Minutes of the Annual meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council held in The Victory Room, Bucklebury on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. B. Dickens; Cllr. G. Loader; Cllr. M. Morgan; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr.P. Spours; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. C. Willett; Cllr. G. Woods; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Two members of the public were present (one of whom was co-opted to BPC; Cllr. Windmill).

1 **Election of a Chairman.**
Cllr. Spours proposed that Cllr. Dickens be Chairman of BPC for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Teal and unanimously agreed.
Cllr. Dickens signed his declaration of office.

2 **Election of a Vice-Chairman.**
Cllr. Teal proposed that Cllr. Southgate be Vice Chairman of BPC for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Allum and unanimously agreed.

3 **Apologies**.
Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Clarke.

4 **Declarations of Interest.**

4.1 Register of Interests.
There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

4.2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.
There were no other declarations of interest in any agenda items.

5 **Public Session.**
No matters were raised during the public session.

6 **Minutes of meetings of Bucklebury Parish Council.**
The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 8th April 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

7 **To consider the Vacancy and Possible co-option.**
Cllr. Dickens proposed that Lesley Windmill be co-opted as a BPC councillor. This was seconded by Cllr. Southgate and unanimously agreed. Cllr. Windmill was welcomed to BPC.

8 **Appointments to Committees.**
The following appointments were unanimously agreed:

Planning Committee	All members of BPC.
Burial Board	Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Allum, Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Willett.
Meadows and Hockett Field	Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Teal and Cllr. Clarke.

9 **Appointments on External Committees.**
The following appointments were unanimously agreed:

Bucklebury Memorial Hall	Cllr. Morgan
Victory Room	Cllr. Clarke
Recreation Ground Committees	Cllr. Clarke / Cllr. Loader
St. Martin's Club	Cllr. Allum
West Berkshire Heritage Forum	Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Morgan
Chapel Row Patient Participation Panel	Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Windmill
Bucklebury Commons Advisory:	Cllr. Loader

10 **Positions of Responsibility.**

The following positions of responsibility were unanimously agreed:

Fred Dawson Play Park & BMX track	Cllr. Teal and Cllr. Southgate
Coffee mornings	Cllr. Southgate, Cllr. Willett and Cllr. Windmill
Oaks	Cllr. Dickens, Cllr Clarke and Cllr. Morgan
Opposition to NE Thatcham	Cllr. Spours and Cllr. Dickens
Grit Bins	Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Allum
Anti Speeding	Cllr. Southgate
Public Rights of Way	Cllr. Allum

11 **Review of Corporate Documents and the Asset Register.**

It was agreed that review of the corporate documents, Risk assessments and the Asset register would take place at the June meeting.

12 **Insurance Arrangements.**

The insurance policy starts on the 7th May 2024 and terminates on the 6th May 2025. The policy has been renewed on a 3-year long term agreement with Hiscox through Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Broker.

13 **Meetings for the coming year.**

Full council meetings will be on the second Monday of the month in the meeting room at the Victory Room until the end of 2024 when they will move to the Oak Room at the Memorial Hall.

Planning Committee meetings will be on the fourth Monday of the month in the meeting room at the Victory Room.

14 **Chair's Report.**

14.1 D-Day 80 Commemorative Magazine.

Production of a D-Day 80 Commemorative magazine has been suggested by a parishioner who is willing to produce it. Bucklebury History Group has been contacted and a meeting will be organised to discuss the concept.

15 **Clerk's Report.**

15.1 Licensing Application for The Cottage Inn.

BPC opposed the change in licensing at The Cottage Inn. The applicant is keen to meet with BPC and attempt to reach a resolution and prevent the application from having to go to a License Hearing. Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Loader will meet with the applicant. DS GL

15.2 Oaks.

It was agreed that the next edition of The Oaks will go out in late June/early July.

16 **Planning.**

16.1 Planning applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:

16.1.1 **24/00877/HOUSE – Glencoe, Chapel Row.**

S73: Variation of conditions to vary conditions 3 – materials, 4-EPS license, 5-lighting design strategy, 6-bat mitigation strategy and 7-ecological enhancements. Previously approved application 23/02773/HOUSE: Erection of single storey rear extension and external alterations to existing dwelling. Erection of single storey detached garage.

BPC agreed to **object** to this application on the grounds of the excessive number of lights, particularly flood lights and the impact the lighting will have on the night sky, the ecology and neighbours.

16.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

16.2.1 **23/01803/FUL – The Lodge, Bucklebury Farm Park.**

Change of use of an existing Log Cabin at Bucklebury Farm to allow a flexible use of space for farm workers dwelling, office space, meeting room, workshop and studio – class C3, E(c), E(d) and E(g).
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

16.2.2 **23/02694/HOUSE & 23/02695/LBC – Little Thatch, The Avenue.**
Single-storey infill rear extension with internal alterations, addition of dormer window and covered porch and replacement windows.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

16.2.3 **23/002973/HOUSE – Cherry Cottage, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).**
Two-storey side and rear extension to the existing residential dwelling and the construction of an outbuilding following the demolition of the existing outbuilding.
BPC made **no comment** on this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

16.2.4 **24/00438/FUL – Beenham Hatch, The Avenue.**
The installation of ground mounted solar panels.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **withdrawn.**

16.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.
There are no new planning applications within 200m of the parish boundary.

16.4 Update on the Local Plan.
There have been two days of the Local Plan hearing with the Planning Inspector. Andrew Black, BPC's planning consultant has been present and the sessions have been broadcast on YouTube. The NE Thatcham site proposals will be considered on the 21st and 22nd May.
The developers put forwards the original proposal of 2,500 homes on the NE Thatcham site, which was scaled down to 1,500 by WBC. As a result of this reduction, the developers are only willing to support infrastructure for the 1,500 homes and not improve the infrastructure for Thatcham. The original suggestion of three areas of country park have now been dropped from the plan.

17 **District Couoncillor's Report.**
District Cllr. Read reported that there is a WBC Exec meeting on 23rd May, at which he will be asking about the capacity of enforcement due to some worrying local developments.
The consultation on the 20mph zone in Theale is open until the 18th July and the consultation on domestic abuse has 6 days left to run.
District Cllr. Geoff Brook is the new leader of WBC and the deputy leader is District Cllr. Denise Gaines. District Cllr. Billy Drummond is the Chairman of WBC.

18 **Finances.**

18.1.1 Payments to be authorised by Councillors:

CPRE	£100.00	Membership.
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	£506.77	Membership.
Triangle Management Company Ltd	£336.96	Memorial Hall weekly dog bin emptying 1/4/24 to 31/3/2025.
Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	£940.80	Repairs to Chapel Row bus shelter and Bucklebury Meadows dog bin (April '24).
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£115.00	Grounds maintenance.
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Broker Ltd	£1,412.04	Insurance.
Salaries, pensions, HRMC & expenses	£1,095.54	

18.2 To review current balances.

	Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£33,317.79		
	Lloyds Current Account:	£19,634.49	19th April 2024	
	Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£32,772.37	19th April 2024	
	Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£33,313.35	8th April 2024	
	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,658.72	8th April 2024	
	The first half of the precept, £19,000 has been received from WBC. The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation to the 13th May 2024.			
19	**D-Day Anniversary Event.**			
	Cllr. Dickens has met with Rev. Steve Newbold (the new Rector) and he has agreed to give a short blessing after the tributes have been read. Mr. Higgs, the head of Bucklebury Primary School has agreed that the school captains will attend and one of them will read a tribute. The Lord of the Manor, a 102-year-old mosquito pilot and a Bucklebury Guide will also read tributes.			BD
	The Lord of the Manor has given permission for the beacon to be installed on Chapel Row Green and for the Green to be used to park some vehicles.			
	Installation of the beacon needs to be organised and a budget of £500 was agreed.			JA
	Hurstbourne Forge have offered to donate a "Tommy" sculpture to be displayed and raffled/auctioned at the event.			GW
	Cllr. Southgate has identified flag stands and poles for the flags to be attached; it was agreed to order four.			DS HP
20	**Bus Shelter.**			
	The quote for £75.00 to cut back laurel behind the Broad Lane bus shelter was unanimously agreed.			
21	**Fred Dawson Play area and BMX Track.**			
	Cllr. Teal reported that he has contacted the BMX track contractor for an update on when the proposed work will take place.			
	The post at the entrance to the BMX track has been supported and the hand rail fixed, however the ground is very soft. The post will need replacing at some stage with a metal post.			
	It was noted that there has been little litter around.			PT
22	**Meadows.**			
	No quote has been received for cutting paths in the small meadow, despite being requested. Various other contractors were discussed.			
23	**Highways.**			
23.1	Speed Indicator Device (SID).			
	More than 400,000 datapoints have now been recorded of vehicles travelling through the parish. The data indicates that SID does slow people down, however it also shows that there are a few "hard core" speeders who ignore it.			
	SID is currently being deployed in Bucklebury Village where there is an issue with perceived speed, although there are a small number of speeding vehicles too.			
23.2	Thames Valley Police (TVP) Community Speed Watch (CSW).			
	It is anticipated that the TVP CSW will help reduce and educate some of the "hard core" speeders.			
	To date, twelve CSW signs and clips have been delivered, including two portable signs for use in Bucklebury Village. Delivery of further signs is awaited.			DS
	Once all of the signs have been put up across the parish, volunteers can complete the training.			
	Cllr. Southgate reported that he has been asked to spend time with Woolhampton and Bradfield Parish Councillors explaining how SID is used and talking about the possibility of sharing the cost of an ANPR system.			DS

	It was noted that the BPC SID is very well utilised and it shouldn't be loaned out whilst it is so well utilised.	
24	**Environment.**	
24.1	Works on the Common. Alasdair Jones-Perrott gave an update on the timescales for work on the Common at the Annual Parish Assembly on Friday 10th May. His presentation is available on the BPC website.	
25	**Reports from any other meetings.**	
25.1	Bucklebury Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall committee has decided that dogs (with the exception of assistance dogs) are banned from the Memorial Hall. The reason for the ban is unclear but the health risk to toddlers who use the hall on a Friday morning after the Thursday coffee morning has been suggested. Two small dogs have been attending the monthly coffee mornings and are seen as making a positive contribution to those attending. Cllr. Morgan will challenge the decision of the committee and report at the next BPC meeting.	MM
25.2	TRO meeting. A site meeting was held to inspect a number of byways in the parish which have been abused by 4x4s to ensure that the TROs are applied again during the winter of 2024/25. Two WBC officers attended the meeting and the issues at each location were discussed.	
26	**Round Table Comments.**	
26.1	4x4s and Motorbikes at Ramsbury Corner. Motorbikes and 4x4s have returned to using Ramsbury Corner. Use of CCTV to help apprehend the culprits was discussed.	
26.2	Incident in Upper Bucklebury. It was reported that a mini motorbike was followed up Harts Hill Road by the Police and subsequently ceased. The rider fled the scene. Yesterday, the Police helicopter was circling Upper Bucklebury and it is understood that arrests have resulted.	
26.3	Policeing in the Parish. PCSO Sarah Preston has left TVP, after having served as one of the PCSOs covering Bucklebury for a significant number of years. The two PCSOs covering the area are PCSO Paul Smith and PCSO Sally Joyce. There is a Police "Have your say" session at the Victory Room on Sunday; Cllr. Dickens will attend.	BD

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm.

Date of next meetings:

BPC Planning meeting: Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.

BPC meeting: Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.

Common Clearing: Saturday 5th October 2024, 2pm at the Memorial Hall

Signed . . . . . Date . . . . . .