

**Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF Bucknell Parish Council held on
12th May 2025**

Councillors present	Cllr Chris Wells (CW) Chair
	Cllr Derek Hedges (DH)
	Cllr Richard Johnson (RJ)
	Cllr Patrick Woodrow (PW)
	Cllr Steve Read (SR)
County/District Councillors present	D/Cllr Grace Conway Murray

05.25.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from C/Cllr Will Boucher Giles

05.25.02. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2024 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

05.25.03 Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest, Gifts and Hospitality-

- Cllr Hedges as a riparian owner and owner of Playing Field Land and Trustee of Playing Field and Village Hall charities
- Cllr Hedges as part owner of Manor Farm
- Cllr Hedges declared an interest in agenda Item 10a and left the room for this discussion.
- Cllr Wells as Treasurer of NORA

05.25.04 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present

05.25.05 To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year

PW offered to stand and was seconded by SR and DH and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

05.25.06 To elect a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year

SR offered to take on this role and was seconded by RJ and CW and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

05.25.07 To appoint the Responsible Financial Officer for the forthcoming year

Cathy Fleet was re-elected as RFO

05.25.08 Public Participation

05.25.09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2025 had been circulated, were checked for accuracy and content and agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

05.25.10 Village Matters (only items in bold to be covered in meeting)

Cllr Hedges expressed a wish to be present for the Puy du Fou discussions. It was explained to him that this was not possible due to his interests in the proposal. Cllr Hedges refused to leave the meeting when asked, leading to a

robust discussion with other members of the parish council over a need to respect the proper protocol for handling conflicts of interest. In order to diffuse the situation, the parish council agreed to move the Puy du Fou agenda item to the end of the meeting, with Cllr Hedges agreeing to leave the meeting at this point. Additionally, Cllr Hedges expressed disappointment in the parish council and accused the PC of employing 'bullying tactics' towards him in relation to Puy du Fou, which the parish council did not agree with. He also stated that he felt that the PC were not concentrating on other important matters in the village. The Chair invited Cllr Hedges to raise a formal complaint of bullying against the PC, which Cllr Hedges declined, and sought to reassure Cllr Hedges that the parish council's opposition (on behalf of the parish) to Puy du Fou's plans was not personal.

- a. **Puy du Fou** – The NO to PDF website is still live but has been inactive since last summer; it will be resurrected and work in conjunction with NORA. There is a meeting with PDF tomorrow which Cllr Wells and James Alcock are attending. PDF are holding similar meetings with other villages.
- b. **Thames Water and village flood water** - Cllr Hedges spoke of the capacity on Bicester Road from 2 points, one from the pond and one from Manor View which has been changed from an 18" stone culvert to a smaller pipe which causes flooding. Cllr Woodrow suggested that he and Cllr Read meet with Cllr Hedges for him to brief the new councillors on the problem. **Cllr Conway Murray to discuss flooding issues with Tony Brammell (CDC) and her contact at OCC.**
- c. **Ardley Incinerator** – Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. Cllr Hedges added that he had spent a lot of his own money in the past fighting the building of the incinerator to no avail.
- d. **Valencia – Ardley Landfill** – **Cllr Hedges will ask his contact to come and meet the village to explain the sewage which is being discharged.**
- e. **Traffic Calming** – Cllr Hedges has been involved in traffic calming for many years and suggested that the PC should consider road closures and a bypass around Bucknell and additional traffic mitigation schemes from the developer. Cllr Conway Murray explained the S106 process and thought it likely that any road schemes would be per development and would therefore would be a staged process. Letters have been sent to OCC Highways re closing roads and installing ANPR thereby providing restricted access. Those letters to be sent to **Cllr Conway Murray to chase - Action Cllr Wells**
- f. **Hawkwell Village** - *To receive reports from councillors with updates*
- g. **Cherwell District Plan 2040**

05.25.11

Communication

No communication had been received not dealt with elsewhere

- 05.25.12 Co-option of councillors** - Nick Topliss is keen to be co-opted but was unable to attend this meeting so will be co-opted at the next meeting. Lee Brain is also interested in being co-opted
- 05.25.13 Reports from District and County Councillors**
A letter had been received from C/Cllr Will Boucher Giles introducing himself as new County Councillor, sending his apologies for absence and outlining his work with the Economy and Place Team at OCC
- 05.25.14 Old Playing Field Licence** - The revised copy of the lease has been received from the solicitors and shared with James Alcock and Tim Brown, who have raised a few minor issues which will be attended to
Clerk to forward copy of the draft Licence to Cllr Woodrow.
- 05.25.15 Highways –**
Footpath condition outside the Old Bakery on Bainton Road to be reported on FMS -
Action Cllr Woodrow
Cllr Wells to request map of drains from OCC (Fol request)
- 05.25.16 Finance**
- a. Authorisation of the payment schedule was completed
 - b. The End of Year Accounts were approved and signed
 - c. The Internal Auditor Report was received
 - d. The Certificate of Exemption was signed
 - e. The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed
 - f. The Accounting Statements were approved and signed.
- RFO to amend Bank Mandate to include PW and SR as signatories on the account and remove Alexander Bowden.**
- 05.25.17 Planning**
The following planning documents had been received:
25/00805/LB Old Rectory, Bainton Road - APPROVED by CDC
- 05.25.18 Items for information or next Agenda only** – all items for the next agenda to be submitted to Bucknell.clerk@gmail.com by **24th June 2025**
- 05.25.19 Date of next meetings –second Monday of alternate months at 7.30pm, in Bucknell Village Hall**
14th July , 8th September, 10th November

Other matters

Cllr Read had emailed TOE regarding a grant scheme for The Pond – the remit is to promote ponds for wildlife – and he has spoken with the TOE rep. Available funding comes from landfill tax eg Grundon . Next stage is to put in a long term plan of what the PC proposes to do. SR to progress

Cllr Hedges requested that the PC may consider DBS checking for councillors. As this was not an agenda item no decision could be made but will be considered at the next meeting.

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

No	Action	Owner	Update
May25.01	. Cllr Conway Murray to discuss flooding issues with Tony Brammell (CDC) and her contact at OCC.	GCM	
May25.02	Cllr Hedges will ask his contact at Valencia to come and meet the village to explain the sewage which is being discharged	DH	
May25.03	CW to forward emails sent to Louise Waite, and Gargi Holland, from the Place Planning Cherwell Team to GCM to chase up	CW/GCM	Emails forwarded to GCM
May24.04	Clerk to send copy of Old Playing Field Licence to PW	CF	Completed
May25.05	Footpath condition outside the Old Bakery on Bainton Road to be reported on FMS	PW	
May25.06	CW to request map of drains from OCC (Fol request)	CW	Completed
May25.07	RFO to amend Bank Mandate to include PW and SR as signatories on the account and remove Alexander Bowden	CF	

Signed Bucknell PC Chair

Date: