

Minutes of the Meeting of Buscot Parish Council
held on Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Jo Scanlan (Chairman), Lizzie Hall, Cath Parris and Helen Woof.

District Councillor Katherine Foxhall, County Councillor Bethia Thomas, Keith Assirati-Wilkie (National Trust).

Public 4.

34. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dan Billington District Councillor Viral Patel.

35. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

36. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2025 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

37. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

38. Public Speaking

Neil Miles asked when No8 Buscot was scheduled for refurbishment. Mr Assirati-Wilkie confirmed that this was scheduled for end of January/February.

Romney Pargeter reported that there was an issue with rain water collecting on the driveway to Buscot Manor, as there was no ditch to take the water run-off. Mr Assirati-Wilkie undertook to investigate.

KA-W

39. District and County Councillors Reports

The District Councillors and County Councillor's reports had both been circulated in advance of the meeting.

District Council

District Councillor Foxhall reported on the following:-

- A planning application had been submitted for residential development of 200 homes at Shrivenham Golf Course.
- In respect of the Solar Farm, Coleshill planning application, new information had been submitted by

the applicant and the target date for a decision was now 27 February.

- Proposals for the re-organisation of local government across Oxfordshire had been submitted to the Government for consideration.
- The abandoned vehicle reported at the Buscot Churchyard had now been removed.
- Raw sewage discharge from the Sevenhampton Sewage Treatment Works into a ditch alongside the road had been reported and filmed by a member of the Windrush Against Sewage Pollution group. Sevenhampton STW was one of the worst performing STW's in the region. Councillor Foxhall undertook to share the video. It was noted that the River Cole was the only river in Oxfordshire rated as "good" for water quality.
- Highway concerns had been raised in respect of a day nursery planning application in Coleshill, which had implications for the future provision of day nursery care in rural areas.

40. County Council

County Councillor Thomas advised that the deadline for the receipt of objections to the proposed speed limit reduction to 30mph on the A417 through Buscot was 16 January. She confirmed that she had supported the proposal. Resurfacing works on the B4019 at Badbury Hill had been delayed due to drainage issues. At the request of Councillor Scanlan, County Councillor Thomas provided further information on the new booking system to be implemented at all recycling centres across the County, including Stanford in the Vale, effective from 14 January.

41. Traffic Management

Neil Miles reported that there had been two recent resignations from the Community Speedwatch Group and that he was actively seeking to recruit replacements.

42. Flooding

It was reported that despite a yellow weather warning before Christmas there had been no recent flooding issues reported in Buscot. Mr Assirati-Wilkie confirmed that four leaky dams had been installed and early signs appeared to show that they were working effectively. A further 10 dams were to be installed over the next few months. It was agreed to organise a site visit once all dams had been installed. Mr Assirati-Wilkie reported that the planning application for the flood alleviation scheme was still going through the planning process and confirmed that other flood alleviation options would be considered if there was any undue delay as part of the planning process.

43.	<u>National Trust</u> A report on Trust activities had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Assirati-Wilkie provided the following updates:- • Following the conclusion of the Sustainable Futures Programme review, the estate had lost 3 fte staff. Dan Billington had been promoted to Area Ranger. • Planning permission had been sought for the replacement of the car park machines and signage in the main car park. • Hedge laying works were planned for the car park over the next few months. • Property works planned for 1,8,11 and 16 Buscot, 28a and 31 Dabs and 36 Malthouse Cottage. • Funding secured to undertake works to the Bell Tower and installation of the bell. Awaiting permit to erect scaffolding for works to commence. A night time silencer for the bell would be installed as part of the works. • Revised walking routes across the estate to be introduced by the end of January. • Course programme for Coleshill Heritage and Rural Skills Centre was live for 2026. The Chairman asked for an update on plans for the refurbishment of the grass car park. Mr Assirati-Wilkie undertook to provide an update outside of the meeting. The Chairman also reported that the public toilets needed cleaning as a matter of urgency, together with the overflow located between the two toilets. Mr Assirati-Wilkie confirmed that the cleaning was the responsibility of the Trust. Referring to the car park machines, the Chairman asked whether the income was re-invested into the local estate. Mr Assirati-Wilkie confirmed that a proportion of the income was used for local projects. Councillor Hall reported that there was still no life buoy ring installed at the Weir Pool and that the rope attached to the life buoy at the lock had perished and needed replacing. Greg Wheeler confirmed that this was the responsibility of the Environment Agency and that the matter had previously been raised with the EA. He undertook to raise this again. The Chairman noted that there was no life buoy ring located at Cheesewharf, which was becoming an increasingly popular location for wild swimming. Mr Assirati-Wilkie undertook to investigate.	KA-W GW KA-W
44.	<u>Correspondence</u> Nothing of note to report.	
45.	<u>Village Events for 2026</u> It was noted that the car boot sale would be held on Sunday 2 August.	

46. Finance

Receipts and payments since the last meeting were noted. Funds were currently £2152 and £1384 respectively across the two accounts.

47. Precept 2026/27

The Clerk reported that given current financial commitments, the Council was likely to have c.£2100 in its current account at year end. Having reviewed its finances and commitments for the forthcoming financial year, it was agreed to set the precept at £2700 for 2026/27, the same level as the current year.

48. Date of Next and Future Meetings

Wednesday 18 March 2026
Wednesday 6 May
Wednesday 23 September
Wednesday 6 January 2027
Wednesday 17 March
Wednesday 12 May.

49. Any Other Business

(a) Coleshill Estate Office

Mr Assirati-Wilkie reported that the Coleshill Estate Office had been subject to a break in over the Christmas period. He also confirmed that he had been permanently appointed to the position of Estate Manager from March. The Parish Council congratulated Mr Assirati-Wilkie on his appointment.

(b) Telephone Box Library

The Chairman reported that the library would be re-stocked with books in the Spring.

(c) Dog Waste Bin

The question was raised whether additional dog waste bins should be installed in the village and down by the river. It was noted that one dedicated dog waste bin was located by the main car park but that dog waste could also be deposited in the general waste bins, two of which were located next to the dog waste bin. All of the bins were emptied twice a week. Given the number of waste bins already available it was agreed to keep the matter under review and contact the District Council if current provision proved to be inadequate.

(d) Disabled Toilet – Brandy Island

Mr Wheeler advised that the disabled toilet located at his boatyard on Brandy Island were available to the public to use. The Parish Council thanked Mr Wheeler for making the toilets available for public use.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.