Minutes of a Meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council held in The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury on Monday 8th June 2026 at 7pm

Present: Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. G. Loader; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. C. Willett; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Two members of the public.

1 **Public Session.**
No issues were raised during the public session.

2 **Apologies**.
There were apologies for absence from Cllr. Pask, Cllr. Williams and Cllr. Woods.

3 **Declarations of Interest.**

3.1 Register of Interests.
There were no changes to the register of interests.

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

4 **Minutes of the Annual meeting of BPC on Monday 11th May 2026.**
The minutes of the Annual meeting of BPC held on Monday 11th May 2026 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

5 **Vacant Councillor Position.**
The Clerk reported that since the resignation of Cllr. Windmill, there are now two vacancies on BPC, one for each of the two wards.
WBC has been advised of Cllr. Windmill's resignation and the formal notice giving parishioners the option to request a by-election have been posted. Once this period is over, BPC may co-opt a new councillor to fill the vacancy. HP
Various potential candidates were suggested.

6 **Chair's Report.**

6.1 Bucklebury Community Bus Charity.
The three trustees of the Bucklebury Community Bus Charity are planning to stand down at the end of the summer term. New trustees are actively being sought, but to date only one person has come forwards and a second person has shown some interest but not committed.
The current bus trustees were keen explore whether BPC may be able to help in any way.
The bus is used primarily for taking children from Upper Bucklebury to Kennet (for which there are two paid drivers, who have handed in their resignations from the end of the summer term). In addition, the bus is used by some other local charities and other local schools for trips etc. To drive the bus with passengers, the driver must have the D1 class on their driving license.
The number of children going from year 6 into year 7 from the Bucklebury Primary School catchment has decreased in recent years, and well over half of children moving from year 6 to year 7 over the past four years have gone to The Downs School rather than Kennet School.
BPC questioned whether there was capacity within the council to offer support to the charity, beyond the current grant. The prime beneficiaries of the charity are the children attending Kennet School and their parents. It was suggested that the trustees write an article for The Oaks asking anyone interested in becoming a trustee to come forwards.
It was agreed that the trustees would keep BPC updated with any developments.

7 **Clerk's Report.**

7.1 Update on The Oaks.
The next edition of The Oaks will be in colour and the majority of articles have now been submitted.

7.2 Permitted Path from Bucklebury Village to Briff Lane.

The Clerk has spoken to Alistair Jones Perrott and whilst the Estate doesn't have a problem with the idea, there are concerns about the following:

1. Liability, the Estate will not be liable for any incident on or resulting from the footpath. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Elaine Cox (RoW at WBC) about possible wording. HP
2. When people reach Briff Lane, where will they go? Briff Lane, and particularly the T-junction are not particularly safe for pedestrians. As traffic increases with local development this danger will only become worse.
3. Dog mess and litter. If either are found on the path, the Estate will close both the permitted paths around Bucklebury Village.

7.3 Activities for Younger Adults.

There has been a suggestion put forwards for board game evenings. There was an initial discussion and it will be considered in more detail at the next BPC meeting.
It was noted that any such activity for under 18s would require DBS checks.

8 **Planning.**

There is now a tab on the BPC website which correctly shows the undetermined planning applications in the parish. This is not provided by HugoFox, the website provider.

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

BPC has not been consulted on any applications by WBC.

8.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

8.2.1 **25/01860/FUL – The Barns, Manor Farm.**

Restoration and conversion of redundant agricultural buildings into one dwelling, creation of carport, landscaping and associated works.

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

8.2.2 **26/00598/AGRIC – Hillfoot Farm, Hillfoot.**

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: New building – Steel framed shed.

BPC **supported** this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

8.3 Application Decisions Taken to Appeal:

8.3.1 **26/00001/HOUSE - Middlewood House, Carbinswood Lane,**

The partial demolition, alteration and erection of 2 storey and single storey extensions and associated landscaping.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant has submitted an appeal against the decision of WBC.

8.4 Adjacent Parish Applications.

8.4.1 **26/00620/PIP – Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Bradfield Parish).**

Application for permission in principle for a phased application for up to 5 serviced plots for custom build housing.

BPC made no comments on this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

8.5 NE Thatcham.

Cllr. Dickens reported that he is meeting with the other parish council chairman from the ward, the chair of Cold Ash Parish Council and District Cllr. Jeff Brooks (Leader of WBC). WBC has responded to Cllr. Dickens's email about the Masterplan process, acknowledged that BPC has undertaken work, and wishes to be involved with the green infrastructure and traffic work. WBC is now considering how to move the process forwards. There is supposed to be meaningful engagement, but it is unclear what this means.
BPC needs to work to ameliorate the impact of the NE Thatcham on Bucklebury to the best of its ability.

9 **District Councillor's Report.**

District Cllr. Read asked for an update on Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), after a parishioner asked about when one would be installed.

The Estate proposed parallel parking alongside Chapel Row Green in Hatch Lane to ameliorate the parking situation in Chapel Row. This proposal was not particularly well received by residents.
There is to be an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee of WBC on the 11th June to approve the Highways Maintenance Contract and the Local Plan Schedule.

10 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for FY25/26.**

10.1 Internal Audit for 2025/26.
Mrs. Erica Tipton has completed the internal audit and completed the internal auditors report on the AGAR. No issues of concern were raised.
It was agreed the clerk would arrange flowers for Mrs. Tipton up to the value of £50.00. HP

10.2 Annual Governance Statement.
The statements in the Annual Governance Statement were considered and agreed. The Chairman and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.

10.3 Annual Statement of Accounts.
BPC considered and approved the Annual Statement of Accounts which was then signed by the Chairman.

11 **Finances.**

11.1 Payments to be approved:
The following payments have been paid or set up to be paid since the last meeting:

Bank charges (10/4/2026 to 9/5/2026)	£4.25
GLEAM (Membership)	£15.00
Mathewson Waters Architects LLP	£990.00
Bucklebury Memorial Hall (Rent for May meetings & coffee morning)	£59.86
Community Orchard costs	£322.30
TENs License for Beacon lighting event	£21.00
Bibby Commercial Finance Ltd (May bins & Bus shelter cleaning)	£155.92
Staff costs	£1,206.60

11.2 Bank Reconciliation to the 8th June 2026.
The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation to the 8th June 2026 which showed a balance of £40,543.45 in the Community Account once all payments and lodgements have cleared. This reconciled back to the last bank statement, dated the 20th May 2026, showing a balance of £43,318.38.
Cllr. Teal verified the bank reconciliation against the bank statements.

11.3 To review balances as per most recent statements:

Lloyds Community Account:	20/5/2026	£43,318.38
Lloyds Community Instant Access Account for meadows:	20/5/2026	£23,484.35
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	1/4/2026	£34,202.26
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	1/4/2026	£4,783.03

12 **Fred Dawson Play Park and Pump Track.**

12.1 Play Park and BMX Track.
There has been a noticeable reduction in litter in recent weeks. Immediately after the Bank Holiday a significant amount of litter, including crip packets, sweet wrappers, drink bottles and scrunched up baking foil, was found at the picnic table despite there being space in the litter bin. There was little litter in other areas of the park.
Action has started on repairs to the decayed support post of the multi-play unit with dry and wet rot killer being injected into the wood. This has resulted in the wood hardening significantly. In lieu of a protective metal sleeve reported at the last meeting, a epoxy two-part wood filler has been located named HB42 which can be shaped to the profile of the post and sets hard in about 30 minutes. This has been ordered. PT PT

	Inspections have also revealed that one of the timber "half poles" of the rope climb onto the higher section of the multi-play unit has broken. A temporary repair has been carried out until a more permanent repair can be undertaken or a replacement fitted.	
12.2	Bike Track. There has been no change to the bike track since the last meeting. Only a small amount of litter has been found around the seating area and there have been no further incdents of graffiti.	
12.3	Funding for the resurfacing work. An application for BPC to be set up on the Good Exchange as an organisation has been submitted. A further application has then been made for the resurfacing and fencing works project. Both applications are currently in draft format and awaiting approval.	HP
13	**Cemetery.** The Clerk will organise a meeting of the Burial Board, to take place on an evening after the 26th June.	HP
14	**Highways.**	
14.1	Installation of VAS/SIDs in the parish. Slow progress has been made on the installation of VAS/SIDs in the parish. Photographs need to be taken of the proposed locations.	DS
14.2	Use of SID in the Parish. SID deployment continues. Year on year comparisons continue to show a small reduction in speed which is likely to be related to CSW and SID use in the parish.	DS GP
14.3	Thames Valley Police (TVP) Community Speed Watch (CSW) in the parish. This year, 356 vehicles have been reported to TVP from 4,192 which have passed through a CSW session. The total time at the roadside for these sessions has totalled 25.5 hours. In the last 12 months, 2 vehicles have been reported 3 times and 8 vehicles reported twice. Limited volunteer numbers make the level of CSW difficult to sustain. Ideally, an upgraded CSW camera would be purchased which only requires two volunteers to operate. Bradfield PC have been contacted about the possibility of sharing an upgraded camera.	DS
14.4	20mph Zones. No report has been issued by WBC following the consultation on 20mph zones in the parish. Two separate petitions have been suggested for 20mph zones: Bucklebury Village and one for Broad Lane to operate at school drop off and collection times only. A resident of Bucklebury Village has agreed to get support for a Bucklebury Village petition. District Cllr. Read agreed to obtain the correct wording for such petitions, particularly given that the Broad Lane proposal is contrary to policy.	CR
14.5	Double Yellow Lines at Mount Pleasant. It is understood that during the mandatory consultation, there were two comments supporting the proposal and one against, which has held up the project.	
15	**Environment/Community.**	
15.1	Sustainable Bucklebury. There is a Repair Café being organised at All Saint's Church on Saturday 11th July 2026. A team has been set up to water the fruit trees in the community orchard. Cllr. Allum expects to refill the water tank a couple of times. The Clerk requested clarification over the two Veolia grants which should have been obtained for Sustainable Bucklebury, one for the Repair Café and one for the Community Orchard, but only one has been received.	GL
15.2	Mobile Phone Signal. It is understood that there is a mast in Beenham which doesn't appear to be have been optimised for Bucklebury. Modifications to this mast may remove the need for a new mast in Bucklebury.	TW

15.3	Chapel Row Boules Court. The planning director at WBC has indicated that an ecology report would be requied for a planning application because of the size of the proposed boules court; the Steward of the Manor has commented that this is an unusual request since the proposed court would fall wholly within an area of maintained grassland and that no change of use was envisaged for the piece of land identified for the boules court. If the proposed additional parking arrangements on the edge of the open space on Hatch Lane are pursued, it would bring parked cars closer to the proposed Boules Court and increase the risk of stray boules hitting parked cars.	TW
16	**Correspondence**.	
16.1	Bucklebury Village Conservation Area Appraisal. The new Conservation Officer at WBC has suggested additions and changes to the draft Conservation Area Appraisal (for the Bucklebury Village Conservation Area) which was submitted to WBC for approval several years ago. Given the time lapse, all of the councillors involved with the work are no longer on BPC. It was agreed that Cllr. Dickens would be the BPC contact for the Appraisal.	BD
17	**To consider reports from other meetings:**	
17.1	Patient Participation Group (PPG). Chapel Row Surgery supports just over 9,000 patients. Bucklebury is now part of the Thames Valley Integrated Care Board, rather than the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board. At the PPG meeting, there was a presentation on end-of-life care, which included the percentages of where people die: in hospital (37%), in their homes (38%), in care homes (25%) and in hospices (8%). Next year the second MRI scanner should be operational at West Berkshire Community Hospital.	
18	**Round Table Comments.**	
18.1	Briff Lane Carpark. Cars are being parked on the carpark at the top of Briff Lane in such a way that they obstruct the newly constructed permitted path and the byway. There is insufficient space for a pushchair or wheelchair to access the paths. It was agreed that Bucklebury Estate would be contacted about this.	HP
18.2	Antisocial Behaviour Across the parish on Saturday 6th June. During the night, trees were cut to block Byles Green, The Slade and Holly Lane. In addition, fences were also damaged. It is possible this was related to thefts of equipment from the Avenue, and an attempted break in of a garage in Byles Green on the same night. The Clerk will ensure that the police are aware of all of the incidents and identified the potential link.	HP
18.3	Community Orchard. There has been a discussion about the possibility of a community allotment, which would be managed by Sustainable Bucklebury. Allotments are provided in Bucklebury, by Bucklebury Estate. Allotments are understood to be available in Woolhampton and Beenham.	
18.4	Royal Berkshire Hospital. It was questioned whether there was any news of the new hospital. A new site was supposed to have been chosen by March 2026, but there has been no news.	

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

Date of next meetings:

BPC Meeting:

Monday 13th July 2026 at 7pm – The Oak Room, Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury.

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

Planning Meeting:

Monday 22nd June 2026 at 7.15pm - Committee Room at the Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.

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