

Buckland CLP Steering Group Meeting Notes 26 August 2025

Jim Douglas, Louise Wellesley Mike Sheil, Mannie Barber

Update

Jim reported on points arising from a meeting with a group of Buckland WI members on 19th June: issues raised were transparency of the process, steps that could be taken to consult further with the village and to make sure that all voices were heard, doubts about whether Summerside Paddock was the best location for a childrens play area. Jim had a good discussion Gary Franks chair of RWMT (minibus). He is still trying to arrange a meeting with the headteacher of Buckland School and a small group of trustees of the Village Hall Committee. and the Village Hall Committee. Jim is in contact with the group wishing to propose a play area, the group proposing a tennis court and those who propose a Conservation Area Appraisal for Buckland. Jim will talk to people interested in taking forward the idea of an online village noticeboard.

Summerside Paddock

We discussed the next steps to consulting with the village about The Estate's offer to lease the paddock to a properly constituted group to develop it as a community space. We agreed that there should be opportunities for everyone to consider whether this was a good idea and then whether there was sufficient support to sustain this proposal through its development. We agreed that a project group would need to be established to consider the feasibility of the proposal. and then If there continued to be support in the village, the project group would take the proposal forward by consulting with the village on a vision for the development of the paddock and what the land would be used for. We would recommend to the project group that a phased approach should be used including possible later plans for development of the old swimming pool area.

Autumn Whole Parish Meeting

We agreed to arrange a whole parish meeting in late October to focus on the opportunities presented by the offer of Summerside Paddock. The aim would be to inform people about the possibilities and stimulate discussion about the vision for all age community use of the space. We would try and get speakers with knowledge of similar projects in Oxfordshire. Suggested time 5-7pm midweek. Mike has a digital projector and screen. Mannie agreed to do a poster.

We would aim to distribute a short questionnaire in the village after the meeting to try and measure the level of popular support for any feasible proposals that had been put forward.

Communications

Jim will write a short piece for Village Voices October edition and circulate for comment. It will focus on the purpose of the planned October meeting. Jim will also set up a space on the main village noticeboard for information about Buckland CLP.

It was agreed that we would send out an update via our email list of those interested in the CLP, Buckland Village Whatsapp and the Parish Clerk email.

Date of next steering group meeting : TBC