



BUXTED

PARISH COUNCIL

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8th July 2025

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Buxted on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Blandford (Chairman), Duck, Furber, Humphrey, Mallett, Marshall, Muddle, Rose and Smith.
Also present: ESCC Cllr Galley, WDC Cllr Shaw and Clerk: Claudine Feltham.

Public: One member of public present

01/07/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies received and accepted from Clerk: Mrs Beccy Wadey.

02/07/25 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 Smith declared a personal interest in any matters related to allotments due to being an allotment holder.

Cllr Duck declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the High Hurstwood Village Hall Committee by virtue of being a member of the committee.

Cllr Humphrey declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Five Ash Down Village Hall Committee by virtue of being the parish council representative on the committee.

03/07/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
Resolved: the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2025 were approved by full council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

04/07/25 ESCC/WDC REPORT

ESCC Cllr Galley (RG): attended the county council meeting today. The matter of the planning and infrastructure bill that is going through parliament was considered at the meeting. There are concerns that the level of environmental protection will be reduced and there will be less scrutiny on planning applications (applications would be more Officer led). All parties are concerned over this bill, as they are looking to streamline the planning processes and get more planning applications approved. RG has been looking at the Uckfield and surrounding areas planning applications, and the impact this will have on the highways. There are 2400 applications approved already, plus 1700 proposed for the Owlsbury site, along with other in

Newick and Bird In Eye that are not even in the figures yet. Potentially this is 5000 new houses coming into the area.

Would question if people can afford to buy all of these houses? Is there the market for them?

RG advised members that the High Street drainage issues were being progressed. The matter of the overgrown hedge at Totease is now in hand, and the hedge at Heatherwode was eventually sorted.

Cllr Humphrey (CH): advised RG of an issue with the works at the bridge at Underhill (where it has been closed for more than 3 years). Works have now started to repair the bridge, and the contractors have now closed the road completely, even to pedestrians, however, there are no advance warning signs about this.

Action: request for RG to investigate this and provide an update to CH by the end of the week so that he can inform local residents.

RG advised that he is also looking to get permanent signage to say unsuitable for HGVs (Millwood Lane and Underhill).

Cllr Humphrey advised that at the Five Ash Down end of Millwood Lane there is also a missing 30 mph sign missing.

Action: Clerk to report this to East Sussex Highways (ESH) Customer Service Manager.

Cllr Furber (SF): advised RG that the next drain up from Broadoak was also an issue. (Overall, there were 21 drains blocked when the walk with ESCC Cllr Galley was undertaken). SF added that he did not believe that the culvert by KSV would survive the winter. RG explained that ESH Customer Service Manager has advised the Clerk that these works are in hand.

CH explained to members that on 28th April 2025 he reported that 50 yards west of traffic lights at Coopers Green there was a blocked drain. The drain is still blocked.

Action: Clerk to report this to East Sussex Highways (ESH) Customer Service Manager.

WDC Cllr Shaw: the report by WDC Cllr Shaw (GS) had been circulated to members today. He added that there were currently lots of issues around affordable housing with developers cutting the affordable housing amounts, especially those for rent.

Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF) were available to the tune of £200 million. Cllr Duck (AD) enquired if these could be used for solar panels for High Hurstwood Village Hall? And GS commented that may CH could consider Five Ash Down Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to circulate the press release to AD and CH.

GS: today WDC adopted their new constitution; to strengthen some matters including a change to the planning committee structure. WDC will be having major and minors planning committees. Majors will be for developments of 10 or more dwellings (or infrastructure matters).

Cllr Blandford (VB) enquired who would be on the committee? GS advised that the size of committee has gone down from 12 to 9 (and would be politically balanced). The rationale behind the decision was that the major applications require much more work and specialist background knowledge, and it was felt to have 12 members would be difficult to achieve.

Certainly on the major applications there would be named substitutes that would need to be available. The substitutes would need to be treated the same for training and briefing purposes.

VB: what happens if they cannot agree – it previously went from PCN to PCS? GS

advised that would not happen now, and the previous arrangements didn't stand up to scrutiny. Committees will have to decide one way or another, or defer for a further meeting.

05/07/25 NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY FOR ADOPTION BY BUXTED PARISH COUNCIL

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Smith (PS), seconded by CH, the new NALC Information Technology Policy was adopted.

06/07/25 REQUEST FOR PARISH COUNCIL TO FUND DEFIBRILLATOR IN HIGH HURSTWOOD TRINITY CHURCH

Cllr Duck (AD) requested the parish council consider purchasing a defibrillator to be installed in the Holy Trinity Church, High Hurstwood, as it has done at St Margarets Church, Buxted.

They would like for the defibrillator to be purchased through Crowborough Community First Responders. The proposed defibrillator is a MINDRAY C1A Defib with outdoor cabinet. The price is £1370.10.

AD advised members that the exact location at High Hurstwood Church had not yet been approved and need to be considered by their estates department, as there maybe restrictions on this building.

Members commented that they would ideally like for the defibrillator to be available 24/7 (unlike the one installed at St Margarets Church, Buxted).

SF opposed for a defibrillator to be installed that wasn't available 24/7.

BPC would be happy to provide a defibrillator provided a suitable location could be identified.

Action: AD to research re potential locations and respond with information for the next meeting.

Action: to be added to September 2025 agenda for further consideration and decision.

07/07/25 OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Public footpaths: Nothing to report, although the chairman wished to thank the Buxted Together group for the clearance work on the pathway from the station down to Totease House.

Trees: Nothing to report.

Road Safety: Nothing to report.

Wealden Local Development Framework: Nothing to report.

Property issues:

Buxted Recreation Ground – drainage improvements - BPC to consider and approve an application to Wealden Sports Infrastructure fund for £10,000; and for BPC to approve match funding of up to £10,000 (minus any other funds that Buxted Football Club independently raise to these works):

Resolved to agree to the match funding. The Clerk updated that the lengthy application has been started with the main questions answered. We are currently awaiting two more quotes for the drainage work to be able to complete the grant application form online.

SF: queried the onus being on BPC and not the football club. VB: advised that the ground belong to BPC. CH: provided an update on the drainage research works to date.

Resolved: as proposed by AD, seconded by Cllr Rose (JR) members approved for the application to be completed for £10,000 with an agreement of £10,000 match funding from BPC.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report.

08/07/25 **CORRESPONDENCE**

P1 Buxted Resident – would the parish council consider installing a dog waste bin at the end of Gordon Road on the verge next to the litter bin?

Members considered this at length, including the high costs of both installation and removal of waste. CH advised members of the dual-purpose bins being installed in other areas.

Members also noted that this would be close to residential properties who may not wish to encourage dog waste being left in close proximity to their homes.

Action: add to September agenda for consideration of dual use bins and a policy on dog waste.

2017 hours ESCC Cllr Galley left the meeting.

09/07/25 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

None

10/07/25 **FINANCE**

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Rose seconded by Cllr. Smith, payments totalling £8,871.16 (excluding VAT) covered by direct debit and BACS payments were approved.

It was noted that additional invoices are likely to be received later in July and August (when the council do not meet). Members approved for any regular/expected payments (including salaries) to be paid and retrospectively signed at September's council meeting.

- ii) **Bank reconciliations:** The Clerk had circulated completed reconciliations for June prior to the meeting and the paper copies were checked and signed by CH.

- iii) **Noted:** The RBS reports: Ear marked reserves, Trial Balance, Receipts and Payments, Cash and Investment Reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and no questions were raised.

- iv) **Request from FAD Village Hall Committee for reimbursement of annual insurance of £1,225.19.**

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Muddle and seconded by JR the insurance payment was approved.

- v) **Request from St Mary's Church Hall to increase internet charges from £22.14 to £30.95 due to a new contract imposed by BT – Agreed PS and DM all in favour.**

SF enquired if they were paying fibre when fibre was not being supplied.

Resolved: members approved for the additional costs

11/07/25 **OTHER MEETINGS**

No other meetings

12/07/25 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

No questions

13/07/25 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next full council meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th September 2025 in Five Ash Down Village (Cllr Muddle will be apologies). *May need to have a planning committee meeting in August depending upon applications received.*

SF asked if he could request for funding for professional services to assist with ideas for a new village hall.

VB responded for SF come back to September's meeting with ideas and costings so that they could be considered by full council.

Action: add to September's agenda

2025 hours One parishioner left the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.27 p.m.

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
November 2024	EA007FRAMFIELD	Culvert, Framfield Road, Buxted	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Collapsed drainage leading to culvert. Reported some time ago. Highway advised works need planning and extensive repair.</p> <p>19/3 – Highways contacted PC to advise Structural Team will contact PC to arrange a site meeting likely to be in April.</p> <p>May – Cllr Furber attended meeting with ESCC/Balfour Beatty. Agreed work from culvert to KSV would be carried out. Design for culvert currently being designed. Work to be carried out in next financial year.</p> <p>10/06 – clerk to ask Highway if any remedial works will take place to stop the road falling away while a design is being drawn up.</p>
04/02/25	THF003389	Width of footpath between Limes Lane and Pound Green Lane – request to cut back and uncover footpath	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>10/02/25 – Highway Steward has inspected and does not consider works are needed at this time but would keep an eye on it.</p> <p>14/02/25 – Raised with Cllr Galley at meeting. He is raising this issue again with Highways.</p> <p>March 25 - Issue now CLOSED after work carried out by Cllr Furber</p> <p>01/04/25 – Highways confirmed job is now scheduled!</p>
17/02/25	CCY000737	Broken away tarmac (50cm) in Framfield Road/Limes Lane outside KSV and bollard fallen over	<p>REOPENED</p> <p>20/02/25 – ESCC Highways do not consider work is necessary at this time but would continue to monitor – Raise again with Highways.</p> <p>17/3 – Highway Steward revisited. Road still does not meet criteria, but bollard will be replaced.</p> <p>May – work should be carried out in conjunction with culvert repair works (as above EA007FRAMFIELD)</p>
24/05/25	SLO000572	Blocked drains on Buxted High Street	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>29/04/25 - Highway Steward has identified the blockages and has</p>

			<p>scheduled a job to remove water and any excess debris. Additionally, we will conduct a CCTV inspection to check for any breaks or blockages in the pipelines and will use jetting if necessary.</p> <p>02/06 – Cllr Galley suggests walking the route with Highway Steward and councillors. Walk arranged for 10am 9th June</p> <p>09/06 - Cllr Smith walked Buxted High Street (no blocked drains) and Binkeys Farm to Buxted Park which identified 21 blocked drains. Highway Steward to report.</p>
25/04/25	DGD005639	<p>Drains on the A272 between the end of the houses (from Buxted) and Buxted Primary School on the A272</p> <p>Parish Council has walked this stretch and has noted 4 drains in a row that appear to be blocked</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>28/4/25 – Highway Steward inspected No works required.</p> <p>20/05 – Highways confirmed comprehensive assessments to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the planned works have taken place. The root cutting operations will address blockages and prevent future obstructions, while the pipe repairs will ensure the reliability of the drainage system for the community. Works start date to be notified.</p> <p>02/06 – Cllr Galley suggests walking the route with Highway Steward and councillors. Walk arranged for 10am 9th June</p> <p>See above</p>

ENDS

Ionides Trust Update 8th July 2025 following Ionides AGM:

1. Apologies

Were received from Clerk; Mrs Beccy Wadey

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Scout Hut - any update

4.

The email received from Simon Morley, Buxted Scouts (27.6.25) had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Members considered the email and noted that the Scouts Trustees had reaffirmed their intention to make the building available to community groups for hire. The Ionides Trust (IT) members would like to know when (approximate date) the hall will be available for hire so that this news can be shared with other groups who have been asking the IT about this aspect.

Members considered the location of the emergency cluster point and do not see an issue with the car park as the Scouts have suggested and note that such arrangements will be down to the Scouts to manage.

Members observed that the suggested flagpole location is not suitable due to the restrictions it would cause for grass cutting machinery and emergency vehicle access.

Action: Clerk to request for the Scouts to suggest alternative locations for consideration by the IT.

We understand that the informal path through the land was due to be discussed at the Scouts Trustee meeting and request an update about whether this will be removed or the gradients/design changed to make it safe.

One member commented that when recently walking through there he had slipped and did not feel the current gradient and surface were safe, as members have already advised the Scouts.

Members noted that the pipe that went into the woodland remains incomplete and request that the Scouts arrange for this to be completed as soon as possible.

The siting of the table tennis has been discussed with members of the Scouts several times. During a site meeting in 2024 the Scouts advised the IT that they would arrange the re positioning of the table tennis during the time when they had contractors on site. Members therefore request for the Scouts to make the arrangements for this.

Track along front the of Scouts building: one member noted that when he had attended a recent event at the recreation ground that there was a skip parked in the middle of the track along with two Landrovers with trailers. The track was blocked by these and would have prevented an emergency vehicle from gaining access.

Action: Clerk to write to both Buxted Scouts and Buxted Bonfire Society to advise that this must not happen again in future, the access track need to be kept clear for emergency vehicles, at all times.

5. Illegal Camping – update on legal advice – the initial payment has been made to the solicitors and information submitted. Currently awaiting on a response from the solicitor.

6. Quote for clearing car park gullies – a quote to clear the car park gullies has been received at a cost of £350.00 (£40 increase on 2023 costs).

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Mallett and seconded by JR, the costs were approved.

7. **Network Rail Fence** – the fence has not yet been replaced. Sharon from the Community Railway Partnership continues to chase this issue for us.

Action: Clerk to follow this up during the summer.

8. **Grass cutting areas – update following discussion with contractor** – The clerk contacted the contractors with regards the newly landscaped areas outside of the Scout Hut who responded with the following:

“They are very steep so it will be a case of trying to mow what I can and seeing how we get on as I’m worried my mower will just slide. if not, they will have to be strimmed, and I may have to amend my quote to cover the extra time. I have been cutting the area near the fire pole as I got the guys to take the fencing down so at least that areas are now looking tidy.

Action: Clerk to advise the Scouts of the above update and that any increased costs may be passed to them.

VB raised her concerns over the growing docks. SF volunteered for the Community Project to attend to remove them. (We may need to consider having them sprayed in future). They had also volunteered to replace the broken slab where the Christmas tree goes.

Action: Clerk to advise The Scouts of the above.

Cllr Marshall requested for the rifle club lease to be extended to the same date as the Scouts lease.

Action: Clerk to add to the September agenda.

ENDS
