Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council

held in The Victory Room, Bucklebury on

Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. G. Loader; Cllr. M. Morgan; Cllr. G. Pask; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. C. Willett; Cllr. L. Windmill; Cllr. G. Woods; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. A. Hillerton (Acting Clerk).
Eight members of the public were present.

1 **Apologies**.
There were no apologies for absence.

2 **Declarations of Interest.**

2.1 Register of Interests.
The Clerk will be updating the register of interests on the website. HP

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

3 **Public Session.**

3.1 Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
A member of the public spoke about the state of the Memorial Hall. She is trying to raise funds to improve the hall so that more people/groups will use it. An application has been submitted to WBC for a CIL grant for £6,000 to improve disabled access and refurbish the toilets (*Post meeting note: the grant has been approved)*.
It was suggested that a piece of land in front of the hall, might be utilised to assist with access for wheelchair users and pedestrians.
A jumble sale and a table top sale are both being organised to raise funds for the planned works.
An application has been made to Vodafone, for paint, to smarten the hall up. There is the suggestion of having a "Sponsor a brick" for a £1 per brick with a total of 2,000 bricks.
A number of people have been positive about helping to raise funds.
Cllr. Morgan (Bucklebury Memorial Hall Committee member) and District Cllr. Read both spoke positively about the changes and the potential of the hall.

4 **Minutes of meetings of Bucklebury Parish Council.**
The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 9th September 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 Visit from Olivia Bailey MP.
A meeting with Olivia Bailey for a tour of the North East Thatcham site is being organised.

6 **Clerk's Report.**

6.1 Next edition of The Oaks.
The next edition of The Oaks will be published in early November. The deadline for articles is Sunday the 20th October HP

6.2 **External Audit.**
The external audit had been completed and no matters have been raised. The official notice of completion of audit has been advertised.

7 **Planning.**

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

7.1.1 **24/01870/HOUSE – Bucklebury House. (*Phil & Chris W)***
Construction of an outbuilding to accommodate a machinery store and home office.

It was explained that the building would be ancillary to Bucklebury House and is needed to provide secure storage for machinery (used in support of the work on Bucklebury Common) and a safe store for the estate's historic archive alongside office space.
Concern was raised about the potential for noise disturbance from using the ceremonial gates to the North of the property (as shown on the plans) which are close to a potentially hazardous junction. In addition, the height, orientation and location of the open staircase and office access door were seen as overlooking the neighbouring property.
It was agreed that BPC **objects** to this application and looks forwards to receiving an amendment showing revised access and changes to the office access.

7.1.2 **24/01866/FUL – Middle Wood, Hatch Lane. (*Graham P & Jason)***
Erection of a dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

7.1.3 **24/01519/FUL – Hilliers, The Avenue. (*Mike & Graham L)***
Installation of a small ground mounted solar photovoltaic system and a paddle court, 45 panels. Both to be situated within the ground of the domestic residence, Hilliers on a former horse training area. The application area, including access routes and cable runs is 0.198 hectares.
BPC has **no objection** to this application.

7.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

7.2.1 **24/00279/HOUSE – Rumbles Cottage, Byles Green.**
Proposed replacement of conservatory with two storey extension and addition of two dormer windows.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.2 **24/01261/FUL – Brockhurst School, School Wing, Marlston House.**
Replacement of the 4 existing cricket nets with 2 Padel Courts and 2 Badminton Courts situated to the East of Brockhurst & Marlston House Schools.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **withdrawn.**

7.2.3 **24/01284/HOUSE – Rushdens Cottage, Bucklebury Road (Stanford Dingley Parish).**
Single storey rear extension, following demolition of a small plantroom. Clay tile hanging to frontage and side elevations to replace existing upvc cladding with new windows, a new bay window and a new tiled roof front porch. Associated internal and external alterations.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.4 **24/01680/NONMAT – Brewery Fields Farm (Bradfield Parish).**
Application for Non-Material Amendment following a grant of planning permission 22/02048/COMIND – The development of an exercise track for equestrian use in a field already approved for equestrian use. Amendment: The addition of an equestrian menage within the curtilage of the approved exercise track.
BPC made **no comments** on this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.5 **24/01708/HOUSE – 22 Berry's Road.**
Proposed front extension.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.
There have been no applications submitted within 200m of the parish boundary:

7.4 Update on the Local Plan.
Cllr. Southgate attended the Inspector's hearing on SP17 at the beginning of October. The Inspector has issued a note that the Masterplan must be led by WBC with stakeholders, and removes the developers wish for a 12 month timeframe. The Masterplan will be a supplementary planning document and part of the Local Plan. Key themes for Bucklebury will be ecology and transport. BPC needs to work to mitigate the impact of the development on Bucklebury. Planning consultants will need to be retained to support BPC in this work.

A potential legal challenge of the plan is being considered. A King's Counsel would be consulted for an opinion on whether there were strong enough grounds for the process to be challenged prior to any Judicial Review (JR).
It was agreed that relationships with neighbouring parishes need to be further developed.
There was a discussion about what funds might be available, with one suggestion that it could be put on the precept. It was noted that professional advisors need to be used carefully.
Another parish public meeting was being considered probably to take place in January.

8 **District Councillor's Report.**

District Cllr. Read circulated a report prior to the meeting. The key points were:

- The WBC CEO, Nigel Lynn, has stood down with immediate effect. There will be an extraordinary full meeting of WBC on 7th November to discuss the matter.
- WBC is running a consultation on a new Waste Management Strategy which is based on a vision for a greener future. It includes changing grey bin emptying from once every two weeks to once every three weeks. This consultation finishes on the 6th November.
- Winter fuel payments, which have been payable to all pensioners, are now only payable to those in receipt of pension credit. In West Berkshire, it is estimated that around 600 pensioners eligible for pension credit have not applied for it. The closing date for applications for pension credit is the 21st December.
- Following a statutory consultation, a number of pilot 20mph zones have been implemented in residential roads in Theale. Three roads which were either covered by the national speed limit or 40mph limits have been reduced to 30mph limits. The results of this pilot will be crucial in determining the possibility of implementing 20mph zones elsewhere in West Berkshire.

9 **Finances.**

9.1 Review Income and Expenditure against Budget to 30th September 2024.

The Clerk circulated a table of income and expenditure against budget to the 30th September (the first half of the financial year). Total expenditure for the period was £29,975.14 and income was £20,516.68. Income from the Cemetery was higher than expected. Expenditure includes the beacon (£2,500) which was not budgeted for. Of the £1,041.34 spent on anti-speeding measures, £592.25 has been claimed via a WBC members bid.

9.2 Payments to be authorised by Councillors:

West Berkshire Countryside Society	£1,000.00	Membership and Donation for FY23/24 and FY24/25.
Bibby Commercial Finance Ltd	£378.00	September dog bin emptying.
PKF Littlejohn LLP	£378.00	External Audit.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£300.00	Grounds maintenance.
Salary/PAYE/Pension	£1,094.04	September salaries.
Andrew Black Consulting	£1,980.00	Planning consultancy at Local Plan hearing (NB this payment is not included in the finance report).

The second half of the precept and the WBC Members bid for Community Speed Watch signage have been received. Invoices totalling £870 have been sent out for business in the Cemetery.

9.3 To review current balances.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£30,619.41	
Lloyds Current Account:	£13,511.05	20th September 2024

	Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£32,939.17	20th September 2024	
	Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£33,313.35	8th April 2024	
	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,658.72	8th April 2024	

10 **Fred Dawson Play area and Pump Track.**

The application for CIL funds to upgrade the pump track surface to tarmac was unsuccessful. This year, Bucklebury Primary School will be applying for all of the potential funding from the WBC Member's Bid. District Cllr. Read suggested making an application for a WBC Member's Bid next year.

11 **Cemetery.**

Cemetery Carols (23rd December).

Initial arrangements are being made for Cemetery Carols.

Cemetery Carols Charity.

No decision was made about what charity will be supported at Cemetery Carols.

Cemetery Working Party.

A doodle poll has been sent out with dates for a working party.

12 **Meadows.**

The meadows committee is organising a walk around the meadows to identify tree work which needs to be carried out. Cllr. Pask has taken photographs of a number of dead trees or tree limbs which need to be removed.

After the walk around, Cllr. Pask will get quotes for the required work. GP

A walk around, is scheduled for mid November, with the WBCS to identify work they might be able to undertake at a working party in early January 2025.

13 **Highways.**

13.1 Speed Indicator Device (SID).

The SID continues to be utilised on a very regular basis throughout the parish. The data collected continues to be submitted to WBC and has also been sent to Olivia Bailey MP.

13.2 Thames Valley Police (TVP)Community Speed Watch (CSW).

The TVP CSW programme needs three volunteers to operate it and can only operate in any one location for an hour once every six weeks due to the time taken to process details of those recorded speeding and issue letters. The system to send out the letters is being automated, which will help increase the opportunities when CSW can be deployed. DS

Cllr. Pask's application to the Police Crime Commissioner's fund for average speed check cameras was unsuccessful.

14 **Environment.**

14.1 Peaches Noticeboard.

A quote of £165, excluding VAT to install the galvanised notice board support and the noticeboard at Peaches was unanimously agreed. HP

14.2 Sustainable Bucklebury.

Sustainable Bucklebury have a meeting at 7pm on the 15th October and will report back to the next BPC meeting. Olivia Bailey MP is very interested in the work of the group. GL

14.3 Works on the Common.

Cllr. Dickens reported that he is going on a ramble with Alasdair Jones Perrott (Steward of the Manor) at the weekend to see what has been done.

The Estate have commented that the heavy and dramatic work to clear the gulleys has now been completed.

Cllr. Teal reported that he had a meeting with Willie Hartley Russell who told him that all of the work on the Common had been agreed with the environmental group BBOWT.

Cllr. Allum is concerned about the potential flooding at Ford End and even in the village as a result of the gulleys being cleared. He also showed photographs of large trees which had been felled.

14.4 VE Day 80 (8th May 2025).

	Cllr. Allum reported that Willie Hartley Russell has given his permission for an event to be held on Chapel Row Green, and the beacon to be lit to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. A "Save the date" poster has been drafted to go into The Oaks. The Blackbird Café is keen to join in and Cllr. Woods will talk to The Bladebone about being involved.	GW
15	**Correspondence.**	
15.1	Tree to mark 50 years of service to the Community by Erica Tipton. It was agreed that Cllr. Allum would source a rowan tree. A plaque has already been made, but it needs a post. Bucklebury Recreation Ground and the Victory Room Committee will make a donation of £200 each. The tree and plaque will be ordered and paid for by BPC.	JA
15.2	Request for grant from Bucklebury Community Bus. Bucklebury Community bus have applied for a grant of £500. There was a discussion about the cost for Kennet School pupils who use the bus. It was agreed to ask one of the trustees to attend the next BPC meeting to talk about the finances in more depth.	HP
15.3	WB Heritage Forum. The Heritage Forum has applied for a donation of £50 to cover the rent of halls for meetings. This donation was unanimously agreed.	
15.4	WBC District Parish Conference – 29th October. Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Pask and the Clerk will be attending the District Parish Conference in person.	
15.5	WBC Draft Waste Management Consultation. It was agreed that Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Pask would respond to the consultation on Waste Management on behalf of BPC.	
15.6	NWN Over 80's Christmas Parcels. It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100 to the NWN Over 80's Christmas Parcel fund.	
16	**Reports from any other meetings.**	
16.1	Chapel Row Patient Participation Group (PPG). The PPG met on the 10th September and the minutes of that meeting can be found via the BPC website. As of the end of September 2024, the surgery had 8,888 patients.	
16.2	Memorial Hall. Cllr. Morgan reported that the Memorial Hall Committee would allow dogs, but a risk assessment has to be undertaken. The Committee doesn't take responsibility for dogs in the hall. This matter needs to be discussed further.	
17	**Round Table Comments.**	
17.1	Footpath from Bucklebury Village to Walnut Tree Cottages. There has been a suggestion that a permitted path is needed between Bucklebury Village and Walnut Tree Cottages. It was questioned whether this path could tie in with the drainage ditch being dug at the bottom of the field to the south of the Marlston Road.	

The meeting concluded at 10.15pm.

Date of next meetings:

BPC Planning meeting: Monday 28th October 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.

BPC meeting: Monday 11th November 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.

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