



Buckden Parish
Council

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 15

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL: WORKING FOR YOU

Welcome to the 2014-15 Annual Report from the Buckden Parish Council.

This report is a summary of the actions and decisions taken by Buckden Parish Council over the last year, including details of finances. We also report our activities through monthly meetings, our website, articles in Roundabout and via Parish Council notice boards in the village. There is a public forum at the start of every Parish Council meeting when we welcome you to put forward your views or raise concerns.

The Parish Council is involved in many areas of activity but the road system surrounding Buckden, Diddington and Stirtloe has been a dominant theme this year. The Parish Council have made responses to plans for the A14 and the railway crossing adjacent to Offord, as well as actively promoting improvements to the A1 in our parish.

Fiona Shirley, Chair of Buckden Parish Council, April 2015

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WHAT BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL DID IN 2014/15

The Parish Council was involved in many aspects of village life including:

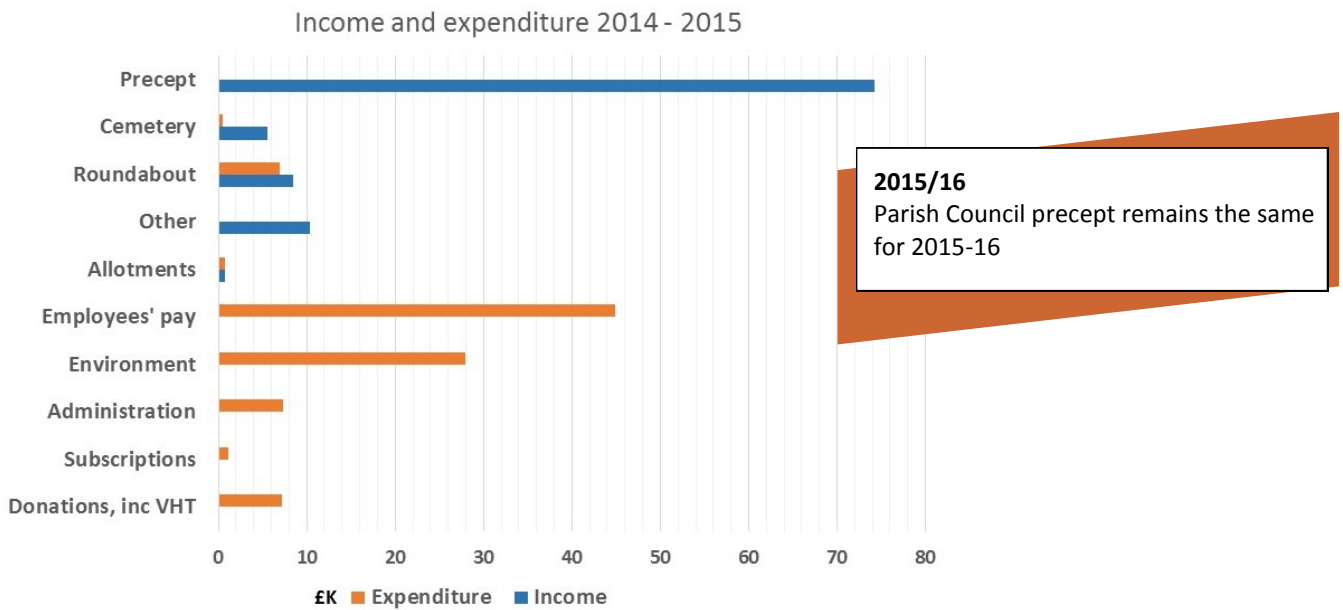
- Roads – actively involved in discussions about safety and future developments of the A14, A1 and local roads, including the proposed new railway crossing to Offord. Conducted *Speedwatch* checks and carried out a survey of pavements. Implemented improvements to Parish Council owned street lights.
- Planning – 41 planning applications were considered and the PC gave recommendations to Huntingdonshire District Council, including refusals. Contributed to the draft Huntingdonshire Strategic Plan to 2036.
- Environment – grass cutting and planting/tending trees and shrubs in many locations in the village, including some recent tree felling. Funded the Christmas lights in the High Street and at Hunts End. Managed the allotments, gave prizes for best kept allotment.
- Quality Council – continued to work towards gaining *Quality Council* status and up-dated the Buckden PC website at www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk
- Footpaths and Cycle tracks – Worked with County Council to ensure all footpaths are passable. Voted to contribute to the installation of a boardwalk on footpath 9 (later in 2015). Continued lobbying for cycle track to Grafham. Published new Footpath Map.
- Links with wider community – the Parish Council participated in meetings with, and responded to, requests for information and views from the following: the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils, HACT and St Neots Timebank. The Parish Council is supporting Buckden's Festival Weekend and anticipates working again with Buckden for Business at Christmas.
- Library - Organised Library Support Volunteers' Group.
- Cemetery – managed the cemetery and currently planning for a future extension adjacent to the Buckden Surgery.
- Donations – made donations to the up-keep of the Village Playing Field and to several charities with Buckden connections, including the Children's Reading Week, St Neots Museum.
- Village Plan— continued to implement the Village Plan recommendations.

WHAT WE DID

A brief summary
of our actions
over the past
year to maintain,
and improve, the
quality of life in
our community.

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIALS 2014-2015

2013-14	Income & Expenditure		2014-15	2014-15
	INCOME			
74,308	Precept			74,308.00
	Diddington transfer			3,427.78
3,620	Council Tax Grant/CIL			3,630.15
1,107	Bank Interest			1,007.56
5,085	Cemetery			5,645.00
774	Allotments	Rents		750.00
6,403	Roundabout			8,399.00
613	Grants	Grass Cutting		613.11
	Refunds	VAT	1,578.41	
2,951		Others	202.88	1,781.29
94,861	TOTAL			99,561.89
	EXPENDITURE			
	Administration	Printing	221.38	
		Meeting rooms	570.00	
		Training	370.00	
		Telephone	579.71	
		Website	815.98	
		Stationery	518.79	
		Electrical testing	115.83	
		Village Plan	705.62	
		Insurance	789.04	
		Audit fees	365.00	
		Election costs	225.00	
		Petty cash	225.00	
		Epitaph software	210.00	
		Chairman's allowance	100.00	
		Office rent	1,200.00	
		Legal expenses	184.00	
7,017		Others	132.99	7,328.34
1,109	Subscriptions			1,114.95
904	Cemetery			511.34
1,309	Footpaths/Trees			1,300.00
917	Allotments			663.59
	General Purposes	Christmas lights	2,804.00	
		Grass cutting	1,704.13	
		Handyman's supplies/repairs	669.58	
		Benches	964.80	
		Servicing and repairs to machines	599.86	
		Cycle clamps	255.00	
		Allotment gates	497.91	
		War Memorials	1,683.40	
		Lighting energy charges	569.56	
		Street lighting	13,177.95	
		Dog and Litter bins	667.11	
7,657		Notice boards	3,128.00	26,721.30
	Donations	VHT	6,678.00	
5,421		Others	500.00	7,178.00
5,499	Roundabout			7,057.39
	Pay	Handyman	18,389.37	
		Clerk	23,751.69	
45,861		Employers N.I. Contributions	2,707.70	44,848.76
	VAT Paid			3,219.41
19,165	Transferred to/from Reserve Account			-380.69
94,861	TOTAL			99,562.39
£174,765.97	Balances in hand at 31st March			£174,366.70



NEWS AND PROJECTS

Speed of traffic — The Parish Council is perennially concerned about the speed of traffic on the roads in Buckden, Diddington and Stirtloe. We have recently been approached by the lobby group ‘20’s Plenty’, who are assessing demand for reduced speed limits. However, we are keen to hear the views of **all** residents. Any developments will be published on the Parish Council page of Roundabout.

Roundabout — and speaking of Roundabout, the Parish Council is particularly pleased with its lively new look and would like to thank the Roundabout team, distributors, contributors and advertisers for making it such a good read and getting it to our doors so promptly.

Diddington incorporated – Following the elections in May 2014, Diddington residents have been represented by Buckden Parish Council. The Parish Council regrets that there are no representatives from Diddington on the council and would welcome any residents from Diddington joining us in order that the views of this community can be properly reflected in decision-making.

Calling all Photographers

The Parish Council will again hold its Photographic Competition as part of the Festival Weekend celebrations at the beginning of July. We had a record number of entries in 2014 and are hoping for even more this year.

Our categories are: 1. Clouds 2. Selfie 3. Insects and Spiders

Entry forms are on the Parish Council page of the May Roundabout and can also be obtained from John Chase, our Clerk, at the Village Hall.

Green Memorial and Commemoration Paving Stone— Over the next few months, keen-eyed residents will see remedial work being carried out at the Green Memorial on the High St. This is the memorial to Captain John Green V.C., and his brother, former residents of Buckden who perished in World War 1.

On 1 July 2016, a hundred years since the awarding of the posthumous V.C., a commemorative stone to Captain Green will be unveiled. This is a great honour for Buckden, particularly as there will only two such commemorative stones in Cambridgeshire. Again, keep an eye on the Parish Council page in Roundabout for details.

Councillor changes— We are sorry to have recently lost Councillor Colin Richardson from the Council and thank him for all his hard work.

**Who's who
on the
Parish
Council?**

Parish Council Clerk:

John Chase, Buckden Village Hall, Burberry Rd, Buckden. PE19 5UY

Tel: 819407 e-mail: clerk@buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk

Councillors:

Fiona Shirley, Chair	811703	fionashirley@btinternet.com
Ian Bennett	810453	ian.bennett43@btopenworld.com
Ian Carter	812435	i.carter@btconnect.com
Fred Day	810985	
Terry Hayward	810974	hayward@buckden76.freemove.co.uk
Greg Hunstone	810070	gregoryhunstone@yahoo.co.uk
Alec MacAndrew	351547	alec.macandrew@yahoo.co.uk
Betty Millard	810087	bettymillard@btinternet.com
John Moore	812577	john_emm@hotmail.com
Tim Walker	811844	tim.e.walker@btinternet.com

WORK AND ROLE OF THE BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

The work of the Buckden Parish Council falls into two areas. Firstly, our role is to represent you on issues affecting the community to District, County and Central Government. Secondly, we carry out the following work within the parish:

- Maintenance of open spaces at: the cemetery, the valley area, St Mary's Churchyard, The Green, the Village Hall car park.
- On behalf of the County Council: Verge cutting, within village and to Buckden Marina.
- Provide and manage the allotments and the cemetery in Buckden.
- Provide and maintain bus shelters, seats, parish notice boards, dog waste bins, litter bins and salt bins at various locations.
- Comment on, but not decide on, all planning applications within the parish.
- Support the editorial team and volunteers of *Roundabout*.
- Monitor footpaths; monitor and plant trees and shrubs within public areas; monitor road safety issues .
- Maintain the Buckden Parish Council website, found at www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk
- Nominate representatives on the following: Buckden Parochial Charities, Buckden Quarry Liaison Group, Buckden Village Hall Trust, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils, Huntingdonshire Flood Forum, A1 Safety Advisory Group.
- Fund and organise the installation of the Christmas lights on the High St.

What's going on in Buckden? Come to the Parish Council Meetings and find out.

Parish Council meetings are held in the Millard Suite at the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month, excluding August. Meetings begin at 7.30 p.m. and start with a 15 minute 'Open Forum' when any resident is able to ask questions or to air any issues of concern. We are always delighted to see members of the public at these meetings. Why not come along and find out what is happening in our community?

You can also post a message to the Clerk on the PC website at www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk Topics of local interest can be discussed on the forum page of the Roundabout website at www.buckdenroundabout.info