

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at All Saints Church Hall, Upper Bucklebury on Monday 14th June at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. F. MacCallum; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. L. Clarke; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Two members of the public were in attendance.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. P. Spours, Cllr. R. Ranken, Cllr. Unamba-Oparah and Cllr. T. Slatford.

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.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Planning applications 21/01358/HOUSE for Thatchers, Chapel Row.

The details of the discussion on this planning application are noted under the Planning section of these minutes.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Annual Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday 6th May 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual BPC meeting held on Thursday 6th May 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CLERKS REPORT.

CL1. Common Clearing.

There will be a common clearing and litter picking event on Saturday 24th July. WBC has been contacted and the litter picking equipment has been booked. The Clerk will book the Oak Room and arrange skips with Simon Barnett.

It was agreed that subject to COVID restrictions, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Clarke would serve tea and cake afterwards.

CL2. Memorial Hall Planning Application.

The application is being considered by a WBC Planning officer who is in conversations with Mike Scholl over the materials to be used.

CL3. Defibrillators.

The pads on two of the defibrillators expired in May and have now been replaced. This did raise an awareness of the need to make sure everyone knows how to access the cabinets.

The code to open the cabinet in the Village is displayed on the front of the cabinet; this was a trial as there was the proposal to make it a nonlocking cabinet. The cabinets installed in Bucklebury are now obsolete and no longer available. Wel Medical, who supplied them, do have a limited number of spares, including one nonlocking green door, which has been in storage, so is not in brand new condition but good condition. This has been offered to BPC for £99 (plus VAT and delivery of £9.95) reduced from £150. Nick Young of Heartstart Thatcham has suggested replacing the locks rather than the whole door. Enquiries have been made with the lock company about the cost of non-combination locks.

It was resolved that the codes would be displayed on the front of all the cabinets rather than changing the doors or locks.

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CL4. Future BPC and Planning Meetings.

In the immediate short term, meetings have to be held in a socially distanced manner; this is not possible in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall, which is the only space available there. All Saint's Church Wardens have agreed that BPC meetings may continue in the hall at All Saints for the foreseeable future. Once the refurbishment at the Victory Room is complete, holding meetings there will be considered.

It was agreed that meetings would continue at All Saint's Church.

CL5. Members Bids.

It was resolved that three WBC Members Bid applications will be submitted:

1. Four benches, two for the large meadow and two for the Hockett Field plus two picnic benches for the small meadow.
2. Creation of a wild flower meadow strip in the Hockett Field in the Spring of 2022.
3. A speed indicator device (Cllr. Southgate will prepare the quote).

Applications need to be submitted to WBC by the 23rd June.

CL6. Overgrown Hedges in Bucklebury.

Reports have been made about an accident which occurred around the hump back bridge in the Village on Thursday. It has been noted that the laurel hedge on the Village side of the bridge is very overgrown; a letter will be sent to the owners, reminding them of their responsibility.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

- P1. 21/01183/LBC2 Chapel Row Farm.
Retention of unauthorized works, which include installation of 3 gable dormer windows and two doors to enclose a passageway between the main dwelling and ancillary accommodation.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P2. 21/01214/HOUSE Oakbourne House, Chapel Row
Conversion of loft space to form habitable room, incorporating 4 No. Velux roof lights to the rear, with window to rear gable 1 No. roof lights to the front.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P3. 21/01307/HOUSE 4 Briff Lane.
First floor dormer window to front of house.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P4. 21/01358/HOUSE Thatchers, Chapel Row.
Demolish existing rear extension, construct new single storey rear extension and 2 storey side/rear extension, construct new garage block with office, games room above and a single storey link to main house.
Cllr. Brims commented that the extension and the garage need to be subservient and in keeping with the existing building on the site. The proposal will have considerable impact on the street-scene, particularly when viewed from Chapel Row Green and on the neighbouring property. The meeting was **closed** for the applicant and neighbour to speak. The applicant commented that the development has been planned such that vistas could be maintained between the house and the garage block above the single storey link corridor. Previously planning has been approved for a double garage; the applicant believes that the current proposal will look better in the street scene than the previously approved application. The size of the extension and garage block is felt to be proportionate to the size of the plot. The top of the existing laurel hedge between Thatchers and Oakleigh is above the gutter level of the garage. Inspiration for the design came from Avenue House.

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The neighbour (from Oakleigh) commented that he has no objection to the extension to the house, however the garage block will impact on the street scene, intrude on his privacy and is too bulky and high. A single storey garage would be preferred. The original proposal of dormer windows to the rear has been replaced with Velux windows.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC **objects** to this application. BPC has no objection to the extension to the house and would not object to a single storey garage. If WBC is minded to approve this application, there should be a condition that the garage block must remain ancillary to the main dwelling.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P5. 21/00994/HOUSE Edglee House, Broad Lane.
Rear orangery extension and alterations.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 21/00855/HOUSE Hilliers, The Avenue.
Replacement of conservatory with single storey extension.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 21/00792/FULD 82-83 Roundfield.
Erection of 2 No. semi-detached dwellings. Section 73 application to vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of previously approved planning permission 20/02771/FULD.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P8. 21/00643/CERTE The Barn, Manor View.
Self-contained first floor flat ('Barn Flat') with associated amenity and parking areas.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **allowed** by WBC.
- P9. 21/00511/HOUSE 4 Briff Lane.
First floor dormer window to front of house.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which was **invalid**.
- P10. Update from the Working Group on the Emerging Local Plan.
Cllr. Spours and Cllr. MacCallum have met with Mike Robinson, the planning consultant who they would like to work with. He has given some good information and has quoted £3,000 for his fees. He has recommended a landscape architect to produce evidence a planning inspector would take seriously. Julian Dobbins is doing good work on the environmental aspects, but needs professional advice on which areas to focus on. The landscape architect is likely to cost approximately £5,000.
To date, donations have reached £4,000. It was agreed that BPC would support the objection, to a total of £10,000 (including donations), thus enabling specialists to be contracted. Thatcham Town Council have agreed to undertake the work required on the traffic and has allocated £10,000 for the work. (*Post meeting note: Thatcham Town Council has allocated £12,000 for the work*).
Midgham and Cold Ash Parish Councils support the project, but are not in a position to financially support it. They have given their permission for posters to be put up and fliers to be distributed in their parishes.
The importance of opposing the development of 2,500 houses to the northeast of Thatcham was stressed.
- P11. Redevelopment of Paradise Way.
Sovereign Housing are continuing to talk to the residents who need to be rehomed. It is understood that two families have accepted new accommodation.

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District Cllr. Pask reported that he has spoken to the WBC Head of housing and emphasised that focus must be placed on people issues rather than planning issues.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Local Plan.

As a result of objections made during the consultation, each of the sites in the Local Plan are having to be revisited. As a result, the next draft is unlikely to go before the full council until at least September 2021.

DC2. WBC Funding.

WBC had an underspend of £4,000,000 in the last financial year, mainly as a result of COVID and adult social care. This funding is being used to build resilience for the coming year. Objectives for the year were met without any overspend.

DC3 Oak Trees on the Avenue.

The oak trees on the Avenue from the Beenham turn eastwards have been attacked by an oak roller moth and a winter moth leaving the trees looking like it is Winter. Arthur Cullen (WBC) has been out and inspected them and an ecologist will be inspecting them.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

Pete Cane will be cutting the hay on the Meadows and the Hockett Field at the end of June/beginning of July dependent upon the weather.

A letter has been received from a resident requesting that the track to the small meadow from Broad Lane be blocked in an effort to stop deer wandering onto Broad Lane.

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

The rhododendrons in the Cemetery are currently in flower and the cultivars can be clearly identified from any native plants.

It was agreed that there would be a working party in the Autumn.

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark.

Update from the RoSPA inspection – The RoSPA inspection was carried out in April and raised one or two minor issues. It was agreed that anti-slip surface strips would be bought for the low level walkway. Screw heads on the tube slide need to have caps fitted over them.

Litter – It was agreed that Cllr. Southgate would reinstate the bins which will be emptied by the Memorial Hall cleaner. Currently there is a lot of litter on the slope behind the youth shelter.

T4. Wellbeing.

Plans had been in place to resume coffee mornings on Thursday 24th June, however in line with the latest COVID guidance this will be delayed until Thursday 29th July.

T5. Conservation Work.

Work is going on to produce the final report on the Bucklebury conservation area, but it is hoped that Debra Inston (WBC) can give some more advice.

T6. Speeding.

The handheld speed camera recommended by Thames Valley Police(TVP) as part of their Community Speed Watch is completely sold out. Enquiries will be made about borrowing the WBC SID again.

Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Clarke will put the Correx board children's speed signs back up across the parish.

It was questioned whether the speeding group should register with the TVP Community Speed Watch.

T7. Recycling.

It was agreed that Cllr. Cairns should have responsibility for green initiatives within the parish. Cllr. Cairns reported that 101K of bottle tops have now been recycled from the parish. The bin for bottle tops at the Victory Room has been removed during the redevelopment; it was suggested that it might be possible to put it somewhere at St.

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Mary's Church on a temporary basis.

At the Local Climate Action Information Evening on Wednesday 23rd June, parishes were encouraged to plan green actions, however no ideas were suggested about what sort of actions might be taken.

AUDIT

A1. Internal Audit.

It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase flowers for Erica Tipton in appreciation of carrying out the internal audit.

A2. Annual Governance Statement.

It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

A3. Annual Statement of Accounts.

It was resolved to approve the Annual Statement of Accounts which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

The Victory Room, Bucklebury	£52,898.80	Balance of funds held for refurbishment of Victory Room.
Playsafety Ltd.	£168.60	RoSPA inspection.
Post Office Ltd.	£11.00	SSE streetlights 2/4/2021 to 1/6/2021.
Helen Pratt.	£523.79	Clerk's May salary.
Berkshire Pension Fund.	£160.73	Pension contributions.
Oxford and Country Planning Ltd	£250.00	Initial meeting with Mike Robinson.

F5. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£18,521.64	
Lloyds Current Account:	£69,174.59	On 20 th May 2021.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£35,446.98	On 20 th May 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.

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. Memorial Hall.

Cllr. Brims has spoken to Mike Scholl, who has agreed that a clothing bank may be positioned at the Memorial Hall. Funds raised from the clothing deposited in the bank will support Bucklebury charities and community projects.

RP2. Victory Room.

The work at the Victory Room has started and all of the ground work has been completed. Cllr. Brims thanked District Cllr. Pask for his help with negotiating the conditions on the planning such that the project could start. Local residents raised issues about the removal of a tree, which it had always been planned to remove.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS.

RT1. Commons Advisory Meeting.

Cllr. Cairns reported that new posts will be installed around the green at Chapel Row. BBOWT have put up the signs advising Common users of ground nesting birds. It was noted that motorbikes are not included in the Winter TROs because their use cannot be policed or enforced.

RT2. Vegetation at the junction of Briff Lane and Burdens Heath.

It was reported that a bush from the boundary of the Vicarage on Burdens Heath, obstructs the 'Give Way' sign. It was agreed that Cllr. Cairns would contact the Gadsby

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family about cutting the bush back.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee:

Monday 28th June 2021 at 7.45pm All Saints Hall.

Bucklebury Parish Council meeting:

Monday 12th July 2021 at 7.45pm All Saints Hall.

Signature

Date