

Minutes of the Meeting of Buscot Parish Council
held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 7.30pm

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

District Councillor Viral Patel and Keith Assirati-Wilkie (National Trust).

Public 1.

50. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from District Councillor Katherine Foxhall.

51. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Billington reminded the meeting of his previous declaration that although he was employed by the National Trust his membership of the Parish Council was in a personal capacity.

52. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2026 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

53. Matters Arising

Minute 43 – National Trust

It was reported that the existing life buoy ring at the lock had been replaced and an additional ring provided on the far side of the bridge from the Lock Keepers cottage. Following the fatality at the Weir Pool during Summer 2025, Mr Wheeler referred to an incident when a member of the fire and rescue crew found himself trapped between the fire engine and the hedge overhanging the security gate whilst assisting to navigate the fire engine through the gate. Mr Assirati-Wilkie undertook to investigate.

**Mr
Assirati-Wil
kie**

54. Public Speaking

Greg Wheeler reported that defibrillators had been installed at all locks this side of Oxford. Also, there would be a full-time lock keeper presence at both Grafton and St John's Locks. Finally, he advised that a dog waste bin had been provided on the bridge opposite Lock House courtesy of Cotswold Boat Hire. The Council thanked Mr Wheeler.

55. District and County Councillors Reports

The District Councillors report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. District Councillor Patel undertook to make further enquires regarding the provision of notices to be placed on the waste bins advising that bagged dog waste could be deposited in the bins. In respect of the Wicklesham and Coxwell pits planning application he had raised concerns regarding the planning process, following the County Council's verification that all statutory obligations had been met during the application and decision-making process. He had requested that the Secretary of State call in the application for review. The Solar Farm planning application was currently on hold pending the receipt of further information. The Vale Council had approved a balanced budget for 2026/27 and Local Plan considerations were continuing. The Local Government Reorganisation public consultation was due to finish on 26 March. Finally, District Councillor Patel welcomed the decision of Oxfordshire County Council to withdraw its objection to the Coleshill Day Nursery planning application.

56. Traffic Management

The Clerk undertook to contact County Councillor Thomas for an update on the application to reduce traffic speeds on the A417 through Buscot to 30mph. It was noted that Neil Miles was still looking for volunteers to join the Buscot Community Speedwatch team. It was noted that the A417 was due to be closed for surface redressing works at the end of April and it was agreed that the Clerk write to the County Council to ensure adequate road signage was in place to lessen the impact of additional traffic coming through Buscot Wick during the road closure.

Clerk

Clerk

57. Flooding

Mr Assirati-Wilkie reported that the installation of the leaky dams had been successfully completed and thanked his team for their hard work. Public tours of the works would be arranged in due course. The Flood Alleviation Project planning application consultation deadline had been extended to 30 April pending further discussions.

58. National Trust

A report on Trust activities had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Assirati-Wilkie provided the following updates:-

- Works to five vacant properties in Buscot were either completed or in progression.
- Drainage issues at Buscot Manor had been resolved
- Currently no funding had been agreed to undertake improvement works to the village car park.

Councillor Scanlan asked whether the pot holes in the village car park could be filled in and noted that the

rewinding of the Village Hall clock was required to be undertaken more frequently than weekly. Mr Assirati-Wilkie undertook to investigate both points. It was also noted that the pipe between the two village toilets was leaking. Mr Assirati-Wilkie advised that there was currently no date set for the opening of the Tea Rooms. It was also agreed that details of the Buscot River Walking route be displayed in the telephone box/Library.

59. Correspondence

Nothing of note to report.

60. Village Events for 2026

It was noted that the car boot sale would be held on Sunday 2 August.

61. Finance

Receipts and payments since the last meeting were noted. Funds were currently £2032 and £1384 respectively across the two accounts.

62. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 6 May.

63. Any Other Business

(a) Picnic Bench – Play Area

The Chairman reported that Buscot Charities and the church had made a donation of £250 towards the provision of an additional picnic bench for the play area in memory of Kath Berry. It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund any additional costs incurred.

(b) Grass Cutting – Play Area

The Trust agreed to undertake the first cut of the grass at the play area before Easter. Chris Leniec would then take responsibility for the remainder of the year.

(c) Telephone Box/Library

The Chairman reported that she would re-stock the library this coming weekend.

(d) Citizens Advice Oxfordshire

The Clerk reported receipt of a grant request from Citizens Advice Oxfordshire towards its running costs for 2026/27. During the year the organisation had assisted two

parishioners from Buscot. It was agreed to make a grant of £50.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.