

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Buckland Parish Council will be held at 8pm
on Monday 13th January 2025 in The Reading Room, Old Road, Buckland

AGENDA

Council may wish to exclude the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media from the meeting prior to consideration of an item if Council considers publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be contracted.

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors with respect to any item to be considered at the meeting.

3. Requests for Dispensations

To consider any requests from Councillors for a dispensation with respect to a declaration of interest made under item 2.

4. Minutes

To agree the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024.

5. Open Forum

Members of the public are invited to put questions or draw relevant matters to Council's attention. The period designated for public participation is for a period of up to 15 minutes and shall be limited to 5 minutes per person.

The Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given as Council will only debate and take decisions relating to business on the Agenda.

6. Finance

Account Payments

- a) To note the application of bank charges and interest to bank accounts held at Unity Bank.
- b) To consider recommendation to renew membership of:
 - NALC via its Surrey ALC branch for 2025/26 for a fee of £212.24 (2024/25 £201.80); and
 - the Surrey Hills Society for 2025/26 for a fee of £30.00.
- c) To approve accounts for payment:
 - SOS Business Supplies £74.03 including £12.34 Vat, Printer toners;
 - Royal Mail Group £424.20 including £70.70 Vat, PO Box annual fee;
 - HMRC £140.96, PAYE liability re: December salary payment;
 - Sheena Boyce £59.53 including £1.33 Vat, Reimbursement re mileage and car park fees;
 - Nigel Husband £14.85, Reimbursement re mileage;
 - Information Commissioner Office £35 (by direct debit via Unity Bank), Renewal of Annual Registration Fee : Data Protection;
 - HMRC £140.96, PAYE liability re: January salary payment.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk

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- d) To note Cllr Jones had completed a verification of the bank balances entered on the bank reconciliation prepared for the period 1st October 2024 – 31st December 2024 against the bank statements and review of entries to identify any exceptions occurring.

Budget and Precept

- e) To consider the draft budget alongside the schedule of explanatory notes and draft assumptions;
- f) To approve budgeted expenditure for the period April 2025 – March 2026;
- g) To approve a precept request for the period April 2025 – March 2026.

7. Amenities and Volunteer Activity

- a) To note the recent removal of the flagpole from the village green and consider a proposal to launch an initiative to install a new flagpole, to be listed as a parish council asset, insured under the parish council public liability insurance policy and installed in time to fly the union flag to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE day.
- b) To receive an update on recent volunteer activity and consider future priorities.
- c) To consider a recommendation to enter a one-year contract for grass cutting services for the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2025.
- d) To consider arrangements for the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

8. Highways, Airports and Rights of Way

- a) To receive an update on and consider appropriate follow up actions with respect to requests submitted to Surrey County Council (SCC) Highways via SCC Cllr Helyn Clack relating to:
- A25 – Maintenance;
 - A25 Road Safety Improvements; and
 - Bus stop signage.
- b) To consider a recommendation to:
- authorise budgeted winter maintenance to edge footways between the parish boundary by Tranquil Dale and Rectory Lane; and
 - encourage all users to report problems they encounter on the footways to the east of the village centre to SCC Highways given the parish council is unable to employ contractors to work on sections of previously cleared footway that do not have an intact top surface.
- c) To consider Council's response to a SCC consultation on a draft rights of way improvement plan for Surrey.

9. Planning

New Planning Applications

- a) To receive an update from the Clerk re:
- MO/2024/1828: Fell one ash tree and reduce the overall size of crown of Weeping Willow, by (a) reducing height by 3-4m (re growth) and (b) reducing sides by up to 3m keeping weeping effect to leave at a height of 10m and width of 10 m at Bratton Hill, Slough Lane.

Planning Notifications

- b) To record notifications issued by Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) and SCC.

Planning Enforcement

- c) To receive an update on enforcement enquires submitted to MVDC.

Planning Policy

- d) To note publication of a new National Planning Policy Framework.
- e) To consider Council's response to forthcoming MVDC consultations on:
 - Affordable Housing SPD– to provide information to developers on how the Council wants affordable housing to be delivered;
 - Householder Application SPD – to give applicants information on the best way to make applications to extend their own property; and
 - Planning Obligations SPD – to set out how MVDC wants to use S106 Agreements to deliver the infrastructure needed to support delivery the Local Plan

10. Formalities

- a) To receive a crime report and update provided by Mole Valley Neighbourhood Police team.
- b) To note:
 - publication of the English Devolution White Paper – Power and Partnership: Foundations for Growth;
 - NALC's recently expressed opinion that the government is pushing for stronger community engagement and a rewiring of the relationship between town and parish councils and principal authorities; and
 - Surrey ALC's call for Surrey's principal authorities to enter proactive collaborative engagement with parish councils.
- c) To consider Council's response to the Government consultation on Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England.
- d) To receive an update on the Re-Betchworth 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative, to include consideration of recently circulated proposals relating to the future structure and governance of an as yet to be constituted organisation and steps taken to address concerns set out in the November meeting pursuant to agreeing appropriate follow up actions for Council.
- e) To note details of consultations and updates published on the village website, highlighted in parish updates, and circulated to Councillors.

11. Forthcoming Meetings

To confirm dates of future meetings.

Sheena Boyce
8th January 2025

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