help for Youth Club

The Old Buckenham youth club for ages 10 to 13 years is looking for more adult volunteers please. They have seen a very successful few weeks with lots of generous donations of games and equipment that the kids are really enjoying. Numbers are between 13 and 20 each week, which means that they need at least four adults to have enough 'eyes on' to keep the fun safe. They have a tuck shop, a quiet corner, games console, table tennis and outdoor games. Some of the volunteers have been setting up drawing, finger knitting and cake decorating which has been very popular. If you can spare an hour every now and then on a Friday evening, please get in touch. They only run during school term and you don't need to lead an activity if you don't want to. Email obyouthclub@gmail.com or call 01963 861207 for more details.

Fete season has started

Chapel Green School is having its Summer Fete and Family Fun Day on Saturday 28 June. It will be open from 12 noon to 4pm. Come and join them for an afternoon of fun for all the family

with live music, games, bouncy castles and their play mound open for all the children to enjoy. There will be great food on offer with a barbecue, loaded fries donuts and ice cream. Also many stallholders selling a variety of lovely items. The Primary School fete will be on Saturday 5 July from 11am to 3pm. They have an ice cream, face painting, tractor rides, pony petting, moo shake, bubble hut and lots of stalls. Wild Thing Gourmet Burger Company are catering for them.

Time for more bingo

The next Church Bingo is on Saturday 28 June starting at 2pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Ideas for entertainment

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to put on more events in the Village Hall and would welcome ideas for weekend and/or evening events. If you have ideas on events that you would like to see or would fill up the hall please contact events@gmail.com. Thank you.

Portray your favourite people

The Old Buckenham Methodist Church are holding their flower show this year, carrying over the original theme of 'Famous British People' that they couldn't use last year. It will be held on the August Bank Holiday weekend (Saturday 23 to Monday 25 August).

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If you are intending to do a display this year please think about what size of plinth, small table, large table you may need and what 'Famous British Person' you want to do your display about (to make sure they don't get ten displays on Churchill).

More details will appear later but if you have anything about a famous British person (such as books, pictures, figures, etc) the organisers would like to include other non-flower displays as they can set up a display cabinet, book stands, etc.

Norwich Walk-in Centre

From Charlie McDowell, Practice Manager, East Harling and Kenninghall Medical Practice: For those who may not have seen our recent Facebook post regarding the Norwich Walk-in Centre, on behalf of Norfolk Primary Care, we would like to share the following

update: From April 2025, the Walk-in Centre's opening hours have changed; the new opening hours will be from 7am to 7pm (previously 7am to 9pm). Although they are reducing the service by two hours per day, they will still be open every day as usual.

The Walk-in Centre is funded by NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB) which plans and buys healthcare services for our local population. They are accountable for the performance and finances of the NHS across Norfolk and Waveney. Known as NHS Norfolk and Waveney, the organisation works with local people, health and care professionals, and partner organisations to improve the health and well-being of our population. As part of the ongoing changes to the Walk-in Centre services, they will also be transitioning to a Nurse-

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led Service over the next three months. During this time, a doctor will remain on site for parts of the day but once they have moved to a Nurse-led Service (likely from July 2025) there will be no GP provision available at the Walk-in Centre.

As a result of these changes, there is an important message for parents and guardians of children aged one year and under. Please note that from Monday 14 April 2025, the Walk-in Centre will no longer see and treat any children aged one and under. Instead, they will need to visit their GP, A&E, or Out of Hours services for care.

Due to ongoing financial challenges, the NHS is facing significant pressure, and services are being required to operate with less funding. These changes are intended to ensure the Walk-in Centre continues to provide safe and high-quality care within the financial limits allocated to it.

All Saints services in June

Sunday 1 June

10am Group Holy Communion/Rogation Day service at Wilby, led by Bishop Ian of Thetford (no service at All Saints)

Tuesday 3 June

10am Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

Sunday 8 June

9.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11 June

7.30pm A time for Quiet Reflection, led by a lay member of All Saints Church

Sunday 15 June

9.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer

Sunday 22 June

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 29 June

(time to be confirmed) Morning Prayer at St Mary's Banham (no service at All Saints)

Lots to sit on

Caroline from the village has kindly done a survey of all the fifteen



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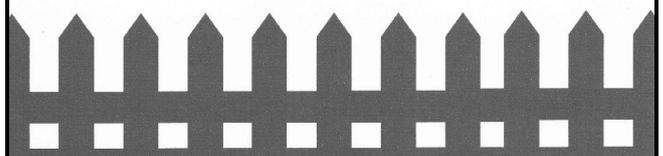
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benches round the Green (we were surprised at this large number too!) Does anyone know who installed the very old steel bench on the main road beyond Ottomer Pond? It is extremely corroded and should probably be removed. Before doing so we need to establish whether it is sponsored by someone. Any information gratefully received to andrew.frank@btinternet.com

Parish Council in May

Old Buckenham Parish Council met on Thursday 1 May. Those present were Councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Doug Irons (Vice Chair), Stan Burton, Lesley Evison, Steve Gowers, David Taylor and Pete Twissell. Also attending were Megan Elvin (Clerk) and seven members of the public.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Naomi Bailey was re-elected as Chair and Doug Irons re-elected as Vice Chair.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 April were approved (3 in favour).

Declarations of interests not already recorded. Pete Twissell is now a director of Rotisham Limited Company that himself and a friend in the village have started.

Financial matters. The Community account balance now stands at £32,530.45. Payments of £4,606.95 have been made including the Precept Grants given to Friends of OB Primary (£750), Fawns (£624), Monday Mardle (£150), Youth Group (£500), Village Hall (£700), Cricket Club (£200) and Almshouses Trust (£600). There was also £119.25 paid to the Community Car drivers and £159.50 on room hire. All payments were approved (6 in favour).

Councillors' reports. Steve Askew was unable to attend but reported that he had organised for the Speed Survey to be completed down Fen Street. Not happy with the placement as they were on a bend and this would not have been an accurate reading. Asked for resetting and advised a better location. He also mentioned the pot holes outside the shop on the tarmac and felt it would be the Parish Council's responsibility for this to be repaired. Naomi Bailey is to liaise with the shop owner to see if the job can be financed together and get some quotes for this being done.

Naomi Bailey is still in

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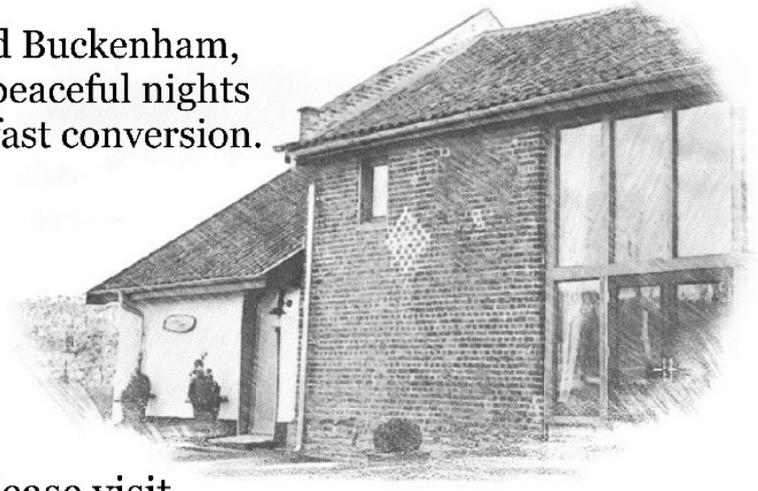
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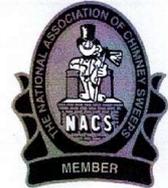
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communication regarding the schools for another meeting. This should happen soon as they have started to come back to her now. There were a couple of complaints regarding car parking for TWT. Also complaints about lack of picking up after their dogs. Please pick up after your dogs as there are plenty of bins around the Green that are multi-functional. She mentioned how lovely the Green looks and the working committee have done an amazing job with it.

Three quotes were obtained for the cutting of the Green. However the chosen contractor did not walk the Green to quote correctly and has under quoted them. They are in talks with the contractor to correct the quote and when we get further facts and figures of what the quote should be then the Parish Council can make a decision on how much it can afford to help pay.

Doug Irons was arranging a meeting with Naomi Bailey and Megan Elvin to discuss complaints about TWT. An elderly member of public had also pointed out that it takes a while to walk across the Green and wondered if a bench could be added right in the middle of the Green for rest breaks.

Stan Burton will donate wild flower seeds to the village hall and will give one bag to Sunnyside driveway. Would like to pass on

thanks to Richard Lindner and volunteers who came to help clear the church yard and war memorial. Also for their work in clearing Jubilee Wood, all cuttings came to his farm for a bonfire later in the year.

Steve Gowers said he now had a new volunteer for a weekend Speed Watch. He had reported an overweight vehicle to the firm involved and the company responded to say they will inform the driver that they were in the wrong. This is a positive response. Received a nice email from a resident saying thanks to the SAM sign as, while it is in place, it makes such a difference to the noise and speed of the vehicles.

Megan Elvin said the dog waste bin should start to be emptied by Serco. There is a charge for this but the invoice has not yet been received. She has done the bi-yearly checks on the defibrillators. As we only have adult pads, should we consider getting some child pads as well especially for the Village Hall and the Ox & Plough as children are more likely to be in those areas? New pads are required for the Village Hall defibrillator that expire in July. Approval given for purchase of all necessary pads. Steve Gowers to replace the missing bolt on the merry-go-round/roundabout which is causing

OLD BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

For general enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk. If you do not have internet access you can drop a letter into the parish council post box at the village hall

Parish Clerk Megan Elvin
clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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one of the wood panels on the
floor to lift.

She has had a few general enquires from a member of public. Last year the Parish Council apparently used a form with the agenda to write down what councillors have/are going to action and their completion/projected completion date. This was then added to the minutes and put on the website with them. The member of public felt that this was helpful to residents to know what and when the councillors are doing objectives. She is to look at updating the Task list and implementing this again. Do we still give out a welcome pack to new residents? Could we start doing this again as newcomers felt it was helpful to make the new residents feel welcome. She is to update the welcome pack and send out to new residents that request it. An email had been sent to Highways regarding the fallen down 7.5t lorry restriction sign on Mill Road. This sign has been inspected and repairs can take up

to six weeks.

Planning applications. 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. The Stables, Hargham Road, NR17 1SS. Proposed erection of 8 No self build dwellings (PL/2025/0529/FMIN).

The Parish Council didn't support this before and does not believe it should support it again. Road is unsuitable to take any more traffic, Anglian Water have raised concerns as well, it is outside of the parish boundary and on a 60 mph part of the road. A member of public added that it would cause light pollution, no footpath is proposed to be built and the field where they would be going is a home for bats. The Parish Council did not support this proposal (6 in favour).

Old Buckenham Country Park, Doe Lane. Variation of conditions 2 & 3 on pp 3PL/2023/0076/F - Variation in style and type of construction for the lodges (PL/2025/0555/VAR). No issues. A proposal to support was approved (6 in favour).

Land at Fen Road. Erection of 1 no.

self build dwelling (planning in principle) (PL/2025/0574/PIP). Postponed decision to next meeting as only came in on day of meeting.

Ottomer Pond. Stan Burton had someone come out with intention of jetting the pipe. Unable to jet due to the outlet being completely buried. It will need to be dug 3 to 4 metres away from the pipe. He would be trying to eject up hill. Usually you jet downwards. However you cannot get anything down the ditch end to jet downwards. Need to get a digger in to clear the land to get the jet in. Once jetted, need to get a camera down the pipe to view the inside of the pipe and the integrity of the pipe.

Owners of Sunnyside were at the meeting. They would be unable to get the digger in from Sunnyside. Doug Irons and Steve Gowers to find a quote for a digger and have them consult on the site before the quote. Three quotes for a local builder to get it done correctly and three quotes from a drainage company to inform us what needs to be done. Pete Twissell to contact drainage companies.

Insurance renewal. Parish Council insurance is up for renewal in June and The renewal price is £914.94. Agreed in principle (6 in favour) and would liaise with Donna Oakley.

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Handyman cutting areas. The handyman has been given a list of over twenty places to trim the grass. These are mainly around benches on the Green, various bins and the children's play area.

An area of the Green by the Hovis house has had a goal erected. It was verbally agreed that this could remain on the Green for a month while garden was being remodelled. Month is now up and the Clerk is to write asking for this to now be removed.

Solar Farm update. The company involved obtained permission for access tracks to the sites and which have now been built (3PL/2021/0236/F). They are currently in the final design phase, with long-lead items being placed on order. On-site works are targeted to start in late July 2025, with completion targeted around mid-February 2026. They make a community benefit fund available to all their projects and for Attleborough Road Solar there is £36,000 available as a lump sum - with the alternative to take £3,600 per year for 10-years if preferred. They would like our opinion on the best way to proceed with administering the fund or any ideas on how it might be spent. Naomi Bailey proposed to take it in one lump sum. There are lots of little groups that the fund could

help towards. Doug Irons suggested that we take the lump sum, ring fence it and then go to the village at £3000 a year. Megan Elvin to liaise with them about getting the money. We will keep the firm updated on how it would be spent but nothing set in stone at this moment.

Speedwatch update.

Highways are not interested in updating the speed signs. Hourly sessions on Cake Street record a minimum of 10 vehicles of reading for speeding. Contacted police and asked for their advice on what to do. Sent a letter to Police Commissioner Office. In Norfolk we are not allowed the signs with the face on it but they are still considering it and will get back to Steve Gowers. Hoping that members living in Cake Street will come to the Village AGM and have their say on the matter. Speed sign by the war memorial is not working and Highways appear not bothered so will find out who is responsible.

Playground and the parking issues.

An email from a parishioner regarding concerns regarding the parking of parents by the playground around school pick up and drop off time. There has been an incident where a child ran out in front of a car directly from the park. Luckily the driver was going slow

enough to not cause an incident. The parishioner contacted the school but nothing has been done. Megan Elvin and Steve Gowers were having a meeting with Luke at Highways on Thursday 8 May.

Allotment update. The Parish Council have decided to close the allotments and letters to be sent to the allotment tenants. Lesley Evison to pass the information on to Megan Elvin who will compose the letter and send to the tenants as well as posting it at the allotments. The Parish Council has had an email from the landowner of the allotments site. They are requesting that when the allotments are vacated, the land is put back to the original condition (ie all sheds, rubbish, planters and fences removed. If the landowner feels that they need to do work to the land after the allotments are finished, they will charge the parish council. Tenants will be given until Wednesday 1 October 2025 to clear their plots. Should the plots not be clear after this date, the Parish Council will go in and charge the tenants for any items left.

Lloyds Bank update. David Taylor is to get the information pack from Donna Oakley to try and get the bank account up and running.

Former Highways Surveyors Charity (FHS). Many years ago there were many charities that were merged together and put into

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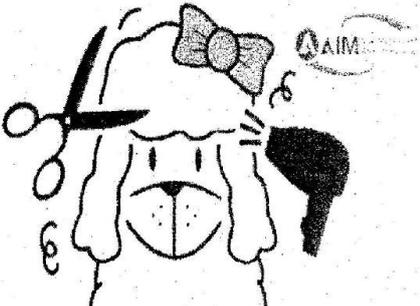
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three separate charities. FHS is one of them and the Parish Council is the sole trustees of this account. The charities income is from the rent received from 4.4 acres let to two different tenants. The Eleemosynary Charity collects the rent and passes this onto the other charities on their behalf. In 1980 the trust was being managed by Breckland District Council but this was then passed on to our Parish Council.

Each councillor should be named as a trustee for FHS. Rules allow the Parish Council to sell the land but there are complications for this. Doug Irons and Naomi Bailey have had a meeting with Sarah Dye. Will get a file from Donna Oakley and she will update the account. We have not been making any invoices in some time regarding the rent of the land. The Parish Council originally went down this route for that piece of land for the graveyard. However the land that we wanted to use is not actually the land that the Parish Council owns and this needs to be further investigated. The Cemetery is on hold for now until we know exactly which land the Parish Council could potentially use.

Gym equipment. The Parish Council has been asked several times about the potential of getting outside gym equipment on the Recreation Ground. This subject



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will be put out at the AGM to see if other members of the parish would want it or not. The Clerk will also look to see if there are any grants available and rough costs.

Public participation. One parishioner asked if all the trees are still alive at the Jubilee Trees. Lesley Evison to look into this. He also asked where the Parish Council Post Box will be situated. It has now been installed on the Village Hall wall next to the to the current Village Hall one.

The next Parish Council surgery had been arranged for Saturday 31 May. Proposed to cancel the surgery and invite to the AGM.

One of the posts on the footpaths outside Sunnyside has rotted and broken off. Can this be repaired? Parish Council have posts left over so Stan Burton will provide a post to replace it. Request from parishioner for a Welcome Pack from the Parish Council which would be a lovely idea.

Items for next agenda. These are expected to include Lloyds Bank, Allotment update, clarification of insurance, update on Charities, update on playground and parking, Graveyard and ongoing work at Ottomer Pond.

The next Parish Council meeting on will be on Thursday 5 June at Old Buckenham Village Hall and starting at 7.30pm.

And don't forget the Annual Parish meeting on Saturday 7 June.

News from the Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Wednesday 7 May. Those present were Acting Chairperson Georgina Stanfield; Terry Cook, Minute Secretary for the meeting; Grahan Dye, Treasurer; Eileen Oliver; Pete Twissell, PC Rep; Alison Frank; Jay Lucas; Jenny Devaux; Teresa Kemp and Jay Lucas, Hall Manager.

The Acting Chairperson welcomed all present including Stacey Reed, a potential new committee member who was observing the meeting.

Apologies were received from Tracey Hayden and Chris Dalton. Car park permit charges for next academic year need to be considered. It was agreed a meeting should be held with the Primary School Parents Association to discuss the charges. Graham Dye will approach the Parent representatives to set up a meeting. The timescale for this would be to report back to the Village Hall Committee in July.

Feedback was provided regarding the 'Extraordinary Meeting' held on Tuesday 22 April. Key items raised were the roles of the vacant permanent officer positions – Chairperson, Secretary, Booking Clerk, Hall Manager; Handyman; relationship /possible future working with the Parish Council. An update regarding moves to address these issues was provided.

As the Treasurer, due to ill health, had been unable to attend the meeting he had provided written updates concerning for paid individuals – issues relating to rates of pay/employed or self-employed status/future relationship with the Parish Council/move to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Discussion then took place regarding the move to becoming a CIO. It was proposed and accepted that representatives from Hall Users Groups could if they wished just become members of the Committee without being Trustees. However, it was noted we may still need to have at least seven Trustees. We would need to double check the legal implications within our new constitution. If necessary, we may need to make changes to the said document. What is vital is all committee members need to feel comfortable with their role. Issues relating to our financial state were also discussed, including the points raised in writing by the Treasurer regarding rates of pay/employed or self-employed status/future relationship with the Parish Council. Key points raised included the need for a definite financial planning strategy to address future demands of running a financially stable Village Hall;

discussions with the Parish Council to ensure all interested parties are clear in their understanding of the issues being faced. These areas need to start now in the discussion/planning stage as it was recognised the arena within which work has changed dramatically in relation to purely voluntary work and the need to have paid posts for several time-demanding positions. Part of this process will also be the need to identify the operating structures of competitor halls and the facilities available to potential users.

Whilst at present the Hall has sufficient reserves to cover costs these are being eaten into and this is not sustainable in the future. Therefore, increased income generation needs to be achieved. It was agreed we cannot wait until the Hall is in a desperate financial situation before acting. We need to plan now and take a strategic view for the future to ensure the Hall can be put on a sound footing.

In the Secretary's report much was taken up with discussion regarding the up-and-coming Parish Annual General Meeting on Saturday 7 June at 10am in the Village Hall. The meeting Secretary will request an agenda item is included regarding the Village Hall. Unfortunately, neither

the Chairperson or Acting Secretary of the Village Hall Committee is available to attend this meeting. It was decided Eileen Oliver, Pete Twissell and Alison Frank would attend and represent the Village Hall and talk and lead a discussion on our behalf. Discussion points to include the need for more Trustees/committee members; officers to undertake the key roles, an overview statement of the current and potential future position of the Hall; the move to CIO status including the need to appoint solicitors to complete the final legal stages ; clarify understanding of the ownership of the Hall by the village as a community resource and the role and function of the Parish Council within this.

Correspondence was received from Laurence Barnett, on behalf of the Old Buckenham Players, seeking clarification of what is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and the implications for the Players. Full details were provided for Laurence and he responded with thanks and for the detailed insight provided.

For the next two meetings the Secretary role for the Committee meetings will be provided as follows – for the June meeting by Pete Twissell and for the July

meeting by Jenny Devaux. The Treasurer's report gave an overview report on recent transactions undertaken as follows:

Bill for new stage curtains was £8987 and has been paid. An application to the National Lottery Grant was made but this was unsuccessful. However, applications to the Paul Bassham Charitable Trust for £2000 and to the Village Precept Grant for £700 were successful. In addition, there has been a private donation of £250.

Annual insurance – a bill for £1936 needs to be paid – this a 3% increase on last year.

Other paid costs were cleaning £425; Hallmaster systems £265; Electricity £204.

Reserves now stand at £21,769.

The Village Hall is having a professional valuation undertaken of the artefacts in its possession. A full valuation will be provided in writing for submission to the Halls insurance company. The premium for the year will then be re-evaluated.

For the next financial year the Hall's insurance company require a figure for rebuilding cost of the Hall. It has been arranged for a professional valuer to undertake such a review later in the month. All invoicing for bookings has been undertaken and the current

system tidied up. New private bookings have been obtained this month. The system is now ready to hand over to the interim bookings clerk.

The Hall Manager's report said that recently, numerous building checks and repairs had been completed. The Hall is all in order including the solar panels.

Further checks have been undertaken on the manhole inspection covers in the car park. Three have issues with frames and covers. Quotes for repair work on these have been obtained and for an additional frame. To provide for the four frames, to excavate and brick up the manhole surrounds will be £2450 + VAT. It was agreed by the committee to sanction the work

With the new stage curtaining there is a need to discuss with the contractor some issues relating to the original criteria and the price invoiced.

Ideas for future fund raising were discussed and these included: Look into a future clairvoyant event and investigate the possibility of a charity/auction day/car boot event.

Volunteers are needed to man the Village Hall on Airshow day and to provide raffle prizes. The editor of the Village Newsletter will be asked to insert a request for suggestions by villagers as soon as possible.

Pete Twissell reported back from the Parish Council Meeting that the wildflower seeds will be supplied by the Parish Council and they will be sown by the Groundsman, Pete and Stanley Burton

The Groundsman had approached the family of Steve Walker to commemorate the wildflower area to Steve. His family were pleased to agree to this. It was recommended we hold a memorial event when the wildflowers are in flower.

A nest box has been installed in the tree area of the grounds

It was confirmed we have a key for the new rubbish bin – this is being kept on a wall hook in the emergency cupboard. Keys for the Memorabilia displays are kept in the office

A presentation was made to the outgoing Chairperson – Eileen Oliver in recognition of the sterling work she has undertaken whilst in office. A bouquet of flowers was also sent to her. The Committee were delighted she has agreed to stay on as a committee member as her enthusiasm for and knowledge of the Village Hall is indispensable.

Run out of room

There have been so many words provided for this issue that there is no space left for some articles this month. Let's hope there will be room for them in the July magazine...

Old Buckenham Community Car service

The following drivers are providing a service to take people to the doctors or to hospital appointments and can be contacted at:

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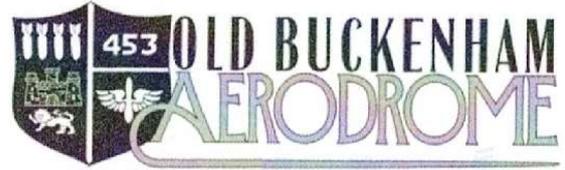
Alison Hannah and David Hannah - 01953 861261

Diary dates for June

Here are details of some of the events going on in the village this month

Monday 2	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Tuesday 3	Coffee and chat, All Saints Church, 10.30am
Thursday 5	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 7	Village Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 10 am
Wednesday 11	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Wednesday 11	Quiet time at All Saints Church. 7.30pm
Monday 16	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Friday 20	Copy date for July newsletter
Sunday 22	Windmill open for tours, 1pm to 4pm
Thursday 26	Women's Institute, Village Hall. 7.30pm
Friday 27	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am
Saturday 28	Chapel Green School Fete, noon to 4pm
Saturday 28	Church Bingo, Village Hall, 2pm

Regular happenings in the village are the Old School Bookshop open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays between 10am and 4pm, the Fawns (for parents and their pre-school children) in the Village Hall each Friday morning in term time from 9am to 10.30am, the Old Buckenham Singers in the Methodist Church every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9pm, the village Youth Club meets on Fridays at the Methodist Church at 6.30pm and 7.30pm and the Shelf Pop Up Pantry is in the Village Hall Memorial Room every Wednesday from 9.30pm to 11am.



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