



Parish Council Office, Banks Park, Banks Road, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire HP17 8EE
Phone: 01844 292411 Email: clerk@haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 28th September 2026, 19:45

Conference Room, Haddenham Village Hall and via Zoom

Present: Cllr. Brown, Cllr. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Garrett, Cllr. Hoare, Cllr. Matharu, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Thawley, Cllr. Truesdale (Chair), Cllr. Wheeler

Clerk: Ms. Gilbert

Committee & Communications Officer: Mr. Fox

Members of the public: 3

Joining remotely via Zoom:

Members of the public: 1

Deputy Clerk: Ms. Marsden

PC27 45 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: to **APPROVE** apologies of absence from Cllr. Kidby.

No apologies were received from Cllr. Desmier.

PC27 46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr. Garrett arrived at 19:52.

A member of the public requested an update on the Church End Pond.

Cllr. Truesdale highlighted that the Church End Pond is a dew pond (reliant on rainfall and road run-off to fill up) which has entirely evaporated, similar to many other ponds across southern England this summer. The Parish Council has been working for around 18 months on this and is currently waiting on a planning application decision from Buckinghamshire Council to construct a bin store at St Marys Churchyard, which will have solar panels installed on its roof to power a pump for a borehole on the green at the rear of the pond. The planning application decision from Buckinghamshire Council was due by the 24th August 2026. Cllr. Truesdale also gave reasons for not purchasing a liner for the pond, including a high cost, limited lifespan, and the 'forever plastic' causes to the environment.

A member of the public queried the news that a film crew were going to fill Church End Pond up with water themselves.

Cllr. Truesdale confirmed that a film crew had requested the Parish Council's permission to film at Church End Green, and after receiving approval, requested to top up Church End Pond up with water. It was made clear to the film crew that this could not be tap water.

A member of the public requested an update on the new Burial Ground.

Cllr. Truesdale highlighted the various challenges the Parish Council have had to resolve with the new burial ground. These include delays into receiving ownership of the land due to Dandara not taking adequate care of the site, the ground levels being raised whilst Dandara were still on site, and a groundwater risk assessment being undertaken. Further delays resulted from a change of staff at the consultancy appointed to manage the project and lack of clarity from them over the possible need for further planning permission. Parish Council officers have now contacted the Environment Agency directly and have confirmed that planning permission is already in place and what is now needed before burials can commence. Cllr. Truesdale affirmed that the land has now been transferred to the Parish Council and that the Parish Council are approaching new consultants for quotes to work on a detailed site plan identifying burial plots suitable for double-depth, single-depth, or ashes burials.

A member of the public queried why Haddenham did not have more hospital, police, fire and traffic warden services.

Cllr. Truesdale and Cllr. Smith pointed out that the Parish Council is not responsible for these services but had raised similar issues in its response to the Regulation 19 consultation on the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire.

Referring back to the progress of the borehole at Church End Pond, a member of the public queried into how Haddenham Parish Council's Business Plan is progressing.

Cllr. Truesdale directed the member of the public to the Action Plan on the website, which highlights how every project in the Business Plan is progressing and what actions are being undertaken to deliver them.

PC27 47 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th August 2026 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th September 2026 as a true record and were signed.

PC27 48 REPORT FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

A report from Cllr. Smith was **RECEIVED:**

There are two public consultations which are live on the Buckinghamshire Council's 'Your Voice Bucks' website, the '2026 Safer Buckinghamshire Survey' to report crime and anti-social behaviour concerns, and the 'Your Bucks, Your Say on Buckinghamshire Council's Budget'.

The 'Move Together Buckinghamshire' programme was raised. It is a free programme designed to help residents aged 50+ living with long-term health conditions to be more active.

PC27 49 REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

No update had been received.

PC27 50 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The following reports were **RECEIVED:**

- (i) West Buckinghamshire Community Board – Cllr. Truesdale.
A meeting took place on 10th September 2026, where Ross Buckley was announced as the new manager.

Other parish and town councils are developing resilience plans, a possibility is that Haddenham Parish Council meets with the Buckinghamshire Council Resilience Officer to develop this in the Business Plan next year.

There are currently two big projects being undertaken – one focusing on growing the rural community, and the other developing a youth partnership.

(ii) BMKALC Parish Liaison meeting – Cllr. Truesdale.

Last meeting took place on 9th September 2026 and predominantly focused on planning.

The main points covered were:

The time taken to validate that planning applications are correctly submitted has reduced to 9 days, with an aim of 5 days by the end of the year.

There were 8,500 responses received to the Regulation 19 consultation on the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire, with the plan now going to the Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet in November/December and to the Planning Inspectorate for independent assessment at public inquiry by 31st December 2026.

The Local Plan was prepared under the 2024 NPPF, so may need 'main modifications' at the public inquiry stage, with officers already considering this.

The 'National Scheme of Delegation' goes live on 31st October 2026, with even fewer planning applications being sent to Committee (Currently 96% of applications are already decided by officers nationally).

Buckinghamshire Council now has <3 years housing land supply.

There was also a summary of the new 2026 NPPF:

- National decision-making policies now play a central role.
- Housing delivery is likely to carry substantial weight in many decisions.
- Older policies that conflict with national policy may attract very limited weight.
- Planning decisions should be based on evidence, not the level of public support or opposition.
- Specialist consultee advice will often be highly influential.
- Decisions and reasons for refusal should be capable of being defended at appeal.

(iii) Haddenham Community Library – Cllr. Desmier.

Cllr. Desmier was not in attendance so no report was received.

(iv) Haddenham Village Hall – Cllr. Truesdale.

No updates.

(v) Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity – Cllr. Truesdale

No updates.

(vi) Haddenham Educational Charity – Cllr. Truesdale.

No updates.

(vii) Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group – Cllr. Thawley.

A meeting is taking place next week. At the moment, a survey of all the dropped kerbs around the village is taking place, noting where any issues are.

Cllr. Smith is meeting Jonathan Fuller next week for an update on the Haddenham-Thame Greenway.

- (viii) Haddenham Fete Committee – Cllr. Wheeler.
The next Haddenham Fete Committee meeting will take place on 21st October 2026. Planning is taking place earlier this year than last year, with the ambition of not cancelling again.
- (ix) Haddenham Beer Festival Trust – Cllr. Smith.
Cllr. Smith reported that Winterfest will be taking place, as will Summerfest next year, on a smaller scale. This will ensure that less money is spent on infrastructure and more money can be raised for charity.
- (x) Haddenham Sports and Social Club, The Whistler – Cllr. Hoare.
Cllr. Hoare reported that Paul, the steward, has left and they are recruiting a new steward.
- (xi) Scout and Guides Association – Cllr. Thawley.
The AGM meeting is coming up, with Richard Kendall notifying Cllr. Truesdale that he would be standing down as chair. The Parish Council will be contacted by someone new about the upcoming lease review, where it may be worth undertaking a survey of the building to find out what works are needed and how the Parish Council could support with any financial contributions.

PC27 51 PLANNING COMMITTEE

- (i) The minutes of the meetings held on 10th August 2026 and 7th September 2026 were **NOTED**.
- (ii) New burial ground project
A Clerk's report was **RECEIVED** which summarised the issues encountered with the plans for the new burial ground. The proposal is to appoint an alternative landscape architect who specialises in burial ground design to take over from Cemetery Design Services to complete the new burial ground project. The ICCM have been approached and asked for recommendations, however there are very few specialists around. An introductory meeting was held with Anne Jennings of Park House Studio who has experience of burial ground design and who it was felt understood what is required. A quote with ball park figures for the consultancy fees to develop the design is around £4,000.
RESOLVED: to accept the quote and appoint Anne Jennings of Park House Studio as consultant for the landscaping and design of the Burial Ground.
- (iii) Streetscapes 2.0 project
A Clerk's report was **RECEIVED** which provided a follow-up to an initial meeting with Phil Jones Associates (PJA) to discuss extending the original Streetscapes project to include the impact of future growth of the village proposed in the Local Plan for Bucks. PJA have proposed a two stage approach with stage 1 undertaking an assessment of the Parish Council's objectives against the Buckinghamshire Transport Policy and the draft Local Plan which would involve engaging with Bucks Council, and hopefully obtaining access to modelling data used for the Local Plan. The output of stage 1 would be a summary of the findings and recommendations for stage 2. Stage 2 would be to develop a movement and place strategy/plan based on the information gathered at stage 1 and would involve a review/expansion of the original Streetscapes projects, continued engagement with Bucks Council and the community.

RESOLVED: To allocate £15,000 from the Neighbourhood Plan Projects reserve as the budget for the first phase of a new Streetscape project.

- (iv) There were no further updates from the Chair.

PC27 52 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

- (i) There were no updates from the Chair.

PC27 53 FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- (i) Sporting Strategy

The Deputy Clerk had met with three consultants with a view to appointing one of them to undertake work to produce a long-term sporting strategy for Haddenham, that would extend the work already done in-house to include a wider range of sports and site feasibilities. One of the quotes was not received until the Friday before the meeting so there was not time to produce a summary and recommendation.

RESOLVED: To **DELEGATE** the selection of the consultant to the Facilities Committee who will next meet on 9th November 2026.

- (ii) A report was **RECEIVED** from the Clerk regarding Haddenham Feast Fair. The organisers had put in place various safety measures to ensure that, while there was no road closure, the event was as safe as possible. Next year, if the organisers do not arrange a road closure, the event will not take place. It has been agreed to meet in January to start planning with Bucks Council highways events team.

- (iii) There were no further updates from the Chair.

PC27 54 CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

- (i) The draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2026 were **NOTED**.

- (ii) A report from Cllr. Thawley was **RECEIVED**:

The Warmer Homes Assessments programme will restart soon.

The Climate Emergency Committee are in the process of coming up with ideas on how to re-focus the Parish Council's Carbon Neutral Plan.

PC27 55 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

No correspondence.

PC27 56 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

There were no confidential items.

PC27 57 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings were **NOTED**:

5th October 2026 Personnel Committee

19th October 2026 Planning Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee

20th October 2026 Allotments Committee

27th October 2026 Sports Facilities Committee

9th November 2026 Planning Committee and Facilities Committee

23rd November 2026 Planning Committee and Climate Emergency Committee

14th December 2026 Planning Committee and Full Council

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 21:11.

Signed: _____ DRAFT _____
Chair

Date: 14th December 2026