



Buckden Parish Council

# BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 12

## BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL: WORKING FOR YOU

Welcome to the 2011-12 Annual Report from the Buckden Parish Council.

This report is a summary of the actions taken by Buckden Parish Council over the last year. We also report our activities through monthly meetings, our website, articles in The 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.

Two areas of major concern to residents over the past year have been the proposed closure of Buckden Library and the two planning applications from Buckden Landfill Site. Your Parish Council took action on these, and many more, issues (see below).

Looking forward, the Parish Council hopes that all residents enjoy the Jubilee and Olympic celebrations in this special year.

*Fiona Shirley, Chair of Buckden Parish Council, April 2012*

### WHAT BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL DID IN 2011/12

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

- Library - Working with Cambridgeshire Libraries, organised a questionnaire regarding the proposed closure of Buckden Library, currently working to establish a Library Support Volunteers' Group.
- Planning – 37 planning applications were considered and the PC gave recommendations to Huntingdonshire District Council, including refusals.
- Environment – saved Parish Council funding by organising our own grass cutting, planted trees and shrubs on the Village Recreation Ground and, with school children, on the school playing field; secured improvements to the two subways. Funded the Christmas lights in the High Street and at Hunts End.
- Quality Council – worked towards gaining *Quality Council* status and established the Buckden PC website at [www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk)
- Footpaths – Councillors walked all footpaths in the Parish; worked with County Council to ensure they are passable; continued efforts to widen scope of Rights of Way in local area.
- Links with wider community – the Parish Council participated in meetings with, and responded to, a variety of requests for information and views from the following: the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils. The Parish Council is liaising with the Steering Committee to develop the Village Plan for Buckden and is supporting Buckden's Olympic Weekend.
- Cemetery – administered the cemetery and tested the soil (found suitable) for a possible future extension adjacent to the Buckden Surgery.
- Allotments – administered the allotments, gave prizes for best kept allotment.
- Donations – made donations to the up-keep of the Village Playing Field and several charities with Buckden connections, including the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Children's Reading Week and the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust.
- Roads – actively involved in discussions about future developments of the A14, A1 and other local roads.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**INTRODUCTION 1**

**WHAT WE DID IN 2011/12 1**

**FINANCIALS 2**

**HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT 3**

**SOME CURRENT PROJECTS 3**

**CONTACT DETAILS 4**

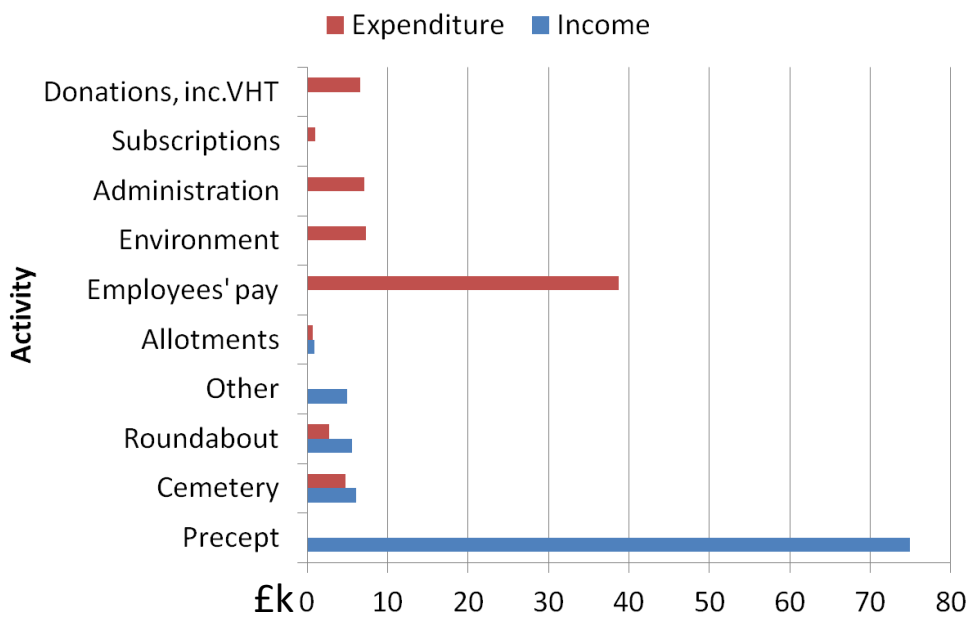
**WORK AND ROLE 4**

### WHAT WE DID

A brief taste of what we've been doing over the past year to maintain, and improve, the quality of life in our community.

# BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIALS 2011-2012

2010-11	Income & Expenditure		2011-2012	
	<b>INCOME</b>			
72,000	<b>Precept</b>			74,880
397	<b>Bank Interest</b>			854
	<b>Cemetery</b>	Sale of Grave Plots	2,800	
		Interment	1,700	
		Sale of Ashes Plots	600	
		Erection of Memorials	860	
		Additional Inscriptions	90	
5,300		Tending Graves	80	6,130
608	<b>Allotments</b>	Rents		851
	<b>Roundabout</b>	Advertising	4,869	
		Flyers	317	
4,269		Donations	375	5,561
1,329	<b>Grants</b>	Grass Cutting		584
1,840	<b>Refunds</b>	VAT	3,531	
		Tool sale	30	3,561
				<b>92,421</b>
<b>85,742</b>				<b>92,421</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
	<b>Administration</b>	Petty Cash Imprest	200	
		Audit Fees	555	
		Insurance	1,844	
		Communications	546	
		Computing	576	
		Website	1,789	
		Stationery	414	
		Training	315	
		Meeting Rooms	385	
		Chairmans Allowance	120	
		Village Plan	89	
		Publications	48	
		Printing	216	
5,733		Library Survey	45	7,141
973	<b>Subscriptions</b>			982
135	<b>Cemetery</b>			4,793
2,385	<b>Valley Project</b>			0
1,398	<b>Footpaths/Trees</b>			0
547	<b>Allotments</b>			745
	<b>General Purposes</b>	Christmas Lights	3,420	
		Grass Cutting	987	
		Handyman's Supplies/Repairs	790	
		Subway Mirrors	852	
		Litter Bin and Dog Bags	278	
7,637		Street Lighting	960	7,287
	<b>Donations</b>	VHT	5,964	
880		Others	665	6,629
	<b>Roundabout</b>	Stationery	927	
		Printing	847	
2,928		Photocopier Repairs and Maintenance	923	2,697
	<b>Pay</b>	Handymen	13,683	
		Clerk	22,766	
38,722		Employers N.I. Contributions	2,275	38,724
24,404	<b>Transferred to Reserve Account</b>			<b>23,423</b>
<b>85,742</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>92,421</b>



**YOUR VOICE**

The views of all groups in the community need to be reflected in the Village Plan. Please make your voice heard.

**SOME CURRENT PROJECTS**

**Quality Council**—We are working towards achieving Quality Council status. Once achieved, this will help the Council to represent the village more effectively, and will make it easier for us to tap into some sources of external funding. This is a long-term project that requires the Council to demonstrate that it meets a number of criteria across a range of topics. We are making good progress in all areas and we will be ready to apply for Quality Council status as soon as we meet the requirement for having a minimum number of elected councillors, immediately after the next Parish Council election.

**Buckden Village Plan**—We have initiated the process to develop and publish a Village Plan which will reflect the aspirations and desires of Buckden residents across a wide range of topics. The work to develop the Plan is being managed by a Steering Group independent of the Parish Council. During the summer of 2012, residents will be asked to complete a survey, and the Steering Group will base the Plan on the findings of the survey. The plan will be drafted and handed over to the Parish Council and should be adopted in 2013.

**The Localism Bill**— We are currently assessing what the new central government bill will mean for us. Our reading so far is that it will bring us greater power, but also great responsibilities, and we anticipate that the area of Planning will be significantly affected. As with all aspects of our work, we will report action via our usual routes.

**Environment** – We are working with Southoe and Buckden Scouts to clear undergrowth and tidy the area of the valley, adjacent to the Village Hall field.

**Library**—We are working with Cambridgeshire Libraries to develop a Volunteers’ Group to support the library staff and, we hope, enable greater use of this facility.

**Can you contribute to your community by joining the Parish Council?** We currently have two vacancies and would welcome additional councillors. Additionally, in order to meet Quality Council status, we need to have elected councillors at the next election in 2014. So please, think about joining us. If you can help, or need further information, you should contact John Chase, the Clerk to the Council, at the Millennium Hall or via his e-mail: [clerk@buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Tell us what you think**

We would very much appreciate your feedback on information provided by the Parish Council.

Please remember that all Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

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

**Parish Council Clerk:**

John Chase, Buckden Millennium Community Centre, Burberry Rd, Buckden. PE19 5UY

Tel: 819407 e-mail: [clerk@buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Councillors:**

Fiona Shirley, Chair	811703
Ellen Barrett	07578131870
Terry Clough	810210
Fred Day	810985
Dave Griffin	07850056376
Terry Hayward	810974
Leigh Holden	810981
Greg Hunstone	810070
Alec MacAndrew	351547
Betty Millard	810087
Colin Richardson	812503
Christine Tewson	811264
Mrs June Woods	810675

**Other Contacts**

District Councillor: Terry Clough 810210

County Councillor: Richard West 812297

**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 Millennium Hall car park.
- On behalf of the Council: Verge cutting, within village and to Buckden Marina.
- Provide and administer 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.
- Contribute financially to *The Roundabout* and support the editor and all volunteers.
- 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](http://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, St Neots Neighbourhood Forum
- Organise and fund the Christmas lights on the High St