



# BUXTED

## PARISH COUNCIL

Clerks: Beccy Macklen & Claudine Feltham  
PO Box 202, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 1BN  
t: 01435 812798 e: clerk@buxted-pc.gov.uk w: buxtedvillage.org.uk

12 April 2022

### MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Buxted on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 19.36p.m.

**Present:** Cllrs. Illingworth (Chairman), Coxon, Humphrey, McQuarrie, and Wilson.  
Also present: ESCC Cllr. Galley and Clerk Beccy Macklen

**Public:** 2

Homer Cox advised that the Wi-Fi at St Mary's Village Hall is now fully operational at St Mary's Hall.

Homer also asked if the Parish Council would be advertising the Annual Assembly in the Buxted Talk publication. The clerk advised that he would receive something by the end of the week.

He also asked that as the Reading Room is closed and is being boarded up, would it be possible (if the Church committee are agreeable) to swap chairs with St Marys Village Hall. The Parish Council would retain ownership for any future use, but they would get used and not deteriorate sitting in a cold/damp hall. All Members agreed this would be a good use of the chairs while they are not needed by the Parish Council.

A resident of Uckfield advised he was at the meeting on behalf of a resident regarding a request for a handrail for The Dene which is item 06/04/22 on the agenda.

01/04/22 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Blandford, Bolton, Marshall, Moss, Roberts and Rose and clerk Claudine Feltham

Best wishes to Vivienne and hope she makes a speedy recovery.

02/04/22 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

All councillors declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Ionides Trust by virtue of the parish council being managing agents of the site.

Cllr Illingworth declared a personal interest in item 09/04/22 regarding grants awarded for financial year 2022/23 due to being a member of Buxted Cricket Club.

**03/04/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

**04/04/22 ESCC/WDC REPORT**

Cllr Galley updated that a package of road improvements is being rolled out across East Sussex but unfortunately a lot of the works are taking place in Eastbourne and Hastings and less in the countryside. There is provision for an extra £3.1 million for next 10 years and Cllr Galley will be trying to get some of that for our part of the county. He has given a list of roads to the Highway Steward that need attention including Etchingwood, Cobdown, Millwood and Budletts Lanes amongst others. Ideally, he would like a senior officer to review the condition of the roads.

Cllr Illingworth reported that the leader, Cllr Standley has made the decision to step down at the end of the month and an election will take place for a new leader in a couple of weeks. Depending on the outcome there is a potential for a change in direction for the District Council.

Another current focus at WDC is the preparation for the arrival of Ukrainian refugees and providing a support network.

The Local Plan continues to be delayed until further information is received from Government.

**05/04/22 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – UPDATE FROM READING ROOM WORKING PARTY AND PLANS FOR THEME FOR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

Firstly, the date of the Annual Assembly has been confirmed as Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May to be held at Buxted CE Primary School at 7.30pm.

Councillors McQuarrie and Coxon provided an update from the meeting.

After the last Parish Council meeting four members of the working party met with the focus being on the upcoming Annual Parish Assembly (AA).

It was proposed to the parish council that the focus of the AA be on a new hall/community facility for Buxted. A presentation would include some history of how we have got to where we are, and how we can move forward and provide a hall on the Ionides Trust site as per planning permission albeit with a possible new design. Members of the working party have started a PowerPoint presentation that can continue to be worked on and a poster has been designed to be widely circulated alongside the advertising boards which are erected every year. It was also suggested leaflets be produced and put in commercial establishments in the parish as well as school bags at Buxted School. The promotional material will also be widespread on social media and websites.

It was decided to hold a further Working Party meeting to discuss the Annual Assembly presentation in more detail. A date to be confirmed.

**06/04/22 OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

**Mobile Phone Coverage:** Nothing to report

**Public footpaths:** Nothing to report

**Trees:** Nothing to report.

**Road Safety:** Nothing to report

**Wealden Local Development Framework:** See minute 04/04/2022 above

**Property issues:**

**Reading Room**

- **Boarding up of building – quote** – following the acceptance of the quote for closed building insurance, the clerk ascertained a quote for the boarding up of the hall. Two quotes were sought, but only one received. Given the limited timescales it was agreed to accept the quote from Steve Holmes totalling £995.
- **Storage of Parish Council records** – the clerk has been investigating secure storage costs for parish council records currently located at the Reading Room. A number of quotes are being sought ranging so far from £65 to £85 per month. Members agreed that this is a large expense given that it would be ongoing in perpetuity. The clerk was asked to confirm with NALC if paper copies are required to be kept or if a scanned copy is sufficient. She would also enquire if any other parish councils would have any storage space for a small fee, or if it is possible to deposit the records at the county archive records office.

**Buxted Recreation Ground**

- **Unregistered footpath to the rear of Buxted Football Club and ideas for improving boundary line behind Buxted Football Club – update** – the clerk reported that the day before the meeting an email was received from Mr Jabbari which provided a long update on his current situation and some of his perceived history of the site. However, it did not include any reference to the footpath or if he is willing to have it officially registered. The clerk will respond to the email and ask for clarification as to his views on the footpath. The matter will be referred back to the Parish Council to discuss this matter further and decide on any required action depending on the response received.
- **The Dene, Uckfield – Request for handrail** – The Parish Council has been approached by a resident of The Dene to enquire as to whether a handrail could be installed on the set of stairs on the land known as The Dene situated in Uckfield but owned by the Parish Council. We have difficulty with this piece of land as it is outside of the parish and therefore should we spend parishioners' money on land not in the parish? The clerk was asked to contact Uckfield Town Council to request that if a handrail is required for its residents, then the Town Council should take on this responsibility as it would not be right for Buxted Parishioners to pay for a new handrail which would have no benefit to the residents of the parish.

**Communications Matters:** Nothing to report.

**07/04/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

**P1 – Over Development Lobby Group** – invitation to attend meeting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April Horam Village Hall 7pm – this meeting has taken place and feedback is expected.

**P2 – Highways** - Invitation to online training session on 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10am or 26<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm – clerk would attend along with any councillors that are available.

**08/04/22 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**  
None

**09/04/22 FINANCE**

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. McQuarrie seconded by Cllr. Humphrey, payments totalling £22,898.75 covered by cheque numbers 4812 and 4839 and direct debits were **approved** totalling £22,898.75. The expenditure was high this month due to the annual grants being issued.

**10/04/22 OTHER MEETINGS**

Cllr Humphrey attended the FAD Village Hall AGM and reported back they very much appreciate the parish councils offer to install and pay the ongoing costs of a telephone line and Wi-Fi at the hall. A quote has been received totalling £33.99 per month with an activation charge of £19.99 with an additional line installation cost. It had previously been agreed by the Parish Council that this would be funded, and the costs were accepted.

**11/04/22 MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

None

**12/04/22 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Support for Ukraine – can the Parish Council help?** - having investigated the possible financial help by the Parish Council, we have been advised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that unless the council has the General Power of Competence, which we do not, sadly there is no means via parish council law that allows a parish council to provide funds/contribution for such a purpose. The Parish Council however is more than willing to help in any other way it can.

Cllr McQuarrie wished for it to be minuted that Cllr Illingworth should be commended for all of his work and committed effort to help and support the refugee project.

The meeting closed at 20.17p.m.

**Ongoing issues reported to ESCC Highways:**

<b>DATE RAISED</b>	<b>CASE NO</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION</b>
21/12/2020 <b>ONGOING</b>	00527587	Switching off of streetlamps in Britts Farm alleyway, or at least switching off one on 24 hours	21/12 – passed to officers 26/1 – still being discussed by officers 22/2 – resident advised that the orange light has now changed to a bright white light and is still on 24 hours (so worse situation) 10/3 – apologies from ESCC for slow response. Explanation of why lamp was changed to white light. Still looking at putting timers on lights 11/3 – Response by clerk. Crossed wires, we want the lights turned off not on timers. 23/3 – ESCC confirm they are still looking into being able to switch off lights 15/4 – ESCC confirmation that lights cannot be switched off for safety reasons but will be replaced with different bulbs and will not be on all night. Works will take place late summer 19/7 – clerk chased an email sent asking for further clarification as to why lights cannot be switched off

			<p>22/9 – clerk forwarded email to Cllr Galley to help chase</p> <p>06/10 – ESCC response explaining why lights cannot be switched off and that new lamps would be better and can be fitted with guards</p> <p>11/10 – local residents do not accept this response and still wish to have lights switched off. Clerk responded to ESCC with the suggestion of a site meeting to show that it is not a used footpath during the dark</p> <p>Jan 2022 – Highways officer offer to change lighting to reduced light and to switch off from midnight to sunrise. Residents do not agree to this and still want lamps removed or permanently switched off</p> <p>7/3/22 – Highways agreed to make investigations with a view to removing lights</p>
21/01/2021 <b>ONGOING</b>	00539076	Blocked drain outside St Mary's Church, Church Road, Buxted	25/1 – passed to officer to investigate
27/01/2021 <b>ONGOING (HEDGE ISSUE) ISSUE CLOSED</b>	00541323	Width of pavement between St Raphaels and Toll Farm Triangle, Buxted	<p>27/1 – passed to officers.</p> <p>9/2 – officers could not identify location they need a better description! Email response sent.</p> <p>31/3 – after more correspondence between Cllr Galley, ESCC Officer Johnson and Local Resident, Cllr Galley has confirmed this matter cannot be pursued any further. Pavement is a fair width, and the hedge has been recently cut back. Engineering works and cameras will not be installed by ESCC on this section of road.</p> <p>20/4 – Cllr Galley confirmed hedge and width of pavement will be investigated by Highway Steward</p> <p>30/4 – Highway report that one owner of the hedge is disputing that it is their responsibility to cut the hedge. Passed to Enforcement. Until hedge cut back Highway Steward cannot ascertain if siding works are required.</p> <p>May 2021 – edged of overgrown pathway cut back along with some of the hedges alongside the road. Other hedges remain overgrown.</p> <p>July 2021 – ESCC Enforcement writing to all owners of overgrown hedges</p> <p>January 2022 – ESCC confirmed private hedges now cut back. Highways hedges will be cut by ESCC</p>
13/12/21 <b>CASE CLOSED</b>	00640939	Drains between White Hart and Buxted School	<p>Blocked drains and unsafe walk to school</p> <p>31/12 – email from ESCC - ongoing drainage issues on the A272, Buxted being discussed with Drainage Manager</p> <p>22/2 - Our engineer has advised there is no issue with our drainage here in normal rain fall. For your information,</p>

			localised flooding maybe caused during periods of heavy rainfall. The rainwater will not be able to flow through the drainage system as the system maybe full to capacity. Excess water may take up to 3 hours to dissipate after the rain has stopped.
17/02/2022		A272/Budletts Lane is deteriorating again and needs resurfacing. It is now becoming dangerous when vehicles are trying to avoid potholes are going onto the wrong side of the carriageway. Etchingwood Lane is absolutely dreadful Millwood Lane is getting terrible towards the timber yard.	Roy Galley visited each site with Highway Steward
28/03/22	00673252	Licence application to install a dog waste bin on highway verge in Five Ash Down	28/3 – application for licence submitted to ESCC

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## **Ionides Trust Update:**

### **1. Insurance – consideration of broker insurance quote**

Prior to the meeting the clerk circulated a quote received from our broker for insurance cover for the Ionides land totalling £593.63. **Approved.**

### **2. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – update and clarification of points raised following the meeting**

Following the previous meeting at which it was agreed to provide the Jubilee Committee with funds up to £15,000 on the proviso that fireworks be removed from the plans, the clerk circulated an email suggesting a few more points to the organisers of the event.

The Ionides Trust/Parish Council, having had a chance to consider the proposals further, request the organising committee provide a copy of the insurance, risk assessment and events management plan before or at the next PC/Trust meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May to give enough time for the Trust/PC to view and review the documents prior to the event.

Members also requested and Cllr Illingworth agreed that the organising committee provide and update on the event to all councillors via email as soon as possible.

Following the receipt of invoices of expenditure thus far, £7378.56 was **approved.**

### **3. Use of Ionides Charity vehicle for Ukrainian refugee help**

Cllr Illingworth, being the parish contact for the resettlement of Ukraine refugees, approached the Ionides Trust to ask if funds secured to help Ukrainian refugees who move to our parish area for psychological help could be paid into the Trust account under its charity commission constitution. We have been advised by the Trust auditor that they do not think it falls within the remit of the charity, but they also added that:

“The final decision on whether to accept the money lies with the trustees, so it is up to them. Given the reasons for it, I highly doubt anyone will question it”

Given the above advice, members **agreed** that the fund can be paid into the Ionides Trust account and ringfenced for this specific use. The trustees agreed that as the Trust was set up for the health and wellbeing of the community, assisting refugees who will be citizens of the parish and will require this help falls within the remit of the charity’s principles.

### **4. Sign for COVID memorial to restrict a footfall through the area**

Following the planting of the COVID memorial trees and installation of a bench, it has been noticed that this area is being used as a walk-through which is unfortunate. It is therefore suggested that a low-level plaque be installed on the site to stop the footfall directly through the site. **Agreed.**

Meeting closed 20.37.