



# 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 July 2022

### MINUTES

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held in Five Ash Down Village Hall on Tuesday 12 July 2022 at 8.10p.m.**

**Present:** Cllrs. Blandford (Chairman), Coxon, Humphrey, McQuarrie, Marshall, Roberts, Rose and Wilson.  
Also present: Clerk Beccy Macklen.

**Public:** 2

**01/07/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Illingworth, Johnson, ESCC Galley and clerk Claudine Feltham

Cllr Bolton was absent.

**02/07/22 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. Rose declared a prejudicial interest in any matters relating to the land west of Church Road (Beechbrook Park due to having owned part of the application site)

**03/07/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

**04/07/22 ESCC/WDC REPORT**

In the absence of Cllrs Illingworth and Galley there was no WDC or ESCC update.

**05/07/22 NEW HALL PROJECT – UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**AiRS** - the clerk called a previous contact from AiRS who has now retired but could remember the site in detail as she had helped the Ionides Trust draw up the documentation when the PC became the managing trustees of the site. She put all the new and existing information in an email to the new officer at AiRS, Robert Horn who finally contacted the clerk after a chasing email was sent. The clerk will now engage with AiRS as to how they think they can best support the process of embarking on a new hall for Buxted and report back to members.

A brief discussion took place with regards any CIL gains with Cllr Humphrey commenting that residents of FAD may not be happy to have CIL monies gained

from development in FAD to be spent on a new hall in Buxted.

## 06/07/22 **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:** Due to the recent changes in Government, and the uncertainty this inevitably has on future requirements of housing numbers for the area, WDC will not be progressing with the Local Plan consultation at this time.

### **Property issues:**

**The Dene, Uckfield – ratification of resolution to dispose of The Dene and update following previous meeting –** At the previous meeting the Parish Council briefly discussed the disposal of The Dene, Uckfield. The purpose of this item is to ratify and officially minute that Buxted Parish Council, proposed by Cllr. Coxon and seconded by Cllr Roberts, unanimously **resolved** to permanently dispose of the land known as The Dene, Uckfield.

The process has been started to market the Dene with WDC giving notice to the group in Uckfield who registered the site as a community asset. The group has six weeks to decide as to whether they wish to place a bid on the land. The six weeks will expire on 3rd August. Should the group not wish to make a bid, the parish council is then free to sell the land on the open market.

**Play Equipment – notification of damage to basket swing, repairs, maintenance -** This is to update members that Touchwood will be visiting the Buxted Recreation Ground site on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July to assess the basket swing and zip wires for any repairs/maintenance required. The cost of this is £938 and is **agreed**. Since originally contacting Touchwood the annual play inspection has taken place which has resulted in the basket swing being taken out of use as it has a large gouge out of one of the structural beams. Thank you to Andrew Rose who went to the site on the day of the phone call to chain up the equipment. All the costs associated with this work will be covered by the Ionides Trust, as funds were kept back from the S106 agreement for playground contributions from the Beechbrook Park development.

**Fingerposts – update –** the clerk has been trying to source a new fingerpost contractor. The chairman very kindly set out a map of all fingerposts in the parish which has been forwarded to a local contractor to obtain a quote.

**Reading Room –** Following two years of chasing of WDC for the Section 106 agreement to be signed the clerk finally heard back from the planning officer this week who advised the matter was with the council solicitors. An extension of time until the end of the month has been requested by WDC and agreed to by the parish council. The clerk will query the drafting fee and need for a solicitor as the parish council is sure this was paid two years ago.

**Communications Matters:** nothing to report.

## 07/07/22 **CORRESPONDENCE**

*No priority correspondence*

**08/02/22 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

None

**09/07/22 FINANCE**

i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Roberts seconded by Cllr. McQuarrie, payments including direct debits totalling £6566.05 covered by cheque numbers 4891 and 4904 were approved.

ii) To receive the following RBS reports: Ear marked reserves, Trial Balance, Receipts and Payments, Cash and Investment Reconciliation - Noted

**10/07/22 OTHER MEETINGS**

No other meetings

**11/07/22 MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

New password for Cllr Rose email.

**12/07/22 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting closed at 8.45p.m.

<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 22/9 – clerk forwarded email to Cllr Galley to help chase 06/10 – ESCC response explaining why lights cannot be switched off and that new lamps would be better and can be fitted with guards 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 Jan 2022 – Highways officer offer to change lighting to reduced light and to

			<p>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> <p>16/5/22 – Highways responded advising they require an anonymous survey of all residents of Britts Farm Road to prove it is what is wanted but they do not have the resources to carry this out. Clerk has asked exactly what format the questionnaire should be in so the PC/local residents would undertake task</p> <p>25/5 – ESCC response they do not have an anonymous survey as they have never carried one out before. Clerk to draw up a survey which will be circulated by a local resident</p> <p>9/6 – 13 anonymous letters hand delivered to thirteen most affected residents</p> <p>26/6 – 9 letters returned. 61% agreeing lights should be switched off. Email to Roy Galley providing info before it is sent to Highways.</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
17/02/2022		<p>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.</p> <p>Etchingwood Lane is absolutely dreadful</p> <p>Millwood Lane is getting terrible towards the timber yard.</p>	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	<p>28/3 – application for licence submitted to ESCC – confirmation received and passed to Licencing department</p> <p>28/6 – No response received from Licencing, so a chasing email sent</p>

## Ionides Trust Update:

### **1. Play equipment repairs and maintenance – cost implications**

It was confirmed the Ionides Trust would pay for any costs associated with the repair/maintenance of the works carried out by Touchwood to the play equipment on the recreation ground.

### **2. Jubilee Funds**

A member asked if the promised Jubilee funds have been paid back into the Ionides account. To the best of her knowledge the clerk did not think they have, so the clerk would ask Claudine to confirm and chase if not.