

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF
BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL held via Zoom on Saturday 13th February 2021 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. B. Unamba-Oparah; Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. T. Slatford; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. R. Ranken, Cllr. F. MacCallum and Cllr. A. Hillerton.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Register of Interests.

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

D2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – SP17 NE THATCHAM

P1. Cllr. Dickens reported that the response to the first stage of the Local Plan and specifically SP17 has now been completed. Thatcham Town Council has complimented BPC on their response and drawn on information in it. Cllr. Dickens appreciated the way in which BPC has pulled together to produce the response.

This meeting is about how BPC prepares for subsequent stages of the Local Plan.

The Community Group, headed by Steve Beeson, John De Lara and Duncan Powell is keen to work with BPC. The initial question to be answered is around who might be on a joint group and how it would be structured. There was some discussion about which councillors would sit on the joint group; no conclusions were reached. It was felt that there were merits in the group being chaired by an independent person from the wider community. The group will not be a committee of BPC, but a completely separate entity with BPC having a strategic voice in it by virtue of the councillors on it.

BPC would be willing to make a financial contribution to help launch the group; the amount was not determined. The group would need to form a plan including fund raising and engaging with specialists etc. with an estimate of associated costs.

WBC has received approximately 1,800 letters and at least 2 petitions as a result of the first consultation. All of the responses will be analysed by WBC. WBC has an aspiration to have the next draft ready to be signed off by the full council at the May meeting, for a second consultation in June or July.

BPC decided on all out opposition to the first stage of the Plan. The Community Group is expected to maintain this view. There was some discussion about whether BPC should consider possible compromises and mitigations.

Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Brims and Cllr. Southgate will meet with Mr. Beeson, Mr. De Lara and Mr. Powell and discuss the immediate way forward for the wider group on Thursday 18th February.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Communication and The Oaks.

Cllr. Clarke asked that BPC form an email distribution list which could be launched in the next edition of The Oaks. This was agreed. The Clerk will work out timescales for The Oaks with a view to producing copy to be delivered around the end of March or beginning of April.

RT2. Annual Parish Assembly.

It was agreed to hold a virtual parish assembly on Thursday 6th May. Under current legislation, this is the last date on which virtual meetings can be held before face-to-face

Signature

Date

meetings must be resumed. Representatives from the PPG will be invited plus one other external speaker. Possibilities included Jon Winstanley (WBC Highways), Kofi Adu-Gyamfi (WBC waste manager), the archaeology lady from WBC and the WBC Landscape agent.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee:

Monday 22nd February 2021 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Bucklebury Parish Council:

Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Signature

Date