

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
held using Zoom on Monday 12th October 2020 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS

Mr. D. Carrier.

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. T. Slatford.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Updates to 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.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 14th September 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 14th September 2020 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

M2. Bucklebury Parish Planning Committee – Monday 28th September 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee which took place on Monday 28th September 2020 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Brims.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Bucklebury Volunteers.

The volunteer group in Bucklebury, to support those struggling as a result of COVID 19 never officially ended. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact all the volunteers (via email) and check that they are still in a position to act as volunteers.

CH2. Walk around the Parish.

Cllr. Dickens reported that he has walked around much of the parish and noticed that there was very little litter at the ford. It was noted that two mattresses and a chair have since been left there. There are now two 30mph signs, just north of the swale and the bridge in Bucklebury Village (one had been missing). Glamping at Bucklebury Farmpark was reported to be going well. All of the main work at Vanners appears to be complete and the temporary structures in the field opposite have all been removed. Litter at Angels Corner continues to be a problem.

CH3. Parking around the junction of Briff Lane and Burdens Heath.

Cllr. Dickens reported that he had spoken to the businesses at Mount Pleasant (the Saab garage and the panel beaters). The Saab garage are only responsible for three of the cars and are very aware, and observe the need not to park on the junction. The Panel beaters have any parking further restricted at the moment due to deliveries for the building work at Imagine (opposite), but all the large deliveries are now complete.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Defibrillators.

Cllr. Unamba commented that he understood the risks posed by vandalism and COVID, but in view of the British Heart Foundation's support of unlocked cabinets and the poor mobile phone signal he supported the cabinet being unlocked. David Carrier commented that time is of the essence when someone suffers a cardiac arrest; for every minute before

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the use of a defibrillator, there is a 10% decrease in survival rates. Recently there have been two serious incidents requiring urgent 999 emergency calls and these calls could not be maintained using a mobile phone. Cllr. Unamba commented that the risk of vandalism shouldn't be overlooked and this could be assisted with the use of CCTV in the immediate vicinity.

It was agreed to trial having the defibrillator unlocked for a period of 6 months. The Clerk will explore ordering the parts to modify the cabinet and new notices. HP

Cllr. Spours will confirm that the landlord at the BladeBone had the code for the defibrillator there. PS

CL2. Hoggin on the Common.

The clerk reported that there are heaps of a hoggin-like material in certain locations on the common. This material has been extracted locally and is for use to repair the damage to the common by 4x4s and to repair pot holes on some of the tracks. There is also a pile on Fanny's Lane to go on the surface of the path running parallel to Burdens Heath. Both BBOWT and Willie Hartley Russell have been involved with the work.

CL3. District Parish Conference – Tuesday 20th October.

Cllr. Southgate and the Clerk will attend the District Parish Conference.

CL4. Covid Banner.

WBC has ordered "Hands Face Space" banners for each of the parishes in the area. It was agreed that one should be put on the fence at the Memorial Hall.

CL5. Litter at the Memorial Hall.

BPC has made a one off contribution of £50 to the Memorial Hall committee for the emptying of the Biffa bins. Mike Scholl is of the opinion that the majority of the litter which is being put in the bins is generated by users of the playpark and BMX track. As such he is of the opinion that BPC should be paying more towards the service. It was noted that the BPC representatives on the Memorial Hall Committee have not been aware of a Memorial Hall meeting since March. It was agreed that Cllr. Brims would contact Mike Scholl about the situation. JB

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

- P1. 20/01885/FUL & The Barn, Hawkridge Farm.
20/01886/LBC2 *Change of use of listed barn to dwelling, revised access and erection of car port.*

There has been an amendment to the application, removing the carport from the scheme and moving the parking area associated with the proposed barn conversion.

It was reported that the conservation officer at WBC had not considered the proposed parking in front of the Farmhouse, but didn't think it was a problem.

It was agreed that BPC continues to **object** to the application.

- P2. 20/01910/CERTE Hillfoot Cottage.
Change of use of land to garden.
BPC has **no comment** to make either in support or against this application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P3. 20/01815/HOUSE Greenwood, Hatch Lane.
Single storey side extension to provide ground floor shower room. Retrospective approval for the garage as built with a flat roof, rather than pitched.

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

- P4. 20/01660/HOUSE Wayside, Hatch Lane.
Proposed new build garage.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by

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- P5. 20/01643/HOUSE WBC.
2 Berry's Road.
Conversion of integral garage incorporating a front elevation change.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 20/01695/HOUSE Imagine, Upper Bucklebury.
Proposed enlargement of existing bathroom dormer window and addition of canopy porch to house and garage entrance.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 20/01572/HOUSE Bole Cottage, Chapel Row.
Single storey side extension and porch. First floor extension within new roof space with new dormer and Velux windows. Conversion of existing garage.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P8. 20/01380/HOUSE Oak Lodge, Upper Woolhampton.
New first floor to existing bungalow, two storey rear extensions, alterations to existing single storey roofs and demolition of existing garage.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- DC1. Coronavirus.
District Cllr. Pask reported that there have been 450 cases confirmed in the West Berkshire. Everyone needs to be vigilant.
- DC2. Roads.
Patching of roads is taking place around the district, including Little Lane which has recently been done.
- DC3. Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).
All of the TROs on the common came into force on the 1st October 2020. These exclude 4x4s from using the byways with TROs, but not motorcycles. Ten removable bollards to enforce the TROs have been placed at key points on the Common.

TOPICS

- T1. Bucklebury Meadows.
The access track to the small meadow has been cleared and cut. A path has been cut through the grass in the meadow to the north side where a larger area has been cut for benches. A quote for £430 has been received to install a chicane style fencing on the entrance track (to prevent vehicular access and to stop smaller children running into the road) and to install a post to which the entrance gate can be fixed open. This quote was accepted.
Cllr. Hillerton has placed an order for 3 benches; 2 for the meadows and 1 for the cemetery.
District Cllr. Pask has agreed to apply to WBC for a member's COVID grant to cover some of the work in the small meadows. One of the main reasons for the project has been to provide somewhere for older people or young mums to meet up whilst remaining socially distanced and have a chat and enjoy some fresh air.
- T2. Hockett Field.
It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Andrew Inwood about the required work. HP
- T3. Cemetery and Chapel.
Cemetery Carols – It was agreed that Cemetery Carols this year be cancelled due to the Coronavirus restrictions. All those who have contributed in the past will be written to. HP

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Memorials – A quote from an independent stone mason at Greenham Common has been obtained to make repairs to 15 memorials. It was agreed that Cllr. Brims would request a revised quote to replace a quote from January 2019 which included repairs to 11 memorials.

JB

Grounds maintenance - The area in the newer Cemetery which was cleared 18 months ago has been brush cut by CR Landscapes. It has been suggested that the area only be brush cut once a year in late September, otherwise the foxgloves and other flowers will be lost.

Working Party – A socially distanced working party was held and a number of graves have been cleared.

New Bench – A new bench has been ordered and will be positioned overlooking the newest section of graves.

Burial Board Meeting – The Clerk will organise a meeting of the burial board.

HP

T4. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Update on inspections – Cllr. Hillerton reported that she hadn't spotted any issues with the play park. Roger Malloy has felled two ash trees which were growing on the fence line and ground out the associated stumps.

Update on work on the BMX track – A lot of work has been carried out on the BMX track which has been hampered by the weather. After the initial resurfacing, it was very dry and despite the use of a hose pipe, the surface didn't set properly, as a result it needed more work. The track has been closed for several days, but some youths have not observed the closure. The short cuts, across the middle which enable people to go the opposite way round, will be re-turfed in the coming weeks.

Thanks, were extended to Cllr. Hillerton for organising this work.

T5. Conservation Areas.

The Conservation Working Group had a very productive meeting with three parish councillors and three parishioners. The group are looking at what makes the conservation area special and whether or not it should be extended. Detailed site surveys will be carried out, before the WBC template is used to develop the appraisal. Debra Inston (the WBC conservation officer) is meeting with the group on Wednesday 4th November.

T6. SID in Bucklebury.

District Cllr. Pask commented that he was delighted with the SID work which has been carried out in the parish. WBC has a contract with another company to download the data from SID and the software has not been kept up to date. The software manufacturer is working on a patch which will download all of the data, not just some of it.

Cheryl Evans at WBC is working on a range of packages to be provided by WBC. These include online training, booking and down loading of data for SID usage and a commitment to give a list of SID devices which are approved for use on the UK highways which are expected to cost in the region of £3,000. SID not only provides data, but also educates people about how fast they are driving.

The results of the two fixed SID installations at Chapel Row (carried out by Graham Markham) showed 66% of vehicles exceeding ACPO (35mph) in the first installation and the 31% exceeding ACPO in the second installation. The maximum speed recorded leaving Chapel Row was 78mph.

If more than 25% of vehicles are speeding pressure is put on the Police to carry out speed checks. The problem is not limited to Chapel Row, but is widespread. SID is not installed for vehicles entering Chapel Row; it will be in place for 3 weeks, before a 5 or 6 week break and then a second installation to see if there has been an improvement.

Cllr. Clarke asked about the device which results in letters being sent to the registered keepers of speeding vehicles by the Police; the Police are not currently issuing these letters due to coronavirus.

Questions were asked about where pressure can be applied for effective results. Cllr.

Southgate commented that the approach in Wiltshire where the Police work directly with

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the parish councils and councillors capture data with a speed gun is effective. District Cllr. Pask agreed to take this up with Anthony Stansfeld.

Cllr. Dickens commented that presumably with a parish owned SID we would be able to do our own training.

T7. Replacement /repairs to way markers on the common.
The Clerk is working with Cllr. MacCallum and Cllr. Cairns to get data on all of the rights of way markers. This will then be forwarded to WBC.

T8. Parking at the junction of Roundfield and Little Lane.
In order to determine a way forwards, the land ownership needs to be clarified. It has been determined that the southern triangle of land is registered with the land registry, but the northern triangle is not. WBC highways department manage both pieces of land. Any proposal would require planning permission and the tree roots would need to be considered.

It was agreed that a site meeting with Dominic Murphy, WBC and Sovereign to discuss options is the next step. HP

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Odin Manners	£2,314.00	BMX track maintenance.
CR Landscapes	£1,020.00	Brush cutting in the Cemetery. Clearing access track to small meadow.
Externiture Ltd.	£449.40	Dog bin and installation.
Triangle Management Co. Ltd.	£28.80	Memorial Hall dog bin emptying for September.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£155.19	September 2020 pension contribution.
The Victory Room	£28.00	Rent for Conservation group meetings.
Helen Pratt	£523.79	Clerk's September salary.
Post Office Ltd.	£10.76	SSE streetlights for August and September 2020.
Barry Dickens	£19.99	Expenses.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£63,378.10	
Lloyds Current Account:	£56,288.47	On 18 th September 2020.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£36,921.97	On 18 th September 2020.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,745.21	On 1 st April 2020.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,579.35	On 1 st April 2020.

F3. Expenditure against Budget for the first half of FY20/21.

The Clerk reported a summary of the expenditure for the first half of the year. It was noted that the regular grounds maintenance at the Cemetery includes costs from the previous financial year. The BMX track costs are expected to be higher than predicted, but given the coronavirus pandemic, the track has had much higher usage. There was no allowance in the budget for the work in the small meadow to enable people to meet up for a socially distanced chat during the pandemic, however a member's bid will hopefully cover part of the costs.

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. Victory Room.

Cllr. Brims commented that whilst there has been no formal meeting, there has been progress with the extension. The application for Building Regulations has been submitted to WBC. The tender process has started based on a full written specification. A Veolia grant for an air source heat pump has been secured based on a pump priming grant. Cllr. Brims commented that he proposes to use £1,000 of the ringfenced BPC money for the

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Victory Room for the pump priming grant.

The Scouts, Guides and football club have returned to holding their meetings at the hall which now has a QR code for the National Track and Trace system.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Bottle Top Recycling.

Cllr. Cairns asked for help sorting the plastic bottle tops. An additional 15Kg have been received, taking the total to 41Kg. Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. MacCallum offered to help.

RT2. Cycling on the Common.

There have been issues with cycling on the Common, this is now being pursued by BBOWT; it is breaking one of the Common byelaws.

RT3. Cemetery Gates.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he has spoken to Pete Cane about the gates at the Cemetery. He is currently working on the water wheel from River Barn. The aim of the River Barn project is to fully restore the water wheel so that it can be used to generate power.

RT4. Bucklebury Instagram.

Cllr. Southgate reported that his daughter has set up a Bucklebury Instagram account with the intention of it being used for local history and events for the younger members of the community.

RT5. Bucklebury Half Marathon.

Cllr. Southgate asked about the logistics of organising a Bucklebury Half Marathon. With the help of the Clerk a route has been identified which is mainly on byways and bridleways. During November, a few keen individuals may try it. After the pandemic, it may be possible to organise something more formal.

RT6. Memorial Hall.

There have been reports of drug dealing at the Memorial Hall. It was suggested that a Gigaclear internet connection be explored followed by a more user-friendly CCTV system, which could be viewed remotely. Cllr. Southgate will pursue this.

RT7. Victory Room.

Cllr. Unamba commented that CCTV is urgently needed at the Victory Room. The dummy cameras have clearly been seen as such and are not deterring drivers from abusing the car park.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee:

Monday 26th October 2020 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Bucklebury Parish Council:

Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Signature

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