Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council held in The Victory Room, Bucklebury on Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. D. Southgate (Vice Chairman); Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. Clarke; Cllr. G. Loader; Cllr. M. Morgan; Cllr. C. Willett; Cllr. G. Woods; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
One member of the public was present.

1 **Apologies**.
Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. B. Dickens, Cllr. Spours, Cllr. Teal and Cllr. Windmill.

2 **Declarations of Interest.**

2.1 Register of Interests.
It was agreed that the Clerk would sent out the template for all councillors to complete a new declaration of interests for the register.

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

3 **Public Session.**

3.1 Beacon Lighting.
A parishioner thanked BPC for the Beacon lighting event marking the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, in particular, Cllr. Allum, Cllr. Southgate, Cllr. Woods, Cllr. Dickens and the Clerk. He commented that it had been a wonderful event.

3.2 Speeding in Bucklebury.
There are currently three regular users of SID on the main roads across the parish. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Southgate for all of his work in managing SID. Part of the issue is that people become blind to signs. The Thames Valley Police (TVP) Community Speed Watch (CSW) programme should result in letters being sent to those who do excessive speeds along the main roads and don't slow down for SID. However, it is only allowed to be used for a limited period of time, once every six weeks.
A parishioner has found out that in Dorset, the Police and Crime Commissioner allowed the purchase of cameras which are linked together. This enables cameras to be placed along a stretch of road to monitor vehicle's speeds. The parishioner has spoken to the Matt Barber (the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner) and he is exploring options. There is one TVP officer who makes the decisions on how CSW operates in the area and he will shortly be moving on.

4 **Minutes of meetings of Bucklebury Parish Council.**
The minutes of the annual meeting of BPC held on Monday 13th May 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the chairman.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 Website.
Cllr. Southgate reported that the usage of the website has been in the high hundreds each month since December 2023 and hit 1,071 in May 2024. This demonstrates the need for the website and the value of keeping it up todate.
The Clerk was asked to request Hugo Fox (who host the site) to include a security certificate. HP

6 **Clerk's Report.**

6.1 Next edition of The Oaks.
The next edition of The Oaks will be published in early July. The deadline for contributions is Sunday 23rd June.

7 **Planning.**

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

7.1.1 **Hawkridge Farm 23/02603/FUL and 23/02604/LBC**
Additional information has been submitted for the application at Hawkridge Farm, including the obscuring of the glazing to the south and the barn doors being kept. It was agreed that BPC continues to **object** to this application.

7.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

7.2.1 **24/00677/HOUSE – Pebbly Croft, Chapel Row.**
Demolition of existing detached timber store. New raised roof over existing detached garage and 1.5 storey side extension to provide annexe accommodation.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.

7.3.1 **24/00973/DEMO - Rosecroft Cottage, Kiff Green (Adjacent Parish)**
Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Thatched section of existing roof to be removed and replaced with tiles to match the remainder of the House.
It was agreed that Cllr. Allum would look at the application and report to the planning meeting on the 24th June.

7.4 Update on the Local Plan.
The Planning Inspector considering the Local Plan has decided to hold an additional day's hearing on Wednesday 26th June to discuss the work WBC is producing in relation to the action points identified. This work will be published by WBC shortly after the 19th June.
Andrew Black, BPC's planning consultant has quoted £1,650 (plus VAT) to consider the extra information and to attend the hearing.
It was agreed that BPC supports this expenditure.

8 **District Couoncillor's Report.**
District Cllr. Read commented how disappointed he was with the public inspection of the Local Plan. There was no senior WBC planning officer present. Despite the financial situation of WBC, they had afforded a barrister to represent them. WBC appear to want the Local Plan to be developer led. Liberal councillors in Thatcham were reported to be equally disappointed.
Upper Bucklebury appears to have become a service village, despite there having been no consultation with the parish. District Cllr. Read is investigating the situation. CR
Woolhampton parish has an issue with untaxed and uninsured, lorries and trucks being bought into the parish before being stored in fields and laybys. When there are sufficient numbers, they are being driven illegally to Southampton docks for export.
WBC has appointed three new service directors:

- Neil Goddard – Education and Special Educational Needs.
- Rebecca Whiltshire – Children's Services.
- Phillipa Venerables – Development and Regeneration (from September).

A grant of £659,000 from Central Government has been obtained to support those in need as a result of the Cost of Living crisis.
WBC Social Care has been rated "Good" by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on a resent assessment.
Veolia's sustainability fund has been launched to support community groups and organisations to transform their local community and environment. The closing date for applications is the 30th September 2024.
WBC requested a peer review whereby representatives from another Council spent a week evaluating performance, assessing WBC's ambition for residents and determining if adequate resources were in place to fulfil those objectives. The feedback was encouraging as WBC was seen as being more inclusive, more open and more visible. Collaboration with partners was seen to be bringing real benefits to residents.

9 **To review Corporate Documents and Asset Register.**

9.1 Standing Orders.
Some syntactical errors were noted and with these corrected the Standing Orders were approved for the year.

9.2 Code of Conduct.
It was resolved to accept the Code of Conduct.

9.3 Risk Assessment.
The Risk Assessment refers to councillors being sent a copy of the Good Councillor Guide; the Clerk will circulate the recently updated version. HP
It was agreed that a statement needs to be added to the Risk Assessment that there will be additional risk assessments for events organised by BPC. HP

9.4 Asset Register
There was a discussion about the value of items on the Asset Register. The Clerk commented that the value listed, as per official guidance, was the purchase value and does not get changed.

10 **New Financial Regulations.**
New Financial Regulations based on the latest NALC template were circulated. Councillors resolved to approve the document with the paragraphs on charities and cash cards added back in. HP

11 **To Consider and approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).**

11.1 Internal Auditors Report.
The internal auditor did not raise any issues during her audit of BPC. It was agreed that Cllr. Clarke spend up to £50 on flowers in appreciation of the work carried out by the internal auditor. LC

11.2 Annual Governance Statement.
The governance statements were considered and it was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

11.3 Annual Statement of Accounts.
BPC resolved to approve the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ending the 31st March 2024.

12 **Finances.**

12.1.1 Payments to be authorised by Councillors:

Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£47.40	Rent for Coffee mornings (April, May and June 2024).
Sign Wizzard Ltd	£1,174.38	CSW Signs.
GLEAM	£15.00	Membership.
Bibby Commercial Finances Ltd	£32.64	Emptying of 2 dog bins in May 2024.
Yes Engineering Group Ltd	£3,120.00	Transport consultancy for Local Plan.
Playsafety Ltd	£192.00	RoSPA inspection.
SLCC Membership	£229.00	
Flagpoles x 4 for Beacon lighting	£133.55	
Salaries, pensions, HRMC & expenses	£1,104.04	
Andrew Black Consulting	£3,219.57	Planning consultancy for Local Plan.

Invoices for £510 have been sent in respect of interments in the Cemetery.
It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the financial report/bank reconciliation with the agenda for future meetings. HP

12.2 To review current balances.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£24,560.11	
Lloyds Current Account:	£36,823.99	20th May 2024
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£32,807.39	20th May 2024
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£33,313.35	8th April 2024
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,658.72	8th April 2024

The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation to the 10th June 2024.

13 **D-Day Anniversary Event.**

Very positive comments have been received about the Beacon lighting event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. It is estimated that there were between 400 and 500 people at the event. Appreciation was expressed to all those who were involved. The wand to light the beacon was lit by Amelia (one of the Bucklebury School captains) and Jim Dearlove (a 102 year old, mosquito pilot).

It was agreed that Cllr. Woods would obtain a quote for a plaque to go on the post supporting the beacon from Hurstbourne forge. GW

The collection for SSAFA, the armed forces charity raised approximately £700.

13.1 Purchase of a Card Reader.

There was a discussion about BPC purchasing a card reader, in order to collect donations made by card. It was agreed that BPC would invest up to £150 in either one or two card readers. Cllr. Loader will explore the options and make the purchase. GL

13.2 D-Day 80 Commemorative Magazine.

A parishioner, who is a retired journalist, has offered to publish a D-Day 80 commemorative magazine. Estimates for printing a 1,000 copies are in the region of £600. BPC agreed to cover the cost, but the option of sponsorship should also be explored.

The parishioner will be asked to write an article about the beacon lighting for The Oaks.

13.3 Where the Beacon is to be kept.

There was a discussion about where the beacon should be kept long term.

Two sockets for the beacon have been fabricated, one of which is obviously installed on Chapel Row Green, the second is yet to be installed. A possible location for it is the middle of the large meadow in Upper Bucklebury (behind the Cottage Inn).

For the short term, it was agreed that Cllr. Allum would ask the Lord of the Manor if the beacon could remain on Chapel Row Green. JA

13.4 First Aid.

It was agreed that the Clerk and/or at least one councillor should have a valid first aid certificate, enabling them to cover first aid at events including Common Clearing and Cemetery Carols HP

14 **Fred Dawson Play area and BMX Track.**

The RoSPA inspection didn't show any unexpected issues.

Some minor repairs are needed and it was agreed that up to £250 could be spent on repairs. There are significant issues with the mechanism of the self-closing gate which are buried in the ground and have ceased up. This is expected to require a more significant repair or possibly replacement. DS

Work on the BMX track is still to be completed.

15 **Meadows.**

The path around the perimeter of the small meadow (closest to Broad Lane) has not been cut this year. It was agreed to wait until after the hay has been cut before doing anything.

The gate of the kissing gate between the small meadow and the big meadow has been

	forced beyond its closure point so is not performing properly. Councillors will inspect the situation.	
16	**Cemetery.** Having not had any interments since July 2023, there have been two during the last two weeks of May 2024. Whilst the Cemetery is maintained with an objective of encouraging wildlife, there is a careful balance to be struck with respecting the views of those whose loved ones are buried there. Grounds maintenance has, in previous years, been unobtrusive and kept the cemetery looking tidy, however this year there is little maintenance going on, if any, and the reasons for this need to be explored. The two calor gas heaters, with cylinders have been removed from the Chapel. The heaters will be disposed of and the gas cylinders donated to Bucklebury Guides.	
17	**Highways.**	
17.1	Speed Indicator Device (SID). The data being collected from the use of SID is slowly persuading people that there is an issue in the parish. Gareth Dowding (WBC) has agreed to talk to TVP about the incidents of speeds over 70mph. A speed of 96mph has now been recorded on Burdens Heath on a Wednesday afternoon.	DS
17.2	Speed Awareness Posters. The posters printed on Corex board have not been put up around the parish and are looking good.	
17.3	Thames Valley Police (TVP) Community Speed Watch (CSW). All of the CSW signs have now been received and will be put up around the parish over the next week. Once the signs are up, volunteers need to complete on the online training before TVP will supply the radar gun for deployment by volunteers in the parish. Each deployment requires three volunteers to be present.	DS
17.4	Swale in Bucklebury. Water has been running in the swale since January 2024. As a result, the road surface in the swale has become algae covered and very slippery, which has resulted in a number of accidents involving bicycles and motorbikes. WBC has added skid warning signs before the swale, but these don't address the problem. It was agreed that Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Willet would talk to Piers Allison about what could be done. District Cllr. Read agreed to talk to Gareth Dowding about possible solutions.	LC CW CR
18	**Environment.**	
18.1	Works on the Common. WBC has produced an estimate of £250,000 for the pathway parallel to Burdens Heath, crossing Fanny's Lane and Briff Lane. Alistair Jones Perrott had applied for grant funding for various paths including this one; the Clerk will obtain an update. Two grants have been achieved for works on the Common and it is hoped to carry out the majority of the planned work this winter.	HP
18.2	Peaches Noticeboard. The wording for the order for the noticeboard frame has been confirmed and will be placed with Westcot Engineering. There was a discussion about how the frame will be installed. Cllr. Allum has asked for help from two other councillors.	JA
19	**Reports from any other meetings.**	
19.1	Bucklebury Memorial Hall. The new ruling to ban dogs from the hall, with the exception of assistance dogs, has been temporarily lifted following representation from users of the hall. The matter will be discussed at the next Memorial Hall meeting.	

20	**Round Table Comments.**	
20.1	Best of Bucklebury. The Best of Bucklebury event was reported to have been very good.	
20.2	Conservation Area Appraisal. Cllr. Clarke asked what had happened to the Conservation Area Appraisal. It was submitted to WBC well over a year ago and there has been no progress. A lot of work went into producing the document, which WBC had asked parishes to consider completing.	
20.3	Graham's Tree. The tree planted on the Recreation Ground to mark the many years of service of Alderman Graham Pask has had the bark damaged by the grounds maintenance team strimming too close to it. Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Wood will apply wound dressing and tape to the damage to encourage healing; but it is possible the tree will not survive.	JA GW
20.4	Complaint. District Cllr. Read commented that he had received a complaint about too much fly posting in Upper Bucklebury. It was noted that there were a lot of posters up at the time advertising events in the community. These will be taken down once the events are over.	
20.5	Pot Hole Repairs. Cllr. Willet reported that the big pot hole on the edge of the road near Riverside Cottages had been half filled, but the filling had already sunk considerably.	

The meeting concluded at 10.15pm.

Date of next meetings:

BPC Planning meeting: Tuesday 24th June 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.

BPC meeting: Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.

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

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