



Buckden Parish Council

# BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 14

## BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL: WORKING FOR YOU

Welcome to the 2013-14 Annual Report from the Buckden Parish Council.

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

One of the key issues facing Buckden is, of course, the development of the A14. The Parish Council has long argued that the layout of a new A14 should allow sufficient space for a future by-pass for Buckden. We are delighted that the latest plans allow for this possibility. We will continue to raise vigorously other aspects of concern to the people of Buckden, particularly environmental issues, both during the building of the new road and its subsequent use. *Fiona Shirley, Chair of Buckden Parish Council, April 2014*

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### WHAT BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL DID IN 2013/14

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

- Planning – 32 planning applications were considered and the PC gave recommendations to Huntingdonshire District Council, including refusals.
- Environment – grass cutting and planting/tending trees and shrubs in many locations in the village. Organised assessment of all PC trees and assisted the school and the VHT in assessing their trees. Funded the Christmas lights in the High Street and at Hunts End.
- Roads – actively involved in discussions about safety and future developments of the A14, A1 and local roads, including lobbying for 60 mph speed limit on A1 south of Buckden. Conducted *Speedwatch* checks. Planned improvements to Parish Council owned street lights.
- Quality Council – continued to work towards gaining *Quality Council* status and up-dated the Buckden PC website at [www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk)
- Footpaths and Cycle tracks – Worked with County Council to ensure all footpaths are passable; continued lobbying for cycle track to Grafham.
- 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, HACT. The Parish Council is supporting Buckden's Festival Weekend and anticipates working again with Buckden for Business at Christmas.
- Library - Working with Cambridgeshire Libraries, organising a Library Support Volunteers' Group.
- Cemetery – managed the cemetery and currently planning for a future extension adjacent to the Buckden Surgery.
- Allotments – managed the allotments, gave prizes for best kept allotment.
- Donations – made donations to the up-keep of the Village Playing Field and to several charities with Buckden connections, including the Children's Reading Week, St Neots Museum and the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust. We are supporting Buckfest in 2014.
- Village Plan—The Parish Council liaised with the Steering Committee to develop the Village Plan for Buckden (see page3).

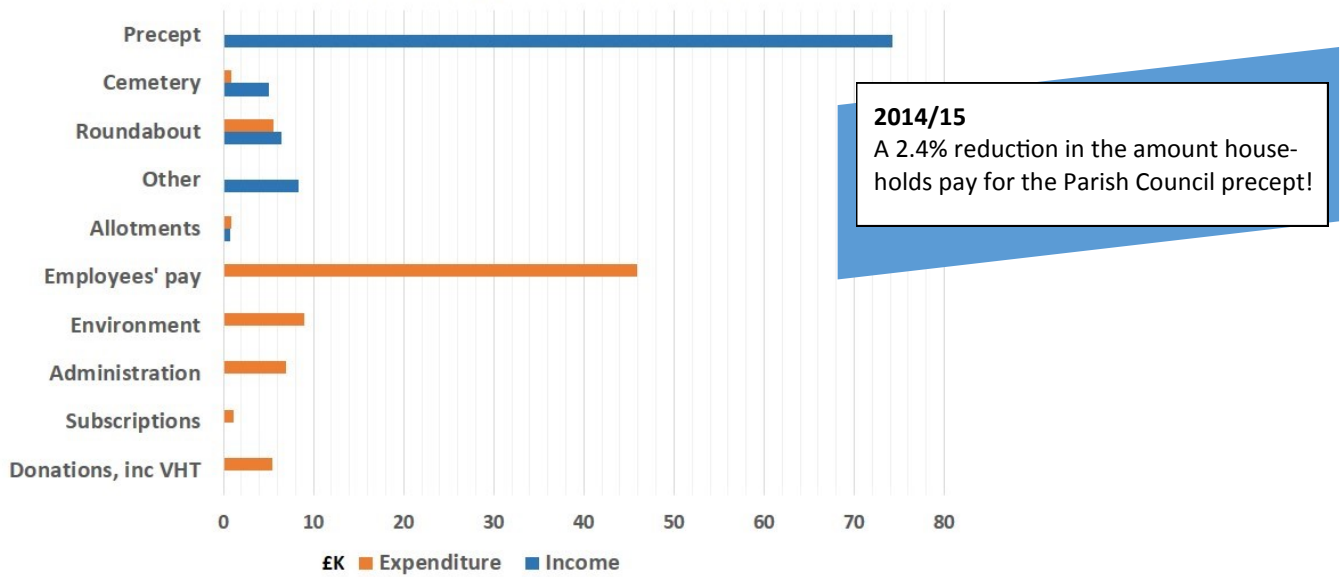
### WHAT WE DID

A brief summary of our actions over the past year to maintain, and improve, the quality of life in our community.

# BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIALS 2013-2014

| 2012-13       | Income & Expenditure                  |                             | 2013-14   |                  |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
|               | <b>INCOME</b>                         |                             |           |                  |
| 76,400        | <b>Precept</b>                        |                             | 2,550.00  | <b>74,308.00</b> |
|               | <b>Council Tax Grant</b>              |                             | 1,015.00  | <b>3,620.00</b>  |
| 1,734         | <b>Bank Interest</b>                  |                             | 750.00    | <b>1,107.35</b>  |
|               | <b>Cemetery</b>                       | Sale of Grave Plots         | 590.00    |                  |
|               |                                       | Interment                   | 160.00    |                  |
|               |                                       | Sale of Ashes Plots         | 20.00     |                  |
| 4,455         |                                       | Erection of Memorials       | 5,085.00  |                  |
| 817           |                                       | Additional Inscriptions     | 774.00    |                  |
|               | <b>Allotments</b>                     | Tending Graves              | 6,402.65  |                  |
|               |                                       | Rents                       | 613.11    |                  |
| 6,503         | <b>Roundabout</b>                     | Advertising                 | 1,454.89  |                  |
| 584           |                                       | Donations                   | 1,495.68  |                  |
|               | <b>Grants</b>                         | Grass Cutting               |           |                  |
| 4783          | <b>Refunds</b>                        | VAT                         |           |                  |
|               |                                       | Refunds                     |           |                  |
| <b>95,276</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>TOTAL</b>                |           | <b>94,860.68</b> |
|               | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                    |                             |           |                  |
|               | <b>Administration</b>                 | Petty Cash Imprest          | 275.00    |                  |
|               |                                       | Audit Fees                  | 422.50    |                  |
|               |                                       | Insurance                   | 806.38    |                  |
|               |                                       | Communications              | 659.34    |                  |
|               |                                       | Computing                   | 298.80    |                  |
|               |                                       | Website                     | 756.00    |                  |
|               |                                       | Stationery                  | 745.38    |                  |
|               |                                       | Bank Charges                | 12.50     |                  |
|               |                                       | Training                    | 1,702.00  |                  |
|               |                                       | Repairs                     | 95.10     |                  |
|               |                                       | Meeting Rooms               | 540.00    |                  |
|               |                                       | Chairman's Allowance        | 50.00     |                  |
|               |                                       | Registration                | 35.00     |                  |
|               |                                       | Equipment                   | 259.99    |                  |
|               |                                       | Printing                    | 213.95    |                  |
| 6,728         |                                       | Publications                | 145.49    | <b>7,017.43</b>  |
| 1,115         | <b>Subscriptions</b>                  |                             |           | <b>1,109.41</b>  |
| 78            | <b>Cemetery</b>                       |                             |           | <b>904.00</b>    |
| 1,224         | <b>Footpaths/Trees</b>                |                             |           | <b>1,309.20</b>  |
| 667           | <b>Allotments</b>                     |                             |           | <b>917.02</b>    |
|               | <b>General Purposes</b>               | Christmas Lights            | 1,979.50  |                  |
|               |                                       | Grass Cutting               | 1,418.47  |                  |
|               |                                       | Handyman's Supplies/Repairs | 1,197.26  |                  |
|               |                                       | Machines and tools          | 1,581.34  |                  |
|               |                                       | Cycle Rack and Bench        | 658.80    |                  |
| 6,275         |                                       | Street Lighting             | 821.95    | <b>7,657.32</b>  |
|               | <b>Donations</b>                      | VHT                         | 5,171.10  |                  |
| 9,418         |                                       | Others                      | 250.00    | <b>5,421.10</b>  |
|               | <b>Roundabout</b>                     | Printing                    | 5,162.61  |                  |
| 5,072         |                                       | Website                     | 336.51    | <b>5,499.12</b>  |
|               | <b>Pay</b>                            | Handymen                    | 19,262.80 |                  |
|               |                                       | Clerk                       | 23,604.72 |                  |
| 43,223        |                                       | Employers NIC               | 2,993.73  | <b>45,861.25</b> |
| 21,476        | <b>Transferred to Reserve Account</b> |                             |           | <b>75,695.85</b> |
| <b>95,276</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>                          |                             |           | <b>94,860.68</b> |

Income and expenditure 2013 - 2014



**NEWS AND PROJECTS**

**A Village Plan for Buckden** — After much hard work by the independent Steering Group, we now have a Village Plan for Buckden that has been adopted by the Parish Council. The Plan will be formally launched at the Annual Parish Meeting and, shortly after that, the Plan will be installed on both the Parish Council and the Roundabout websites. Hard copies will also be available in the library and from the Parish Clerk.

**Quality Council Status** — The Parish Council is particularly pleased to have a Village Plan as this will enable us to move forward in our aim to achieve Quality Council status. We believe this is important because we want to do the best for the people of Buckden and because it should bring financial benefits.

**Diddington to join us** – Following the elections on 22 May 2014, Diddington residents will be represented by Buckden Parish Council. The Parish Council hopes to welcome representatives of Diddington onto the council in order that the views of this community can be properly reflected in decision-making.

**What’s going on in Buckden? Come to the Annual Parish Meeting and find out.**

**The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 17 June 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Millard Suite at the Village Hall. At the meeting, there will be informative briefings from the Parish Council, your District and County Councillors, the Police and various organisations including the Village Hall Trust, Buckden Parochial Charities and Neighbourhood Watch.**

**Additionally, we will be launching the Village Plan.**

**Councillor changes**—After a couple of stable years, this year we have experienced changes in councillors. Thanks should go to Ellen Barrett, Dave Griffin, Rosemary Surridge and Christine Tewson who have left us during the year and welcome to our new, energetic councillors Ian Bennett, John Moore and Tim Walker.

At the election on 22 May, we will also be losing our longest-serving councillor, June Woods.

June has been a parish councillor since 22 May 1968, so will have served for exactly 46 years. Buckden has changed enormously since that time but still remains the great community that June first moved to during World War II.

After so many years service, ‘thank you’ seems an inadequate phrase but we know that councillors, staff and residents alike will join together to do just that. Thank you, June, we will miss you.

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

**Parish Council Clerk:**

John Chase, Buckden Village Hall, Burberry Rd, Buckden. PE19 5UY

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

**Councillors:**

|                      |        |  |
|----------------------|--------|--|
| Fiona Shirley, Chair | 811703 | <a href="mailto:fionashirley@btinternet.com">fionashirley@btinternet.com</a>             |
| Ian Bennett          | 810453 | <a href="mailto:ian.bennett43@btopenworld.com">ian.bennett43@btopenworld.com</a>         |
| Terry Clough         | 810210 | <a href="mailto:terry.clough@huntsdc.gov.uk">terry.clough@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>             |
| Fred Day             | 810985 |  |
| Terry Hayward        | 810974 | <a href="mailto:hayward@buckden76.freeserve.co.uk">hayward@buckden76.freeserve.co.uk</a> |
| Greg Hunstone        | 810070 | <a href="mailto:gregoryhunstone@yahoo.co.uk">gregoryhunstone@yahoo.co.uk</a>             |
| Alec MacAndrew       | 351547 | <a href="mailto:alec.macandrew@yahoo.co.uk">alec.macandrew@yahoo.co.uk</a>               |
| Betty Millard        | 810087 | <a href="mailto:bettymillard@btinternet.com">bettymillard@btinternet.com</a>             |
| John Moore           | 812577 | <a href="mailto:john_emm@hotmail.com">john_emm@hotmail.com</a>                           |
| Colin Richardson     | 812503 | <a href="mailto:c_richardson100@hotmail.com">c_richardson100@hotmail.com</a>             |
| Tim Walker           | 811844 | <a href="mailto:tim.e.walker@btinternet.com">tim.e.walker@btinternet.com</a>             |

**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 Village Hall car park.
- On behalf of the County Council: Verge cutting, within village and to Buckden Marina.
- Provide and manage 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.
- Support the editorial team and volunteers of *The Roundabout*.
- 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, Huntingdonshire Flood Forum, A1 Safety Advisory Group.

**Tell us what you think**

We would very much appreciate your feedback on information provided by the Parish Council and on any issues important to our community. Please remember that Parish Council meetings are open to the public. You can also post a message to the Clerk on the PC website at [www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.buckdenparishcouncil.org.uk)

Topics of local interest can be discussed on the forum page of the Roundabout website at [www.buckdenroundabout.info](http://www.buckdenroundabout.info)