Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Buscot Parish Council held on Wednesday 6 May 2026 at 7.30pm

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

County Councillor Bethia Thomas, District Councillor Katherine Foxhall and Charles Leather (National Trust).

Public 3.

1. Election of Chairman
Councillor Jo Scanlan was elected Chairman for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Dan Billington was elected Vice-Chairman for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Viral Patel and Keith Assirati-Wilkie (National Trust).

4. 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. Councillor Jo Scanlan declared an interest in item 18(f) below.

5. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 March 2026 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

6. Matters Arising

Minute 56 – Traffic Management

It was noted that the road closure information sign located on the A417 at the junction with Snowswick Lane was obscuring the line of sight for motorists accessing the A417. The Clerk undertook to notify County Highways for the sign to be re-positioned. **Clerk**

Minute 63(a) – Picnic Bench – Play Area

The Chairman reported by way of clarification that some of the funding towards the new picnic bench located in the

play area had been donated by the family of the late Kath Berry from the proceeds of a collection at her funeral.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked her fellow councillors, the Clerk, County Councillor Bethia Thomas, District Councillors Katherine Foxhall and Viral Patel and Keith Assirati-Wilkie (National Trust) for their support during the last year. She also thanked Greg and Shirley Wheeler for keeping the Parish Council informed on all matters relating to the river, Matthew Scanlan and Maurice Long for maintaining the village hall clock, Chris Leniec for maintaining the play area and Emma Goodwin for auditing the Council's year end accounts. She referenced another successful car boot sale, the renovation of the library telephone box, the setting up of the Community Speedwatch group by Neil Miles and the provision of a new picnic bench located in the play area in memory of the late Kath Berry. The commencement of works to improve flood prevention in the village, through the creation of the leaky dams was a particular milestone and she looked forward to the implementation of the remainder of the flood alleviation project.

8. Public Speaking

Romney Pargeter referred to the carol service held at Coleshill church and asked whether Buscot was intending to organise its own service. The Chairman reminded the meeting that carols around the Christmas tree had been organised in 2024 but attendance by parishioners had been poor. It was suggested that this be discussed later in the year. .

9. District and County Councillors Reports

The District Councillors and County Councillor's reports had both been circulated in advance of the meeting. District Councillor Foxhall referred to recent incidents of fly-tipping on Snowswick Lane and advised that she had asked the District Council to undertake a review of fly-tipping incidents across the district, following the introduction of the booking system at local recycling centres. She noted changes to Landlord/Tenant laws and asked whether these applied to the National Trust. Mr Leather confirmed that the majority of residential tenancies would be covered by the new legislation and tenants had been advised accordingly. The Government's decision on the future structure of local government across Oxfordshire would be known in July. In the interim this was causing some uncertainty across both tiers of local government in the County. A street cleansing service survey was currently being undertaken and the Climate Action Fund was being continued, with £100,000 being made available for successful projects. Finally, Councillor Foxhall advised that a community governance

review had been undertaken across the District, which had resulted in a number of small parishes combining. She suggested that Buscot might consider combining with Eaton Hastings as part of the next review.

County Councillor Thomas reported that she had recently met with the County Council's Cabinet member for Highway to discuss local issues. There was still no news as to when the 30mph speed limit was to be implemented along the A417 through Buscot. Finally, she advised that she had recently organised a meeting between Great Coxwell Parish Council and the local Police Community Neighbourhood team and offered to arrange a similar meeting for Buscot. The Parish Council agreed that this was a good idea, given increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour from visitors to the village. .

10. Traffic Management

The Clerk confirmed that the application to reduce traffic speeds on the A417 through Buscot to 30mph had been agreed and was awaiting implementation. It was noted that further volunteers were needed to join the Community Speedwatch team.

11. Flooding

It was noted that further works to install leaky dams had been undertaken as part of the Buscot Flood Alleviation Scheme.

12. National Trust

A report on Trust activities had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Leather provided updates on ditch strimming. litter picking on the Weir Field, repairs to potholes at the car park entrance, lettings, installation of new handrails on pedestrian bridges to properties, completion of repairs to the bell and clock at the village hall, cleaning of public toilets and works to fix the overflows dripping at the toilets.

The Chairman advised that works to fill the potholes at the car park entrance were now urgent and asked when this would be completed. Mr Leather would check the timetable for village works. The Chairman reported that there were still issues with the village clock and she would ask Matthew Scanlan to report direct to the Trust following the latest test on 7 May. Finally, she referred to the poor state of the Tea Rooms appearance due to the overgrown grass and untidy hedges. **Mr Leather**

13. Correspondence

Nothing of note to report. The Chairman advised that she had spoken to Bishopsland regarding the incremental

submission of planning applications at Hills Yard and had been advised that this was due to funding constraints and that all applications were all in accordance with the original planning consent. Mr Leather confirmed that this was the case.

14. Village Events for 2026/27

The Annual Car Boot Sale would be held on Sunday 2 August. The Clerk undertook to organise the advertising and the A Boards to be displayed at the entrance to Buscot Park. Councillor Scanlan would organise the food and ask Adam Symonds to transport the tables and chairs. Councillor Woof to check on availability from the church to assist with catering and car park duties. Councillor Billington suggested that the use of two-way radios would be useful to manage parking. Mr Wheeler advised that he had radios that the Parish Council could borrow.

15. Finance

Receipts and payments since the last meeting were noted.

16. Annual Accounts 2025/26

(a) Annual Accounts 2025/26

The Clerk presented the accounts for 2025/26, noting that balances stood at £3309.42, a decrease of £1211.27 on the previous year. This was due in part to increased expenditure on the renovation of the telephone box and the speed indicator device, which had not been covered by grant aid. Emma Goodwin was thanked for auditing the accounts and it was agreed to give her a £50 gardening voucher in appreciation.

RESOLVED

That the accounts for 2025/26 be received and approved.

(b) Annual Audit 2025/26

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements in respect of the Annual Audit Return 2025/26 and agreed to declare the Council exempt from a limited assurance review.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23 September 2026 (subsequently changed to 7 October).

18. Any Other Business

(a) Play Area

It was agreed to purchase play bark for the play area

(b) Parking Permits for Residents

The Chairman advised that parking permits to allow residents to park in the main car park free of charge had not yet been received. Mr Leather undertook to investigate and report back. **Mr Leather**

(c) Gate to Weir Field

It was agreed that an emergency number to contact the Trust in the event that the gate to the Weir Field needed to be opened should be displayed on the gate and the village noticeboard.

(d) Community WhatsApp Groups

The need for greater control over content posted to the Buscot Community WhatsApp groups was recognised. Also, general community posts should be directed to the Community WhatsApp group and not the Flooding group.

(e) Buscot Manor Open Evening

It was noted that open evening at Buscot Manor would be held on Tuesday 19 May, to which all parish councillors were invited.

(f) Village Hall Clock
(Councillor Jo Scanlan left the meeting during consideration of this item)

The Clerk reported that previously the Parish Council had recognised the work undertaken by a volunteer to wind the village hall clock. This recognition had been the awarding of an annual payment of £50. It was agreed that the current volunteer, Matthew Scanlan, should be recognised in a similar manner and an annual payment of £50 be made. This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.