

Minutes of a meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council

held at the Victory Room, Bucklebury on

Monday 14th November 2022 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. M. Morgan; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. J. Brims; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Three members of the public.

1 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. R. Ranken and Cllr. J. Munro-Ashman.

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.**

No matters were raised during the public session.

4 **Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council held on Monday 10th October 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th October 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

5 **Chair's Report.**

The Chairman had nothing to report.

6 **Clerk's Report**

6.1 **Arrangements for the December meeting of BPC.**

The December BPC meeting will begin at 7.30pm. It was agreed that Cllr. Hillerton would supply mulled wine and the Clerk mince pies for seasonal refreshments **after** the meeting.

6.2 **Letting of the Morton's Lane Property through English Rural Housing Association.**

English Rural Housing Association asked BPC to advertise a property which had become available on Morton's Lane via the WBC Housing Choices. Once an applicant with a suitable local connection had been identified, BPC were asked to verify the connection. The Clerk verified that the applicant has a local connection having known of her for at least 15 years.

6.3 **Removal of Streetlights.**

The streetlights on and around Burdens Heath were removed on the 26th October. An invoice for electricity for 24 days in October is still outstanding.

7 **Planning.**

7.1 **Planning applications which BPC has been consulted on by WBC.**

7.1.1 **22/02572/FUL - Vanners.**

Revised retrospective application for a change of use of land from temporary site compound (formerly agricultural use) to incidental residential use.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC **objects** to this application.

7.2 **To receive planning decisions made by WBC:**

7.2.1 **22/01908/HOUSE & 22/01909/LBC2 – The Old Cottage, The Avenue.**

Single storey side and rear extensions.

BPC had **no objection** to these applications which were **approved** by WBC.

7.2.2 **22/02237/HOUSE – Marywell.**

Formation of replacement swimming pool following removal of existing.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.3 **Adjacent Parish Applications.**

There are no new applications in any adjacent parishes.

Signed

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7.4 North East Thatcham (THA20) Working Group.

The Regulation 19 consultation of the West Berkshire Local Plan is expected to be on the agenda for the West Berkshire Council meeting taking place on the 1st December. On Friday 2nd December there is a public meeting to be held in the Memorial Hall to inform the public. Laura Farris MP has been invited to this meeting, but is unable to attend and has requested a subsequent virtual meeting the following week.

On the 16th November there is a meeting with adjacent parish council representatives to ensure there is no duplication of work and identify any issues. Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Spours are hoping to meet with a Thatcham Councillor about the known issue of traffic. On the 24th November, the Regulation 19 proposals will be made public; on 28th November, the Bucklebury Says No working group are meeting with District Cllr. Pask.

Andrew Black, the Planning Consultant, has recommended a traffic consultant and it may be possible to split the costs.

8 **District Council Business.**

8.1 Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

The TROs came into effect on the 24th October and will be in place for six months. Extra concrete barriers have been bought in to restrict access on some byways. It was reported that there were six motor bikes at Holly Lane over the weekend; any reports of misuse of the byways, if going on at the time should be reported to the police on 999. Cllr. Teal reported that there is no barrier at the junction of Byway 42/1 and Briff Lane (previously this has had Heras fencing).

8.2 Cutting Regime for the Avenue.

The Avenue was scheduled to be cut twice a year, once in the spring and then late in the summer, however, grass on a small part of the Avenue was cut in late May, but was stopped as a result of residents reporting it. The cut late in the summer was very late and resulted in about fifteen piles of cut grass being left for weeks, and took some significant effort to be moved. The problem results from a conflict on how frequently it should be cut; residents would like it left as a wild flower meadow, but the common owner and the Commons Advisory Committee would prefer it to be cut more frequently.

8.3 Free Christmas Bus Service.

Bus services on the Saturdays running up to Christmas are free throughout West Berkshire.

8.4 Food Caddies.

Distribution of food caddies to all homes has been erratic; some people haven't received one and some people have two, however most people should now have one. The weekly collection has already started.

8.5 Cost of Living Hub.

The COVID Hub became the Ukraine Hub and has now become the Cost of Living Hub. Any people struggling are advised to contact the Cost of Living Hub for help and advice. New hosts are being sought for Ukrainian refugees; Cllr. Morgan will put an article into the next edition of The Oaks.

8.6 WBC Members Bids.

District Cllr. Pask commented that there is an extra round of Members Bids open in this financial year, applications need to be made by the 25th November. It was agreed to make applications for the defibrillator in The Slade and replacement benches in the Fred Dawson play area and on the triangle at Chapel Row.

8.7 Enforcement Training.

The WBC enforcement team are running two virtual training sessions on the 23rd and 30th November.

8.8 SID Data.

Cllr. Southgate asked whether there was any news on the data from the "blackcat" deployment in the parish.

8.9 Vegetation outside The Vicarage.

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Visibility is severely impacted by vegetation when turning into Burdens Heath from the south, or crossing into Briff Lane. Cllr. Morgan agreed to talk to representatives of the church about improving the situation.

9 **Parish Council Website.**

The new website will be live by the end of the year.

10 **Bucklebury Meadows and Hockett Field.**

10.1 **Morton's Lane Entrance Works.**

Cllr. Teal has inspected the entrance works and signed them off. Comments on the work have been very positive.

10.2 **Tree works in the meadow.**

Two members of the WBCS will be walking around the meadows on the 2nd December to look at what work the Society may be able to undertake for BPC.

11 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

11.1 **Arrangements for Cemetery Carols (Monday 19th December).**

Cllr. Hillerton and the Clerk reported that most arrangements for the Carols are in place. Cllr. Brims will organise use of the insulated urn for the mulled wine.

It was agreed that the donations collected will be aid of the West Berkshire Foodbank.

11.2 **Cemetery Working Party.**

The Clerk will send round a doodle poll for a Cemetery working party in January/February 2023.

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

12.1 **Update on inspections on the play areas.**

Cllr. Hillerton has identified a couple of mums who are interested in a project to replace some of the equipment.

Cllr. Southgate will obtain quotes for a replacement tube slide.

12.2 **CCTV at the Memorial Hall.**

Cllr. Dickens is organising a date for the electrician to give a training session on the CCTV app.

13 **Wellbeing.**

13.1 **Defibrillators.**

New batteries are likely to be required in the defibrillators at Peaches stores and at the Blade Bone after a product recall.

13.1.1 **Training.**

No progress has yet been made with organising the training. It is aimed to organise the training for the new year.

13.2 **Coffee mornings.**

The next coffee morning will be on the 24th November at 10.30am. The Clerk will book the Oak Room for coffee mornings over the next 6 months.

14 **Environment.**

14.1 **Conservation Area Appraisal.**

The Conservation area appraisal has been with WBC since April and is being reviewed.

14.2 **Highways.**

14.2.1 **Speeding in the Parish.**

Cllr. Southgate reported that the risk assessments have all been completed and all of the forms are complete in draft format. A training package has been prepared, but Cllr. Southgate has been disappointed by the lack of response from councillors about training. Three people have been trained so far and more are planning to be trained this weekend.

Once people have been trained, information needs to be passed to WBC in order to obtain the license to operate the device.

It was agreed to delay putting up the signs encouraging the reduction of speed until the spring when there are more hours of daylight.

14.2.2 **No right turn at Hobson's Corner (Burdens Heath/Harts Hill Road).**

It was agreed that District Cllr. Pask will ask a member of the road safety team to come out and assess the whole of the area around the triangle/Harts Hill Road/Burdens Heath.

Signed

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14.3 Recycling in the Parish.

14.3.1 **Collection of plastic bottle tops.**

Recycling plastic bottle tops was a great initiative, however now that they can be recycled in green bags at the kerbside, there is no longer any reason to continue. A letter will be sent to all of the hosts of collection bins and the bins will be removed.

14.3.2 **Clothes Bank at the Memorial Hall.**

Moving the clothes bank onto Common land was considered by the Commons Advisory committee on Thursday 20th October. They were unanimously against the idea, and of the opinion that the best place for the Clothes Bank is at the Memorial Hall.

It was agreed that Cllr. Brims, on behalf of BPC would challenge the decision of the Memorial Hall.

14.4 Vision for Bucklebury Common.

Work on restoring three ponds (one in The Slade, Chapel Row pond and one in St. Saviour's Wood) has been completed. A second pond in The Slade is to be restored with half of it being for dogs and half for nature.

There is to be a meeting in The Oak Room on Wednesday (16th November) to share the Vision for the Common with parishioners. Concern has been raised about space and during the meeting, news came in that there will also be a Zoom meeting on Thursday 17th November.

15 **Finances.**

15.1 Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£101.09	Emptying of Memorial Hall dog bin – October, November and December 2022
BNP Paribas	£2,758.44	Removal of the streetlights.
C.R. Landscapes Ltd.	£2,208.00	Improvements to Morton's Lane entrance to the Meadows.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£105.00	Cutting the grass (x 3) during October at the Memorial Hall.
Salaries and pension contributions	£928.89	October 2022 salaries and pension contributions.

15.2 Funds received since 10th October 2022:

Cemetery (interment of ashes of a family member): £320.00

15.3 To review current balances and financial position on the 10th October 2022.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£19,287.05	
Lloyds Current Account:	£25,916.90	On 20 th October 2022.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£35,455.31	On 20 th October 2022.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£32,752.35	On 7 th April 2022.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,580.27	On 7 th April 2022.

15.4 Budget and Three-Year Plan.

An initial budget for FY23/24 and a three-year financial plan was shared with the council.

16 **Correspondence.**

16.1 Carer's Rights Day Event – Friday 25th November

An event is being held at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall where various organisations will be available to offer advice and support to carers.

16.2 WBC Climate Forum – Wednesday 7th December 12.30pm (Zoom).

16.3 Free Christmas Shopper Service in run up to Christmas.

Transport is being offered to and from rural areas on the Saturdays before Christmas. Free bus travel is also available within West Berkshire.

16.4 Vision for Bucklebury Common.

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There is to be a public meeting on Wednesday 16th November at 6.30pm; pre-registration is required.

17 **Round Table Comments.**

17.1 **Peaches Noticeboard.**

A quote will be obtained for steel work to support the noticeboard. The Clerk will contact WBC about whether the noticeboard can be placed on the grass opposite Peaches and the garage.

17.2 **Coronation Oak.**

It had been planned to take a slice from the trunk of the Coronation Oak to determine its age. However, given its size, it has been agreed that a core is more practical. A quote for the work is understood to be being obtained.

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

Date of next meetings:

Next Planning meeting: Monday 28th November 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Next BPC meeting: Monday 12th December 2022 at 7.30pm - Victory Room.