

Minutes of a meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council

held at the Victory Room, Bucklebury on

Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. J. Munro-Ashman; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Two members of the public.

1 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. R. Ranken and Cllr. L. Clarke.

2 **Declarations of Interest.**

2.1 **Register of Interests.**

Councillors were reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes needed to their declarations of interest.

2.2 **Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

3 **Public Session.**

3.1 **Planning application 22/01442/FULD for Middle Wood.**

This application was discussed at this stage of the meeting, but is minuted in the Planning section of these minutes.

3.2 **Police presence at BPC meeting.**

It is a considerable time since a member of the Policing team has attended a BPC meeting. It was agreed that PCSO Sarah Preston, or another representative be invited to attend the August or September meetings.

4 **Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council held on Monday 13th June 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th June 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 **Wessex Woodland.**

BPC has been consulted by Wessex Woodland on planned works on woodland belonging to Bucklebury Estate, surrounding Bucklebury Common. The majority of the work is selective thinning, and clear felling of areas with significant ash dieback before restocking with mixed broad leaf trees.

Wessex Woodland carried out the thinning and felling of trees in Blacklands Copse. Cut wood was stacked before being gradually removed from the site over a period of time. It was suggested that Cllr. Allum raises any concerns he has with Alasdair Jones-Perrott, alternatively Mr. Jones-Perrott could be invited to attend a meeting of BPC.

5.2 **Cyril Lewington.**

It was reported with sadness that Cyril Lewington, who was Clerk to BPC for at least 10 years up to 2006, has recently passed away recently.

5.3 **Resignation.**

Cllr. Dickens reported that Cllr. Cairns has tendered her resignation from after this meeting. Cllr. Dickens thanked her for her service, since October 2012, on the council. She has diligently collected bottle tops (which she will continue with until the end of the year), worked on the revision of Bucklebury Vision and always been willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed.

6 **Clerk's Report**

6.1 **Burdens Heath Streetlights.**

The contracts for removal of the Streetlights have been signed and returned to Enerveo. The Clerk has requested the proposed date for the works, so that when residents are informed of the removal of the lights they can be told when the work will take place.

Signed

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7 **Planning.**

7.1 **Planning applications which BPC has been consulted on by WBC.**

7.1.1 **22/01442/FULD – Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.**

Erection of a dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.

Temporary permission, for a dwelling exists on the site and has been renewed. The proposed new permanent three-bedroom dwelling will be 205m². It will also contain an office and garage. Once the new dwelling is developed, the temporary residential log cabin will be removed.

The meeting was **closed** for the applicant to speak.

The new dwelling will be a steel framed structure with a brick-built base. The walls will be block and white render, and timber (some supplied from Middle Wood). The roof will be green metal. A living roof is being considered as a possible amendment. Given the development of the business and a family, the applicant needs a degree of permanence.

The meeting was **reopened**.

Concern was raised about the amount of glazing on the south facing elevation and the impact on wildlife. There are no near neighbours and the site is secluded by trees. The modern design and lack of features from Bucklebury Vision were commented upon.

Cllr. Brims proposed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to there being a forestry tie to the property in perpetuity, the existing log cabin must be removed, and that the forestry business on site has sufficient financial backing to justify the need for the build. This proposal was carried.

7.1.2 **22/01538/HOUSE – Patchways, Upper Bucklebury.**

Proposed first floor rear extension and addition of solar panels.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

7.2 **To receive planning decisions received from WBC:**

7.2.1 **22/01194/HOUSE – Gamekeepers Lodge Farm, Hawkridge Hill.**

Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of new replacement outbuilding, with single storey link extension.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.2 **22/01127/HOUSE – 35 Broad Lane.**

Formation of habitable rooms in roofspace with side dormer and front gable build up.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

7.2.3 **22/01100/HOUSE – 1 Catherine Place.**

Proposed single storey rear extension.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.4 **22/00991/HOUSE – Oak Lodge, Upper Woolhampton.**

New detached outbuilding.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.5 **22/00728/HOUSE – 14 Broad Lane.**

First floor extension, single storey, front, side and rear extensions.

BPC **objected** to this application, an amendment was submitted which BPC **objected** to more strongly than the original application, but the amended application was **approved** by WBC.

7.2.6 **21/02657/FULD – Wimbles Barn.**

Change of use and conversion of existing barns to a residential dwelling and ancillary store, together with residential amenity space, landscaping, parking and associated works.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.3 **Adjacent Parish Applications.**

7.3.1 **22/01438/HOUSE – Inglespring, Stanford Dingley.**

Section 73: Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 4 (Windows/glazing/roof lantern) and 6 (Tree Protection Scheme) of previously approved application 21/01693/HOUSE: Demolition of existing store, conservatory and utility room. Conversion of existing garage to kitchen. Erection of single-storey and two storey extensions to existing dwelling. Formation of bay window, and removal of existing chimney. Removal of 2 no. trees.

It was agreed that BPC has no comments to make on this application.

7.4 North East Thatcham (THA20) Working Group.

Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Spours have a meeting scheduled with Mike Robinson (planning consultant) where they will appraise him of the environmental work being carried out.

8 **District Council Business.**

8.1 Local Plan.

Viv Evans, the interim head of planning at WBC, has met with the Colthrop developers and the Henwick developers.

A consultation is taking place on formalising the arrangements and tying down the ecological buffer zone between Upper Bucklebury and THA20; BPC may wish to comment on this consultation.

8.2 Resurfacing Work.

Pease Hill is scheduled for resurfacing work and will be closed on the 18th July. Other resurfacing work continues across the area.

8.3 Grass Cutting.

The grass in the play area at the Victory Room has not been cut by WBC contractors this summer and the grass was knee deep until cut by a local resident. The field has been cut, but not frequently. Sight lines at junctions have been cut since the last meeting. Any which remain dangerous should be reported to Jo Watt (jo.watt1@westberks.gov.uk) at WBC.

The grass cutting regime on The Avenue is that it should be cut to approximately 6” in the Spring and then cut again in late summer and the cut grass removed.

9 **Risk Assessments.**

A risk assessment for BPC was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Some questions had been raised and answered over email prior to the meeting. The Risk Assessment was approved and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

10 **Parish Council Website.**

There has been little development of the website since the last meeting. Documents from the current website need to be copied across to the new website.

11 **Bucklebury Meadows and The Hockett Field.**

The hay has been cut and baled on the Hockett Field. All of the Meadows have been cut, some of it has been baled and some of it is curing before being baled.

Quote for entrance to meadows from Morton’s Lane.

Following receipt of the first quote for this work Cllr. Teal contacted the contractor about the quoted specification. As a result, a second quote of £1,840 (excluding VAT) has been submitted for the work. This quote was approved, subject to the work being carried out in the near future. Cllr. Teal will project manage the work.

Community Orchard.

Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Allum and the Clerk met with those interested in a Community Orchard on Monday 4th July in the small meadows. The group are very enthusiastic. Work is going on to develop terms and conditions for the group. Cllr Allum is going to draw up a planting plan with some suggestions for tree varieties. The major issue is the lack of water. Gary is being contacted at The Cottage Inn about possibly putting a pump into the old well in the back of the pub field. Alternatively, a water IBC (Intermediate Bulk Container) holding 1,000 litres may be needed, but this would need filling and transporting.

Hockett Field.

The Clerk has contacted Pete Cane and, subject to having access to the right pieces of equipment, is able to carry out the ground preparation and sowing of wild flower seeds in the Hockett field.

12 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

The Clerk will be arranging a site meeting of the burial board to consider some recent issues. Since the last meeting, the Clerk has arranged for Steve Beeson to put out the wheelie bin.

13 **Memorial Hall surroundings.**

13.1 **Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.**

Signed

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One of the panels in the youth shelter by the BMX track has been pushed out of the frame with a tree branch, breaking the bolt and bending the panel completely out of shape. Cllr. Southgate has managed to fix the damage.

13.2 CCTV at the Memorial Hall.

The WBC Members bid to cover half of the quote for installation of the CCTV at the Memorial Hall has been successful. Cllr. Dickens has spoken to the electrician who is checking his quote with the suppliers as the quote had expired, and will be discussing a date when the work can be started. Concern had been raised about the existing cabling and a demo will be set up at the beginning of the installation to ensure that there is sufficient detail in the images captured.

14 Wellbeing.

14.1 Coffee mornings.

The June coffee morning was the most successful coffee morning to date with over 20 parishioners enjoying coffee and cake. The next coffee morning will be on the 28th July at 10.30am.

It was agreed that the Clerk will organise a banner to advertise the event to go outside the hall to a maximum cost of £50.00.

14.2 Ukrainian Refugees.

The Community Bus is now being used on Wednesdays to transport refugees to Newbury to attend the EduCafe.

The PPG have organised Russian and Ukrainian speakers to assist with any refugees who need health care.

14.3 Defibrillator for the Memorial Hall.

The WBC members bid for a defibrillator and cabinet at the Memorial Hall was successful and will cover half of the total cost of the equipment (total cost £1,415 excluding VAT). Bucklebury Tennis Club have agreed to make a donation towards the equipment. The unit should be installed on the Memorial Hall where it can be seen from the road for the benefit of potential users and to reduce the chances of vandalism. It was agreed that the Clerk should order the equipment.

15 Environment.

15.1 Conservation Area Appraisal.

There has been no update from WBC on the conservation area appraisal.

15.2 Speeding in the Parish.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he had made contact with the SID trainer from Traffic Technologies and will organise a training date sometime in August.

15.3 Recycling in the Parish.

Cllr. Cairns reported that over 200Kg of bottle tops have been recycled to date. She will continue to collect and deliver bottle tops until Christmas before which, BPC must decide whether they wish to continue the project. Over the three years the project has been operating, sadly there has been no change in packaging.

Cllr. Brims reported that following the Memorial Hall Committee's decision that they no longer want the clothes bank, he has contacted the Bucklebury church office at All Saint's Church, Upper Bucklebury. The church wardens will consider hosting the clothes bank in the All Saint's Church carpark at their next meeting.

15.4 Bucklebury Nature Watch.

Cllr. Allum reported that he has now had the offer to go into Bucklebury Primary School and introduce the Bucklebury Nature Watch project in October, having originally tried before Easter.

16 Finances.

16.1 Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

1 st Bucklebury Guide	£250.00	Donation.
Post Office Ltd	£45.19	SSE Streetlight cost 2/6/2022 to 1/7/2022.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£420.00	Waste costs for first six months of 2022.
NatureBureau Ltd	£720.00	Ecology Assessment for opposing THA20.

Signed

Date

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Salaries, pension contributions and expenses £690.07 June 2022 salaries, pension contributions, annual assembly expenses and SLCC membership.

16.2 To review current balances and financial position on the 13th June 2022.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £19336.60
Lloyds Current Account: £22,012.17 On 20th June 2022.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows: £35,450.80 On 20th June 2022.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account: £32,752.35 On 7th April 2022.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: £4,580.27 On 7th April 2022.

16.3 Three-year plan.

Cllr. Brims commented that he was not aware of any work going on to prepare or produce a three-year plan for BPC. It was agreed that the Clerk would organise a working meeting to start considering a plan.

17 Round Table Comments.

17.1 WBC Climate Forum.

The next WBC Climate Forum will take place on Wednesday 13th July. Cllr. Cairns has previously attended these meetings. Cllr. Brims agreed to attend when he is available. The Clerk will attend the July meeting.

17.2 Defibrillator.

Cllr. Allum reported that he had recently attended a First Aid course where he learnt that if a defibrillator is to have a chance of saving a life it is needed within 3 minutes. He raised the question of a defibrillator in The Slade and suggested that it could be located on the front wall of Ferndale.

17.3 Letter to Commoners.

Cllr. Southgate raised questions which appear to have been sent to properties with commoners' rights, however not all properties with such rights have received them. After a discussion, it was realised that properties that have had a name change since the registration of the common had not received the letter. Cllr. Allum will contact Alex Cruickshank who sent the letters.

17.4 Footpath in front of Peaches Garage.

A parishioner has raised concern about how close the cars, at Peaches Garage, are parked to the edge of the main road. Cllr. Teal commented that there was only 750mm between the road and a car in one case, which is insufficient width to pass with a child and a pushchair. Bucklebury Primary School are encouraging parents to park at All Saint's Church and walk to school and they must therefore pass the garage.

17.5 Peaches carpark.

Cllr. Dickens has raised concerns with Mr. Shingadia about trip hazards in the Peaches store carpark resulting from the potholes. The freeholder is looking at improving the surface.

18 **The meeting concluded at 9.40pm.**

Date of next meetings:

Next Planning meeting: Monday 25th July 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Next BPC meeting: Monday 8th August 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.