



# 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

14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Buxted on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.30p.m.

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

**Public:** 2  
Following a request, it was confirmed that broken stiles should be reported to East Sussex County Council Rights of Way team: [Report a problem with a right of way | East Sussex County Council](#)

#### 01/06/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Illingworth and ESCC Cllr Galley. Cllrs Bolton and Johnson were absent from the meeting.

#### 02/06/22 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)

#### 03/06/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

#### 04/06/22 ESCC/WDC REPORT

Due to apologies from ESCC Cllr Galley and WDC Cllr Illingworth, there was no ESCC/WDC update although Cllr Blandford commented on flyers that had been posted to households, notifying residents of forthcoming road closures for road works, by ESCC. It seemed an expensive method of notification and very little repairs had actually taken place.

#### 05/06/22 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS – AMENDMENT TO SECTION 18 FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT

Prior to the meeting the clerk circulated the section of the Standing Orders which has been amended by NALC. This refers to financial controls relating to the EU (now removed). **Resolved** - Members accepted the changes and reviewed Standing Orders.

**06/06/22 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – REVIEW OF THE EVENT**

Members who were in attendance on the evening commented that the presentations were very good but the reception from some of those in attendance was negative and disparaging, although, at a show of hands from those present, there was a majority in favour of a new hall.

The parish council discussed if a new hall group should be formed with representation from the Parish Council together with those members of the public who have shown an interest being involved. Should we also look at producing a new neighbourhood plan?

It was agreed that the obvious next step would be to ask Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) to attend a meeting to provide some help with the best way forward. We can also ask Michelle Warner to attend a parish council meeting to advise on Neighbourhood Plans. The clerk would also continue to maintain contact with parishioners who are interested in being involved.

**Resolved the following Actions:**

1. Contact AiRS to attend a parish council meeting to advise on the way forward
2. Ask Michelle Warner to attend a parish council meeting to advise on a possible neighbourhood plan
3. Form a Sub-Committee with members of the parish council and members of the public
4. Start the process of marketing the Reading Room site and The Dene (with a 25-year overage clause)

**07/06/22 FOR MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THE END OF YEAR RBS REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) (circulated prior to the meeting)**

Cllr. Roberts as chairman of Finance commented that all reports had been reviewed and were properly prepared in a way that councillors are able approve all systems and accounts reports. The parish council thanked Claudine for all her hard work producing an excellent set of accounts for the year. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Humphrey seconded – all in agreement.

**08/06/22 TO RECEIVE THE FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FROM MULBERRY & CO (DATED 16.5.22) AND THE AUDITORS SIGNED PAGE OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/2022 FORM 3**

The parish council acknowledge receipt of the internal auditor's report

**09/06/22 FOR MEMBERS TO APPROVE SECTION 1 - ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/2022 AND FOR THE CLERK AND CHAIR TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT**

**Resolved:** All members of Buxted Parish Council acknowledged their responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements for the year ended 2022. This was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Humphrey, all Cllrs in agreement.

**10/06/22 FOR MEMBERS TO APPROVE SECTION 2 – ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/2022 AND FOR THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT, AS PREPARED AND SIGNED BY THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Humphrey the Accounting

Statements be approved, all Cllrs in agreement.

11/06/22 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

**Mobile Phone Coverage:** Noting to report

**Public footpaths:** Nothing to report.

**Trees:** Nothing to report.

**Road Safety:** Nothing to report

**Wealden Local Development Framework:** Nothing to report.

**Property issues:**

- **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 has still not received any further correspondence from the landowner with regards the footpath. Members discussed the possibility of a new boundary fence/hedge and decided to review this issue in the next couple of months given that a planning application on the adjoining site has been refused, so the use of the land may well change.

**Communications Matters:** Nothing to report.

12/06/22 **CORRESPONDENCE**

No priority correspondence

13/06/22 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

None

14/06/22 **FINANCE**

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Roberts seconded by Cllr. Wilson payments totalling £16,050.77 covered by cheque numbers 4851 and 4868 plus direct debits were approved.

15/06/22 **OTHER MEETINGS**

Cllr Blandford attended the online Road Safety event. Perhaps understandably the police direct their efforts on road safety to issues where there is potential loss of life. They still are promoting Speed Watch without having made any obvious changes in their monitoring processes to improve their backup of local groups. Gavin Patch, Wealden District Commander offered to check with his teams so BPC can know when there has been a police presence in Buxted. They are aware there is an issue on parking within zigzag lines in Buxted. Clerk to email Gavin Patch requesting information.

Cllr Humphrey attended the FAD Village Hall Committee meeting the evening before – no action for the parish council.

16/06/22 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Report on Jubilee celebrations in Five Ash Down – Chris Humphrey reported that the street party was very well attended, everyone was very generous, and fun was had by all.

17/06/22 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
None

The meeting closed at 20.35p.m.

See below: ongoing issues reported to ESCC Highways:

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
<p>21/12/2020 <b>ONGOING</b></p>	<p>00527587</p>	<p>Switching off of streetlamps in Britts Farm alleyway, or at least switching off one on 24 hours</p>	<p>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 switch off from midnight to sunrise. Residents do not agree to this and still want lamps removed or permanently switched off            7/3/22 – Highways agreed to make investigations with a view to removing lights            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</p>

			questionnaire should be in so the PC/local residents would undertake task 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
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		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

**Ionides Trust Update:**

**1. Any feedback on Jubilee Celebrations**

Members who attended thought the event was very good.

Although neither director of the event were in attendance at this meeting (Cllrs Bolton and Illingworth) the following information had been received:

- Approximately £9000 raised for local clubs/societies and charities.
- Approximately 2500 people through the gates.
- Almost £2300 raised to start off next years event
- Lots of positive feedback, no complaints registered yet

£2294.91 was raised for next year's event. The organisers believe it is best to keep that in the Ionides trust account as ring fenced reserves, until next year's committee needs it or at such point any organising committee decides that a bank account of their own may be the best way forward. It was suggested a time limit on it such as 3 years, where if no event has happened the monies can be moved into general reserves.

Members agreed that the monies should be deposited back into the Ionides Trust account.

Cllr Humphrey expressed disappointment that, since providing the funds there has been very little or no communication from either parish councillor regarding the event and one councillor has not attended any meetings or updated the Ionides Trust during the organisational stages.

One member asked why the church and Buxted fete combined? Possibly that the church fete raise money to be used at the church only whereas the village fete is for multiple groups/clubs/charities.

Meeting closed at 20.52