

Minutes of a meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council

held at the Victory Room, Bucklebury on

Monday 8th August 2022 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. J. Munro-Ashman; Cllr. R. Ranken; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Three members of the public.

1 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. L. Clarke, Cllr. A. Hillerton and Cllr. P. Spours.

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 **Bucklebury Meadows.**

3.1.1 **Orchard Proposals.**

Parishioners raised questions about the proposals for a community orchard in the small meadow. The view of residents whose ground joins the meadows have been sought by parishioners present. Concern was raised about possible enclosure of the orchard, who would benefit from it and how it would be managed. The meadows should remain as meadows and not orchards or football pitches. It was understood that all of the three meadows were to be treated in the same way. A meadows meeting in September (with interested parishioners) was agreed, to discuss concerns.

3.1.2 **Dog Mess.**

Due to the level of dog mess in the small meadow, another dog bin was suggested.

3.1.3 **Oak Limb in the small meadow.**

The limb of an oak tree has fallen into the small meadow. The Clerk commented that the heart wood had been removed leaving only the brash wood behind. The tree is believed to belong to an adjoining property; the owners will be contacted.

4 **Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th July 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 **BMX Track.**

An email has been received from a gentleman in Beenham, praising the BMX track and saying his autistic son gains much pleasure from it. He raised concerns about the state of the CCTV in relation to the vandalism on the BMX track. Cllr. Dickens has responded and advised him that plans were in place to improve the CCTV.

5.2 **Casual Vacancy.**

Following Cllr. Cairns's resignation from BPC, WBC were informed of the vacancy on 25th July. Subject to less than ten parishioners requesting a by-election, BPC will be able to co-opt a new councillor at the September meeting.

6 **Clerk's Report**

6.1 **The Oaks.**

The Clerk will produce an edition of The Oaks to be delivered in mid-September. Articles will need to be submitted to the Clerk by Sunday 4th September.

6.2 **Meeting to discuss three-year plan.**

It was agreed that there would be a working meeting and discussion about a three year plan over Zoom on 13th September at 7.45pm.

Signed

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- 7 **Planning.**
- 7.1 **Planning applications which BPC has been consulted on by WBC.**
No planning applications had been received by BPC.
- 7.2 **To receive planning decisions made by WBC:**
- 7.2.1 **21/03182/HOUSE – Kiln Lodge, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).**
First floor and rear extensions, garage conversion and alterations.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.2 **22/01218/HOUSE – Kings Copse House.**
Replacement entrance gates.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.3 **22/01258/HOUSE – Conygree, Cabinswood Lane.**
Side extension.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.4 **22/01324/LBC2 and 22/01325/FUL – Brockhurst School, Marlston House.**
Adaptation and extension of the existing school theatre to create new classrooms and a multi-purpose pavilion.
BPC had **no objection** to either application. WBC has determined that the LBC application is not required and have **approved** the FUL application.
- 7.2.5 **22/01320/HOUSE – Conamore, The Slade.**
Removal of roof structure, raising all external walls and forming new roof structure to provide living accommodation. Alterations to front fenestration including relocation of entrance and new oak entrance canopy. Alterations to rear fenestration including removal of conservatory and sunroom.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.6 **22/01285/FULD – Vanners.**
Retrospective application for a change of use of land from temporary site compound (formerly agricultural use) to incidental residential use.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- 7.2.7 **22/01386/FUL – The Blade Bone.**
Kitchen extension.
BPC **supported** this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.3 **Adjacent Parish Applications.**
There are no new applications which BPC need to consider.
- 7.4 **North East Thatcham (THA20) Working Group.**
Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Spours and Julian Dobbins have met to discuss the environmental studies to date and Mr. Dobbins will be summarising what further work he believes needs to be completed. Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Spours will be meeting with Mike Robinson, the planning consultant, who is looking at the landscaping aspects of the expected proposals. They will also consider the environmental work and what other work may be beneficial. Cllr. Allum is interested in attending the meeting with Mike Robinson.
A meeting between Thatcham Town Council (TTC), Cold Ash Parish Council (CAPC) and BPC is due to take place in September. TTC are reconsidering their position on the transport study. BPC is more prepared and in a better position to comment on the Reg 19 consultation than it was on the Reg 18 consultation.
- 7.4.1 **SP Broadway’s Proposal for Henwick Park and Colthrop Village.**
There were mixed views on the SP Broadway proposal for the combined developments of Henwick Park and Colthrop Village. CAPC is strongly opposed to the Henwick Park development. Whilst the Colthrop Village development includes a much-needed bridge over the railway in Thatcham, it could bring increased traffic through Bucklebury. Bucklebury residents will however benefit from the bridge when attempting to cross the railway.
It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the September meeting.

8 **District Council Business.**

8.1 **Waste and recycling.**

Cllr. Dickens was thanked for his correspondence with WBC about how good the Veolia employees carrying out kerbside collections and at the Padworth and Newbury recycling centres are. It was much appreciated.

New mini recycling centres have been installed at Theale and East Garston. This is in addition to the Thatcham, Hungerford and Newbury centres.

8.2 **Roads.**

White lines have been painted on the road at the junction of Cemetery Road and Byles Green following a “near miss”. Concern had been raised about the state of road markings through Chapel Row. It was noted that there is a budget for white lines, which prioritises those by schools and at road junctions.

It has been noted that some of The Avenue needs machine patching; it is hoped that this will go ahead shortly.

A number of the roads between Bucklebury Parish and the A4 are currently closed due to water leaks.

8.3 **2021 Census Figures.**

The results from the 2021 census are showing an increase in the number of “over 65s”, a static number of young people and a decrease in the number of children in the area.

8.4 **SID figures.**

Cllr. Southgate questioned whether it was possible to have the figures for the last occasion on which SID was deployed in the parish.

9 **Parish Council Website.**

The new website is progressing and it is hoped that it will be ready to go live by the end of the month.

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

Quote for entrance to meadows from Morton’s Lane.

Cllr. Spours has sent the contact details of another contractor to quote for the work on the Morton’s Lane entrance. Cllr. Teal will obtain a quote for comparison.

The gatepost between the large meadow and the northern meadow had spit causing problems with the hinges. Fox fencing have hung the gate from the opposite post and the gate will shortly be locked so that pedestrians have to use the kissing gate between the two fields.

11 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

A site meeting of the Burial Board will be held at 10am on the 31st August.

12 **Memorial Hall surroundings.**

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

Cllr. Dickens agreed to carry out inspections of the play area during the weekends of 13th/14th and 20th/21st August.

Cllr. Southgate reported that the spinner has been tightened up, the youth shelter fixed and plans developed to resolve the potential head entrapment issue on the multi play equipment.

Cllr. Southgate has drawn up a specification of the existing slide for a replacement. The Clerk will obtain quotes for replacement.

12.2 **CCTV at the Memorial Hall.**

Skip’s Electrical will be carrying out the installation of the CCTV during the week beginning the 15th August. Cllr. Teal agreed to look at the images generated using the new equipment with the existing cabling and judge them for clarity. Appreciation was expressed to District Cllr. Pask for the Member’s Bid covering half of the cost.

Cllr. Southgate asked if there was to be an alert function on the new system. Training will be arranged for the new system.

13 **Wellbeing.**

13.1 **Defibrillators**

13.1.1 **Defibrillator in The Slade.**

Signed

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The defibrillator and cabinet for the Memorial Hall cost £1,415 excluding VAT and installation. It was resolved to spend up to £2,000 on equipment and installation of a defibrillator on the wall between Ferndale and Wayside, near the post box. The power supply will be from Ferndale, and is expected to be negligible.

13.1.2 Guardian for the Defibrillator at the Victory Room.

The original parishioner who acted as guardian of the Victory Room defibrillator is moving out of the village at the end of August.

Cllr. Munro Ashman offered to be the guardian with a parishioner. The Clerk will arrange training with them both.

13.1.3 Defibrillator at the Memorial Hall.

Cllr. Dickens will obtain a quote from Skips Electrical to install the defibrillator and cabinet at the Memorial Hall.

13.2 Coffee mornings.

The coffee mornings are proving very worthwhile for those attending. A banner has been purchased to advertise the monthly events at the front of the hall, which received positive comments from councillors.

The next coffee morning will be on the 25th August at 10.30am.

14 Environment.

14.1 Conservation Area Appraisal.

The conservation officer at WBC has an increased workload and has been out of the office causing delays.

14.2 Speeding in the Parish.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he had started to complete the necessary WBC paperwork for use of BPC's SID. It is hoped to carry out a training session in early September.

14.3 Recycling in the Parish.

The PCC has decided that they don't want to host the clothes bank at All Saint's Church. It was agreed that the Memorial Hall should be asked to confirm that they have received a donation of £495 from the Clothing Warehouse for the clothes bank.

Cllr. Brims will talk to the Lord of the Manor about whether the clothes bank could be located on common land in the car park at the top of Briff Lane or at the end of byway BUCK 9/2, near the junction of Byles Green and Broad Lane.

14.4 Bucklebury Nature Watch.

The Bucklebury Nature Watch project within the iNaturalist app continues to be used to record sightings of plants, animals and insects in Bucklebury.

14.5 Dog bin at the Memorial Hall.

It was resolved to accept the increase in charges, by Triangle Management Ltd, to empty the dog bin at the Memorial Hall, from £6.00 per week to £6.48 per week.

15 Finances.

15.1 Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£175.00	Grass cutting (17 th May to 15 th July 2022).
CR Landscapes	£384.00	Grass cutting in the small meadow (March to July 2022).
Salaries, pension contributions and expenses	£2,439.09	July 2022 salaries, pension contributions, defibrillator and cabinet, and coffee morning banner.

15.2 To review current balances and financial position on the 8th August 2022.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£17,046.01	
Lloyds Current Account:	£20,555.10	On 20 th July 2022.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£35,451.11	On 20 th July 2022.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£32,752.35	On 7 th April 2022.

Signed

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16 **Round Table Comments.**

16.1 **Fire on the Common.**

There was a small fire on the Common, north of Burdens Heath, on Saturday evening, caused by a disposable BBQ. On Sunday morning the site was very hot with glowing embers. Cllr. Allum doused the area with 50 litres of water.

16.2 **Clerk's remuneration.**

Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Brims have been working on proposals for remuneration of the Clerk which will be brought to the next parish council meeting.

16.3 **Noticeboard at Peaches Stores.**

The posts which supported the noticeboard need replacing. It was questioned whether it would be better to locate the noticeboard on the grass triangle opposite Peaches garage. The Clerk will explore the practicalities of this.

16.4 **Incursions on the Common.**

Cllr. Teal commented that it would appear that there has been a significant reduction in the number of incursions over recent months.

It was noted that an electric scooter appears to make regular journeys on the highways and public rights of way.

16.5 **Welcome Pack.**

Cllr. Ranken asked if there are still Welcome Packs; these have been phased out and people directed to the website. It was suggested that a Welcome letter be a nice touch; the Clerk will consider this option as part of a CiLCA learning outcome.

16.6 **Signs at the Ford.**

Cllr. Ranken reported that litter at Bucklebury ford has become an issue again. Notices reminding visitors to take their litter home will be put up. The Clerk will prepare a notice stating the What3Words and postcode of Bucklebury ford for anyone who breaks down in the ford.

16.7 **Bucklebury Beerfest – Saturday 27th August.**

Cllr. Brims reported that arrangements were underway for the Beerfest and more volunteers would really be appreciated.

17 **The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.**

Date of next meetings:

Next Planning meeting: Monday 22nd August 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Next BPC meeting: Monday 12th September 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.