

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at The Victory Room, Bucklebury on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS

Two parishioners.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. R. Ranken.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Register of Interests.

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

D2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

Cllr. Hillerton declared an interest in the Bucklebury Community Bus charity as a trustee; agenda item 15.3.3.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 11th October 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

CO1. Co-Option.

Following advertisement of the resignation of Fiona MacCallum for a period of 14 working days, there has been no request for a by-election. WBC, acting as the Returning Officer has confirmed that BPC may now co-opt a new councillor to the position.

It was resolved that Jason Allum would be co-opted on to BPC, representing the West Ward.

Cllr. Allum signed his Declaration of Office.

CHAIRS REPORT

CH1. COVID and Meetings.

There was a discussion about COVID testing prior to meetings. It was agreed that all attending meetings would carry out a lateral flow test on the day, before attending the meetings, and that whilst moving around the meeting room masks would be worn (these may be removed whilst seated).

It was noted that everyone is responsible for obtaining their own lateral flow testing kits which are available from the NHS.

CLERKS REPORT.

CL1. Councillor Vacancies.

WBC has been notified of the vacancy arising from Tim Slatford's resignation. Assuming that there are no requests for a by-election, BPC may co-opt a new councillor at the December BPC meeting.

CL2. Common Clearing.

The Common Clearing event held on 30th October was very successful with approximately thirty parishioners out collecting litter from around the parish. The main roads from the Avenue, through Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury and to the parish boundary at Lawrences Lane were all cleared as well as a number of other areas across

Signature

Date

the parish. The next Common Clearing event will be held in April 2022.

CL3. December meeting arrangements.

The December meeting will start at 7.30pm to enable those present to enjoy seasonal refreshments after the meeting. Cllr. Hillerton will provide mulled wine and Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Clarke will provide mince pies.

PLANNING

There were no new planning applications to be considered.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P1. 21/02233/HOUSE Folly Cottage, The Avenue.
Single storey rear extension.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P2. 21/02134/HOUSE Tiverton House, The Slade.
Demolition of existing conservatory roof and side walls at rear of property (existing foundations and base to remain). Build new single storey utility room on existing foundations and base of current conservatory. Utility room to consist of matching brick walls and appropriately tiled roof.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P3. 21/021587/FUL The Cottage Inn.
Erection of fabric tent over part of existing rear external drinking area.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC
- P4. 21/01570/FUL Land Adjacent to Thatchers.
Proposed temporary approval for storage container (6 months).
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 21/01690/FUL Briffons.
Proposed construction of a dressage arena (menage).
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC
- P6. 21/00691/HOUSE Holly Trees, (formerly Chapel Row Cottage).
Alterations to the attached garage to raise the roof and insert dormer windows to the front and rear. Alterations to the rear of the property to create a circulation corridor at first floor level with dormer windows. Dormer windows to both faces of the eastern end of the property.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC
- P7. 21/00641/FUL Bucklebury Chase, The Avenue.
Demolition of the existing dwelling, annexe, garage and outbuildings and the erection of a replacement 5 bedroom dwelling with associated parking and access arrangements. Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) application to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) of previously approved application 17/02266/FUL.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

Decisions made on appeal:

- P8. 21/00237/FUL Travellers Rest Farm (Adjacent Parish).
Application for change of use of field currently used for horse grazing to be used as a secure dog exercise field. APP/W0340/W/21/3276682.
BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by BPC and has

Signature

Date

been **dismissed** on appeal.

P9. Update from the Working Group on the Emerging Local Plan.

It is hoped to carry out some form of wildlife survey of the site and surrounding area. Cllr. Allum has contacted Prof. Tom Oliver at Reading University who may be able to help. Cllr. Spours commented that he is now the only BPC councillor in the working group and it would be useful if there was another. If anyone is interested, they were asked to contact Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Spours or the Clerk.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Local Plan.

WBC is waiting on counsel advice before embarking on what happens next with the Local Plan.

DC2. Grass Cutting on The Avenue.

The grass cutting regime, now being followed on The Avenue is for there to be an early cut prior to the wild flowers, before being left until later in the autumn when it will be cut and the grass removed. Site lines at the junctions will be cut at other times to maintain visibility.

There was a discussion about the various advantages and disadvantages of cutting the grass before and after a litter picking session.

DC3. Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

District Cllr. Pask reported that WBC has funds to replace some of the Herris fencing on the byways with bollards. Use of five or six concrete barriers found on motorways is also being considered for byway 56 (parallel to Broad Lane between Upper Bucklebury and Chapel Row), around the fish ponds and on byway 51 at Nuttage Gate.

It had been hoped that motorbikes would be included in the TROs, but this was met with resistance by the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) and WBC. The TRF representative at the Commons Advisory meeting suggested that his group would run some sessions on the common to educate errant motorcyclists. One session was held on Sunday 7th November in conjunction with the Police. Another session is planned for the new year.

It is understood that the TRF are keen to open up byway 57/2 and 57/3 which runs from the fish ponds parking area to byway 56. This section of byway 57 has been completely impassable for a number of years.

DC4. Dog Bins in the Meadows.

District Cllr. Pask has been assured that the dog bins in the meadows will be emptied this week, having not been emptied for several weeks.

DC5. Sovereign Planning Application for Paradise Way.

The Sovereign Planning application will be considered by the Eastern Area Planning Committee, should it be written up for approval and contrary to policy.

DC6. Parking around the Harts Hill Road, Burdens Heath, Briff Lane Junction.

Questions were raised about the parking on the road outside the Saab garage and the panel beaters. As well as the danger it causes, it blocks access to the BT Openreach cabinet.

Cllr. Dickens commented that he has visited the garages twice and it generally improves for a short period after. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the PCSO what the traffic regulations are for this area.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

The fireworks for the display at the Cottage Inn on Friday 5th November were set up and lit in the large meadow. In order for this to happen, the perimeter path around the meadows and the small meadows were closed on Friday 5th November and Saturday 6th November. In future when the small meadow is closed, the gates need to be locked to prevent access; the notices and shut gates did not deter some people.

The two picnic benches for the small meadow have now arrived and are being used at The Cottage Inn until suitable equipment is available to move them to the small meadow (they

Signature

Date

are very heavy).

Complaints are still being received about the location of the benches in the meadow.

A number of bottles and cans have been collected from the Hockett Field since Common Clearing.

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

A meeting of the Burial Board took place on 18th October 2021. Changes to the Cemetery charges to take effect from the 1st January 2022 were recommended. The revised charges would be in line with Cold Ash.

It was resolved to approve the increase in Cemetery Charges recommended by the Burial Board.

Cemetery Carols – Steve Beeson has agreed to provide the lighting and generator for the event. He will also make the mulled wine, but has suggested that if anyone wants to donate ingredients of wine, sugar or orange juice they'd be very welcome.

It was agreed that any donations will be split between the Bucklebury Community Bus and either the Community Service Group run by Georgina Cardy or the West Berks Foodbank.

Cemetery Working Party – The Burial Board have arranged for a Working Party to take place on Saturday 20th November, starting at 9am. This will be advertised on Facebook.

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark.

It was suggested that a timetable of work for the Playpark should be developed because some of the equipment is beginning to show significant signs of wear and is coming to the end of its life.

Thanks were extended to Peter Cane who has fixed the slide.

The Clerk will order a new nest swing.

T4. Wellbeing.

Coffee mornings – The next coffee morning will take place on 25th November. Those who come would like a coffee morning on 30th December.

Defibrillator at the Memorial Hall - It was resolved that BPC would contribute up to £1,500 from CIL money for a defibrillator and cabinet at the Memorial Hall. Bucklebury Tennis Club are willing to contribute towards the defibrillator.

The Clerk will contact Mike Scholl about installing a defibrillator on the front wall of the Memorial Hall.

T5. Conservation Work.

Work is ongoing on the appraisal document of the Bucklebury Conservation Area.

T6. Speeding.

The SID Gen Pro from Traffic Technology Ltd. has been delivered. The training, given by Traffic Technology Ltd., needs to be organised.

BPC needs to obtain a licence from WBC to operate the SID and risk assessments need to be developed for each site where it will be used.

Cllr. Southgate is monitoring the Community Speedwatch initiative in West Berks, with a view to possibly signing up to it.

T7. Recycling.

Cllr. Cairns reported that, following the article in The Oaks, two volunteers have come forward to help wash and sort the bottletops.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

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| The Victory Room | £4,075.00 | Remainder of funds for Victory Room refurbishment. |
| Connecting Communities in Berkshire | £40.00 | Membership. |
| Post Office Ltd. | £5.44 | Streetlight electricity 2/9/2021 – 1/10/2021. |
| Triangle Management Company Ltd | £100.80 | Memorial Hall dog bin emptying October, November and December. |

Signature

Date

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| T. P. F. Cane | £50.00 | Slide repairs. |
| The Good Exchange | £200.00 | Newbury News Over 80s Parcel Fund. |
| Expenses, salaries and pension contributions | £736.82 | October salary, pension contributions and The Clerk's Manual. |

A CIL payment of £2,076.88 was received from WBC for the development at Abbey View. The Members Bid grant for the picnic benches of £1,194.51 has now been received.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

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|---|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: | £20,564.74 | |
| Lloyds Current Account: | £27,554.69 | On 20 th October 2021. |
| Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows. | £35,448.47 | On 20 th October 2021. |
| Scottish Widows Reserve Account: | £37,748.98 | On 4 th April 2021. |
| Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: | £4,579.81 | On 4 th April 2021. |

F3. Grants.

It was resolved to make the following grants:

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| West Berkshire Countryside Society | £500.00 |
| St. Martins Club | £250.00 |
| Bucklebury Community Bus | £500.00 |
| Berkshire County Blind Society | £50.00 |
| Pang Valley Flood Forum | £100.00 |
| WB Citizens Advice Bureau | £100.00 |

CORRESPONDENCE.

C1. BALC AGM – 17th November 2021, 7.30pm in Woodley.

The BALC AGM will be followed by a presentation on Climate Change

C2. CCB AGM – 11th November 2021.

The CCB AGM will be held via Zoom at 10.30am on the 11th November and will be followed by presentation on Low-Carbon Village Halls and Community Buildings. Cllr. Brims will be attending this meeting.

C3. WBC Climate Forum – 24th November 12.30pm.

The next WBC Climate Forum will be taking place on the 24th November via Zoom; Cllr. Cairns will be attending.

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. District Parish Conference.

Cllr. Southgate reported that Cllr. Lynn Doherty had introduced the District Parish Conference and spoken about the issues with PCR testing at Newbury Showground. The new Chief Executive of WBC, Nigel Lynn, introduced himself before Cheryl Evans, the Senior Road Safety Manager gave a presentation on road safety, including speeding.

RP2 Patient Participation Group (PPG).

Cllr. Dickens reported that Erica Tipton has stood down as the Chair of the PPG and of the West Berks Patient Panel. Chapel Row Surgery has asked the existing members of the PPG if anyone may be interested in taking on the role of Chair; Cllr. Dickens has offered, if no one else is willing to take on the role.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS.

RT1. Grit bins.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he has inspected all of the grit bins and recommended that 34 bags of grit are ordered to refill the bins.

RT2. Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr. Clarke asked if anyone would be representing BPC at the Remembrance Sunday service at St. Marys; Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Cairns were planning to attend.

Signature

Date

Cllr. Allum commented that there were several people missing from the commemorative plaques for both World Wars in St. Mary's Church. More research needs to be carried out to confirm the names missing.

RT3. Wildflower Seed.

Cllr. Brims will sow the remaining wild flower seed from the BBOWT West Berkshire Wild Verges project on ground adjacent to the Victory Room.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee: Monday 22nd November 2021 at 7.45pm Victory Room.

Bucklebury Parish Council meeting: Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30pm Victory Room.

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Date