



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

10th May 2022

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in Five Ash Down Village Hall on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.50p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Blandford (Chairman), Humphrey, McQuarrie, Marshall, and Roberts.
Also present: ESCC Cllr. Galley and Clerks Beccy Macklen and Claudine Feltham.

Public : 2 – in response to a question raised by a member of the public, the clerk confirmed that she should be notified of any out-of-date news still showing on the website.

01/05/22 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR
Proposed by Cllr. Humphrey and seconded by Cllr. McQuarrie, Councillor Vivienne Blandford was unanimously voted to remain as Chairman to Buxted Parish Council

02/05/22 SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE NEW CHAIRMAN
In accordance with Local Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) Order 2001. (SI 3941 of 2001) the Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

03/05/22 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
Proposed by Cllr Blandford and seconded by Cllr Roberts, Councillor John Rose was unanimously voted to remain Vice Chairman of the Council. In his absence, Cllr. Humphrey agreed to take on the position of Vice Chair If Cllr Rose was absent.

04/05/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Coxon, Illingworth, Moss (resigned) and Wilson. No apologies received from Cllrs Bolton or Johnson.

05/04/22 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.

06/05/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2022 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

07/05/22 ESCC/WDC REPORT
Cllr Galley reported that ESCC had met that morning and he was re-elected as Vice Chair for another year. ESCC currently has a budget of £40million for bus services so work is needed to establish where this will be spent. He also reported on the huge call from Brighton residents for divestment from fossil fuels in relation to pension funds.

In the absence of Cllr Illingworth, Cllr Galley reported WDC will meet for its annual meeting next week with a new leader, Cllr Ann Newton. The current bin strike continues which does not seem to be ending. Wealden are continuing to negotiate but the latest offer has been rejected. Cllr. Humphrey commented that if Biffa are not carrying out its contract, surely WDC can organise another contractor to carry out the work. It was also asked if members of the public will be receiving a refund on garden waste collections. Cllr Galley could not confirm this but mentioned that the contracts may extend past the paid period to cover the lost weeks.

08/05/22 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS, POLICIES AND REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – two days prior to the meeting the parish council received new amended to Standing Orders/Financial Regulations. Therefore, the parish council reviewed and agreed the documents we have in place and the clerks would circulate the changes to the Financial Regulations in time for the next meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr. Blandford the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Policies were **reviewed** and **agreed** as they stand at present and any specific amendments to the Financial Regulations would be presented at the next parish council meeting in June.

09/05/22 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

Prior to the meeting, the clerk circulated a draft list of elections and appointment of members to committees and other bodies. Cllr McQuarrie agreed to be Cahir of Planning.

The list was agreed (see below and end of minutes)

10/05/22 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY PLANS – UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTY – Following the last parish council meeting the working party met to discuss a presentation and the best way to engage with parishioners. Cllrs Blandford, Roberts and Coxon have agreed and joint presentation.

Cllr Roberts commented that a PowerPoint presentation has been created to show the history of the site/new hall/old hall, demise of Reading Room and what has already been carried out in connection with the new hall. The focus will be that the new building will be a centre for the village. Reference will also be made to financing the project and how this could be achieved. Members also discussed the need to have members of the community to come forward join the parish council project to move it forward.

The clerks would arrange refreshments to follow the meeting.

11/05/22 OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Mobile Phone Coverage: Noting to report

Public footpaths: Nothing to report

Trees: Nothing to report

Road Safety: Noting to report

Wealden Local Development Framework: No update

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

Despite chasing the owner of the site, the clerk has not received any further notification or confirmation that the application for registration of the footpath should go ahead.

The chairman also mentioned that the zip wire and cantilever swing is due some maintenance which is being arranged with Touchwood who installed the equipment. A quote is awaited.

➤ **The Dene, Uckfield – Request for handrail – update**

Following the previous meeting and resolution, the clerk to Uckfield TC met with the local resident (who attended the meeting) on site to discuss the issues. After further in-depth investigations into ownership, it was established that the pathway belongs to the neighbouring property.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report

12/05/22 **CORRESPONDENCE**
No priority correspondence

13/05/22 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
None

14/05/22 **FINANCE**

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Roberts seconded by Cllr. Marshall, payments totalling £5352 covered by cheque numbers 4841 and 4850 were approved. Claudine mentioned that due to the change of payroll company there are two pensions' contributions (April and May) in this month's payments list.
- ii) consideration of quote for Parish Council annual insurance – Members discussed the quote and agreed the costs and to tie in for three years. The clerk as asked to check the councillor liability aspect of the policy and to confirm the cover is sufficient. Proposed by Cllr. Roberts and seconded by Cllr Marshall the insurance quote was **accepted**.
- iii) consideration of grant application from Til Tomorrow Theatre Company – members agreed to support the grant of £230 but comment that we are not the hosting parish and that they should also apply to Hadlow Down Parish Council for a further grant.

15/05/22 **OTHER MEETINGS**
No other meetings

16/05/22 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**
In answer to a question, the clerk confirmed that the fingerpost in Limes Lane is being made and a further fingerpost is being fixed by a local resident. The clerk is still sourcing a contractor to take on the maintenance of all other fingerposts.

17/05/22 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The chairman wanted to thank the litter pickers for undertaking two weekends of cleaning up in Buxted and High Hurstwood.

The meeting closed at 8.35p.m.

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
21/12/2020 ONGOING	00527587	Switching off streetlamps in Britts Farm alleyway, or at least switching off one on 24	21/12 – passed to officers 26/1 – still being discussed by officers 22/2 – resident advised that the orange

		hours	<p>light has now changed to a bright white light and is still on 24 hours (so worse situation)</p> <p>10/3 – apologies from ESCC for slow response. Explanation of why lamp was changed to white light. Still looking at putting timers on lights</p> <p>11/3 – Response by clerk. Crossed wires, we want the lights turned off not on timers.</p> <p>23/3 – ESCC confirm they are still looking into being able to switch off lights</p> <p>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</p> <p>19/7 – clerk chased an email sent asking for further clarification as to why lights cannot be switched off</p> <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 ONGOING	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	28/3 – application for licence submitted to ESCC

	Role	As of 10 May 2022,
1	Chairman of the Council	Cllr Blandford
2	Vice Chairman	Cllr Rose supported by Cllr Humphrey
3	Planning Committee	<i>(Chairman)</i> Cllr McQuarrie, Cllrs Coxon, Humphrey, Marshall, and Roberts
4	Finance Committee	<i>(Chairman)</i> Cllr Roberts, plus Cllrs Coxon, Illingworth, Johnson, McQuarrie, and Rose
5	Recreation Grounds & Properties Committee	<i>(Chairman)</i> Cllr Rose, plus Cllrs Coxon, Humphrey
7	Ward Chairman Buxted	Cllr McQuarrie
8	Ward Chairman High Hurstwood	<i>No available councillor</i>
9	Ward Chairman Five Ash Down	Cllr Humphrey
10	Parish Tree Warden	Cllr Blandford
11	Parish Footpath co-ordinator	Cllr. Coxon
12	School Governor Buxted	TBA, if required
13	School Governor High Hurstwood	Not required
14	Wealden District Association of Local Councils	Given more focus on Localism/Planning issues someone from Planning ought to attend, even on a rota basis
15	WDC Parish Liaison Panel	Clerks
16	Police Liaison Officer	Cllr Rose
17	Uckfield Rail Line Parishes Committee	<i>No available councillor</i>
18	High Hurstwood Village Hall Management Committee	Not required (we are not asked for one)
19	Five Ash Down Village Hall Management Committee (2 representative members)	Cllr. Humphrey
20	Buxted Pavilion Charity Management Committee	Cllr Rose
21	Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison	Cllrs Blandford & Coxon

Ionides Trust Update:

1. Any update on Jubilee Celebrations

No update received. Cllr Humphrey wished to express his disappointment that there has been no updates and no attendance at the meeting by the organiser of the event.

Concerns were raised with reference to the insurance documents and risk assessment that could not be answered, as there was no representative of the Jubilee committee present at the meeting. The Trust therefore requires a copy of the risk assessment and insurance, at the latest, 16 days prior to the event (18th May) as an extra meeting, of the Ionides Trust, has been arranged to review the documents on Thursday 19th May at which the organiser or a Jubilee committee member is requested to attend to answer any questions the Trust may wish to be clarified or any additional concerns that the Ionides Trust may have. It was decided to send an email to Cllr Nick Bolton who is organising the Jubilee party, tomorrow morning, so that he has plenty of time to comply with this request.

2. Bench at playpark

The bench outside the play area on the Ionides Trust is insecure and should be replaced. Agreed to replace with a Jubilee bench. **Agreed.**

3. Thank you to Scouts for new benches outside the Scout Hut.

Meeting closed 8.59