

**Buckland Dinham Amenities Group –
Minutes from meeting 14.09.26**

Attendees: Chris D, Jenny, Geoff, Simon, Jackie, Susie

1. Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

2. A provisional date of 11th Jan (7:30 at Village Hall) was set for next BAG meeting, but to be confirmed after meeting of BDPFA in the hope that these meetings can coincide.

3. Strawberry Fair.

- This was the first time the main organisers of the Fair have met since it happened.
- Though a detailed accounting hasn't been done yet, it's reckoned that the Fair made approx £750 (after deducting costs), which is double previous year's profit.
- The extra volunteers made a real difference, both with setting up and on the day. It's hoped the volunteers will return next year.
- A provisional date for next year's fair was set. Sunday 18th July 2027.

4. Playing field Mower.

- Chris reported that approx £1000 has been raised so far. Which is a decent way towards the agreed target of £2500.
- It was agreed that Pete should go ahead and sell the old mower as soon as the last cut of this growing season is done.
- Chris will contact Libby and/or Sian about publicising the Collectiv fund for the new mower. Chris will put this on the Village Chat. Also, Chris will ask Jon Evans to announce it at the next Bucks Quiz and perhaps get a QR card for the Collectiv fund on the bar at the Bell.
- The other Chris has already booked a cake stall at the Christmas Fair.
- It was also suggested that a houseplant sale be included on the lobby table at the Christmas Fair.
- Further fundraising suggestions included sponsorship etc.

5. News about Village Hall and Playing Field Committees.

- Susie and Simon were happy to report that there is a new eight person strong Village Hall Committee. Chair is Sarah Gallagher. Vice Chair is Stephanie O'Sullivan and Treasurer is Neil Lanning.

- Handover to the new regime is ongoing but looking very promising. Simon will remain on the Village Hall board at least for a while. Susie is optimistic of having more people to call on for assistance.
- Chris reported back from his discussions with Great Elm Village Hall Committee. They endure all the same pressures as in BD, with the added catastrophe of having had major accidental damage which was not covered by insurance. However Chris felt BD could learn from the way Great Elm provides online access to its Village Hall booking system. It was thought he should share this with John Stauber of Buckland Dinham's Comms group.
- The new secretary of the Playing Field Association is Jayne Lewis and the first meeting of this new regime is on 22/09/2026. (It is still hoped to coincide these meetings with BAG meetings as the personnel are often the same.)

6. Christmas Fair.

- Simon reported that the date for this year's fair is 4th Dec.
- The food is sorted.
- All the stalls are booked at £5 per stall for a 2 hour slot. (All local businesses.)
- There are also three stalls taken up by villagers for fundraising. (These do not pay.)
- Simon is now looking to source the tree.

7. Christmas Carol Concert.

- Jenny is planning a Carol Concert in the Church on 20th Dec.
- It was agreed that only confident performers should be invited to perform.
- A rough wording for an invite to potential performers was worked out and Chris offered to be a second pair of eyes before Jenny goes public with it.

8. Christmas Tree Festival.

- Jenny also put forward the idea of a Christmas Tree festival.
- This has been done before (organised by Alice Phippen) and though it's a lot of work it does encourage people, especially children, to visit the church as well as raising money.
- The challenge is sourcing the trees, transporting them and establishing them in the church. They can be disposed of by taking to Debbie whose sheep like them.
- Jenny will speak to Alice about doing this again in 2026.

9. The Graveyard.

- Ongoing maintenance of the graveyard is a struggle. Not just with the mowing but fighting bramble encroachment. Corinne is doing her bit but more help is appreciated.
- There are also issues with gravestones which fail the push test and are considered unsafe.
- A more fundamental problem is the graveyard wall, which requires major remedial work. One of the problems is that spoil from gravedigging has been piled against the wall and is slowly pushing it over. Jenny sought advice on how to seek funds for this.
- It was suggested that she post on the Village chat for someone, perhaps with experience in this area, to help her with grant applications.
- It was suggested Jenny speak to a local farming family for help with works. They might have the small diggers and earth movers needed to move the spoil which is against the wall.
- It was also suggested that local businesses might help. Especially if it is a family business and that family has members in the graveyard. (EG Charltons)