



DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish held at the Memorial Hall on 8th January 2026 at 6.30pm

Present:

Councillors: Martin Pacetti, Ben Harris, Sue Weldon, Peter Woodliffe-Thomas, Nick Butler, Helen Hudson-Butler (Clerk),

001.26 Apologies for Absence

All present

002.26 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Butler declared an interest in the Winwood Trust as he is a trustee.

Cllr Woodliffe-Thomas declared an interest in the Monday Club as he is a trustee

003.26 Public Participation

Members of the public – 0

004.26 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting, were duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

005.26 Chair's Report & Announcements

No announcements

Clerks Report & Public Correspondence

006.26 Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings (reference no. from Action Log)

The document had previously been shared and updated by the Council. Actions arising:

Chairs Initials:

Date:

4	The PC website needs a thorough review and update with new information including Roles and responsibilities for each Councillor as agreed at the meeting. Review and update	Ongoing	Helen	Jan Meeting	Supplier & Costs supplied to councillors for approval at Dec meeting. First call with developers on 15/1
12	An update has recently been circulated from the Rosefield developers giving details of how they are changing their planning application. Although this potentially has little impact on Quainton we wish to support the local PC's appropriately. Contact the relevant PC's and ask what support they require	Ongoing	Ben Sue	Dec Meeting	Update to come later in Jan
13	The Quainton Village shop continues to struggle although the increase in activity for the Post Office has secured this. This seems to be despite many ideas and suggestions being put forward. A follow up meeting is needed with the shop owners. Arrange meeting	Ongoing	Sue	ASAP	
21	It was agreed that preparing Quainton for entry to the Bucks Best Kept Village Award would be an excellent way to generate engagement within the village. Understand the competition rules and start the process of engagement with monthly updates.	Ongoing	Peter	Jan Meeting	Article has been published in Dec's Quainton News. Also email has been sent to named contacts for the Groups and societies etc in the village. To date only responses are from HS2 and Memorial Hall. Next step is to launch the Face book page and start to get a steering group together.
24	Following the recent meeting with BC re QNP revisions in advance of the Bucks LP we need to start the formal consultation process with the Parish Community with an announcement via all the normal channels.	Ongoing	Nick	ASAP	Awaiting results of the survey and results for call for sites. Meeting with Cllr Gomm 15/1

AP13 Sue is due to meet again with the owner

007.26 Finance & Budget

Bank Reconciliation: Completed for 31st December 2025

Current Account £ 7,725.37

Reserve Account £32,618.17

Forecast Budget - £10,976.13 Deficit Due to Upper Street playground refurbishment

Having been circulated, the monthly financial statement and income/expenditure report was accepted and payments approved. Budget was covered separately

008.26 Projects & Maintenance

- The clerk is starting the website refresh.
- A handyperson has been engaged

009.26 Community Engagement, Website & Social Media

Summary of all activities discussed by the Clerk.

Clerk to visit North End Rod and take a photo (and what/three/words location) of the offending hedge.

Chairs Initials:

Date:

010.26 Planning & Development

Planning Applications Received:

Date	Respond By	Reference	Address	Status	Council Outcome
10/12/2025	NA	PL/25/6272/HS2	Land From The South West Of Quainton To The North Of Grendon Underwood, Buckinghamshire. Infrastructure project	No objections	NB
11/12/2025	01/01/2025	PL/25/4672/FA	Land Off Lee Road	Objections submitted	Full council & sub committee

Planning breach on The Stables, Church St reported 6/1 as yet no updates

Lee Road was also raised with BCC Highways due to failure of previous development to fulfill commitments

011.26 Governance & Compliance

No items discussed

012.26 Items for Council Decision

- Fire & Rescue Consultation **Outstanding item**
- Ross Lawry maintenance quote for 2026 **Resolved by Council**
- 4 Year Plan Review **Amendments needed post budget review**
- Budget **Resolved by Council**
- Review of 2025 Firework event **Review completed. Await 2026 from committee**
- Salt Bins v. Salt Heaps **Resolved by Council to replace heaps with salt bins, replace missing bins and to fill empty bins**

Action Cllr Woodliffe-Thomas to write an explanatory summary for the proposed budget/precept increase. Published in March Quainton News, Quainton Village Life & Quainton Council Facebook pages & website

Action Clerk to submit precept application to BCC

013.26 Buckinghamshire Unitary Council Update

Cllr Gomm sent his apologies due to a conflict of meetings and sent an email update which has been summarised below **(the full detailed update is available in appendix 1 at the end of this document.)**

Chief Executive Update - Buckinghamshire Council's Chief Executive, Rachael Shimmin OBE, will be leaving to take up a new role. An Interim Chief Executive will be appointed while recruitment begins.

Budget Pressures - The council faces major financial challenges following the government's Fair Funding Review, resulting in a £44.4m reduction in funding. Core spending power will rise

Chairs Initials:

Date:

by only 8.1% over three years—below the national average—and largely reliant on Council Tax increases.

Roads & Winter Weather

Winter conditions are increasing potholes and defects despite record resurfacing investment. Residents are encouraged to report issues via Fix My Street.

Local Policing & Ward Matters

We are reviewing salt bin provision across the ward following the recent extreme cold and are liaising with the Clerk.

A meeting with Cllr Nick Butler is scheduled for 15 January to discuss planning matters and the Unitary Council's five-year plan.

Traffic calming work is progressing, particularly for Station Road, detailed design and consultation will follow. The Station Road realignment and Shipton Lee works remain on schedule, weather permitting.

The Community Board continues to work actively, with further updates to be provided by the Clerk and Cllr Butler.

Action - Clerk to request details from Cllr Gomm of the traffic calming project for visibility

Portfolio Reports

014.26 Finance, - Cllr Woodliffe-Thomas

Budget updated in readiness for this meeting.

015.26 Public Services & Facilities, HS2 & Allotments - Cllr M Pacetti

No update

016.26 Planning & Development - Cllr Nick Butler

Housing Needs Survey results due 31/01/2026. Ashleigh has received both paper and electronic completed surveys

Meeting with Cllr Gomm on 15/01/2026 to discuss travel sites and call for sites update Emergency Plan - no list of vulnerable residents.

Action - Clerk to compile list. Cllr Weldon to contact the church.

017.26 Vice Chair, Transport, Highways & Primary School Relations - Cllr S Weldon

Quainton School has purchased additional signs outside of the school. SLT have provided donations for Chrome books and to pay for paint to redecorate.

Chairs Initials:

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Ongoing communications with the shop

018.26 Chair, Recreation, Community Health & Wellbeing - Cllr B Harris

No updated

019.26 Thames Valley Police & Highways Matters

Rural Crime Prevention have delayed their tagging day

020.26 To Receive Reports from Outside Bodies

No updates

021.26 To Consider Members Motions

No motions

022.26 To Record Items of Business for the Next Council Meeting

February 2026 meeting will be 1st Thursday, not 2nd Thursday.

I will be out of the country from 9th to 27th February.

Next Council meeting 6.30pm Thursday 5th Feb 2026

Appendix 1

Quainton PC update 8/1/2026 From Cllr Philip Gomm

Buckinghamshire Council Chief Executive to stand down

Buckinghamshire Council has announced that its Chief Executive, Rachael Shimmin OBE, will be leaving the organisation to take up a new opportunity. The Council has expressed its gratitude to Rachael Shimmin for her strong leadership and contribution to the county over the last nine years.

Rachael first came to Buckinghamshire as Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire County Council in 2016. She then played a key role in leading the unitarisation of five legacy councils to form Buckinghamshire Council in 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has served as Chief Executive of the new council since its establishment.

Chairs Initials:

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The Council will appoint an Interim Chief Executive in the coming weeks while starting the process of recruiting for a permanent Chief Executive to ensure continuity and stability during this period of change.

Council budgets

These are not easy times financially and our attention is firmly on our budget as we come to finalise our spending plans for the next financial year. This is particularly challenging with central government's recent Fair Funding Review which directs money away from places like Buckinghamshire to other parts of the country.

We have only been told in the last week of how much funding central government is providing Buckinghamshire; it amounts to an overall loss of £44.4 million for our county which we will have to make up through further savings and efficiencies.

We are experiencing a 'double whammy' here in Buckinghamshire with further cuts to other funding streams too. For example, we had news last week that a critical SEN school that we had secured government funding for has now been cancelled. Overall, the Fair Funding Review will see our core spending power funding increase by just 8.1% over the next three years, which is well below the national average increase. This level of increase is only made possible by increases to our local Council Tax, that the government calculations include; without it, we would have faced a further £30m budget gap.

We continue to make representations in the strongest possible terms to government about how unfair this is for Buckinghamshire and I will continue to fight for the best possible deal for our county.

That said, as we wrap up the year 2025, we want to focus on the positives. Buckinghamshire remains in a strong and stable financial position, and we continue to deliver excellent value for money for our residents. We're not just maintaining services, we're finding efficiencies and investing in the priority areas that matter most to our communities.

Looking ahead, we're well placed to build on this success. In 2026 we'll share more details about year's budget and what it means for us all, but for now, let's finish 2025 with confidence in the progress we've made and the opportunities ahead.

Roads and the weather

A quick reminder about conditions on our local roads. While we are investing record levels of funding into our network and have made fantastic progress this year on numerous resurfacing schemes, unfortunately we cannot completely 'weather proof' our highways network and as ever in winter, we are seeing an increase in potholes and other defects as the wet and cold conditions take their toll.

Please let us know about any issues using [Fix My Street](#) and we will prioritise getting these fixed or made safe before a permanent repair can be carried out.

Some good news to end the year on is that we have finally been notified that we've been successful in our bid to introduce a new '[Lane Rental](#)' scheme next year, the aim of which is to speed up the time it takes to complete roadworks, a source of much disruption and frustration I know.

The new Lane Rental scheme means utilities and other firms that need to dig up the roads to make repairs and improvements will effectively have to 'rent' the section of road they need to access.

It will allow the council to charge up to £2,500 a day for works carried out on the busiest parts of the road network at peak times, encouraging companies to plan smarter, work together and finish jobs faster. The money raised will both pay for the scheme and be re-invested back into other initiatives that reduce disruption from roadworks. We have long pressed the government for greater powers to manage roadworks so this is a real positive. More details will follow in the weeks to come.

Local PC

- 1) Having been in discussion with the Clerk due to the extreme cold weather I'm looking over the whole Quainton Ward area regarding the services of salt bins (or lack of). Your Clerk is engaged very proactively, so I will leave her to update on your Agenda item tonight.
- 2) I meet Cllr Nick Butler next week on the 15th to discuss various planning issues including the Unitary Council 5 year plan.
- 3) The Traffic Calming projects I've been working on are beginning to come to ahead, firstly for Station Road. The Road Safety Fund stage two assessment has been completed, and my application has been accepted by Buckinghamshire Council and HS2 Ltd. The RSF Project Team will now proceed with the necessary detailed design work, and consultation, I will keep you posted as we've now extended some safety issues on the new realignment to be open this year.
- 4) The dates for Station Road realignment opening is still on target (subject to weather) as is Shipton Lee.
- 5) The Community Board is working hard but I will let your Clerk and Cllr Butler update as they have been committed with their attendance at the meetings.