Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council held in The Victory Room, Bucklebury on Monday 12th August 2024 at 7.45pm

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

1 **Apologies**.
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Spours.

2 **Declarations of Interest.**

2.1 Register of Interests.
Councillors were reminded that an up-to-date register of interests is a legal requirement.

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

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

4 **Minutes of meetings of Bucklebury Parish Council.**
The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 8th July 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 Roles on BPC.
Looking to the future, a councillor is needed to take on NE Thatcham and the Local Plan, working alongside Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Spours. Another councillor will also be needed to take on conservation work in the parish.
Councillors were asked to think about what they may be able and willing to take on.

6 **Clerk's Report.**

6.1 Common Clearing – Saturday 5th October.
The Clerk advised that the autumn Common Clearing event will take place on Saturday 5th October.
Cllr. Windmill offered to help with providing refreshments.

6.2 Burial Register Repairs.
There are two burial registers for Bucklebury Cemetery; the first covering the period from 1885 to approximately 1980, and the second from 1980 to the current time. The first register is showing its age and there are a number of loose pages as well as their being damage to the cover. A quote has been obtained to make the necessary repairs for £360.
It was agreed to accept this quote for work on the binding of the register.

6.3 Old Hawkridge Cottage.
It was suggested that consideration should be given to making an application to Historic England to list Old Hawkridge Cottage. Any application to Historic England needs to be supported by strong justification / reason for any listing to be successful. The Clerk has contacted various members of the parish and has only received photographs of the external and a potted history of the building; there are no internal photographs, which have been required in previous applications.

7 **Planning.**

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

7.1.1 **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.

The area proposed for the padel courts and the badminton courts is slightly smaller than the area taken up by the existing cricket nets. The courts will have an all-weather surface making them usable throughout the year.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to a condition that there is no flood lighting.

7.1.2 **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.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

7.1.3 **24/001506/HOUSE – Heathgate, The Avenue.**
Erection of an annexe.
There is a listed barn at Beenham Hatch, the neighbouring property. The proposed annexe is not integrated into the existing dwelling as suggested in the SPG on House Extensions. On the basis of the location of the annexe in relation to the property, it was felt it would be difficult for it to become a new independent dwelling.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to the annexe being ancillary/incidental to Heathgate, and it not being available for rent or used for Airbnb.

7.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:
It was noted that WBC has worked on contentious applications and either determined them or agreed revised end dates.

7.2.1 **23/02603/FUL & 23/02604/LBC – The Barn, Hawkridge Farm.**
Internal and external alterations to allow change of use of listed barn to dwelling, including erection of car port and diversion of the definitive footpath.
BPC **objected** to these applications which were **approved** by the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

7.2.2 **24/00571/FUL – Mallards Haven (Frilsham Parish).**
Retrospective: Partial retention of former bungalow for use as outbuilding, in association with dwelling approved under Application No. 18/00409/FULD. External alterations and hard landscaping.
BPC made no comments on this application which has been **approved** by the Western Area Planning Committee.

7.2.3 **24/01013/HOUSE – 2 Woottens Cottages, Upper Woolhampton.**
Installation of a timber shed/workshop in the garden on 2 Woottens Cottages.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC

7.2.4 **24/01101/PIP – Land between The Cottage and Eden Cottage, Chapel Row.**
Application for Permission in Principle: Residential development for 1 new home at land at Chapel Row.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

7.2.5 **24/01258/FUL – Westfield Stables, Tylers Lane.**
Part Retrospective: Conversion of redundant stable to form one dwelling, car parking, landscaping and associated works.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

7.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.
The following applications have been submitted within 200m of the parish boundary:

7.3.1 **24/01304/HOUSE – Rose Cottage, Kiff Green (Woolhampton Parish).**
Replacement of existing section of thatched roof and swept dormers with plain tiles to match remaining roof.
BPC will not make any comment on this application.

7.3.2 **24/01430/PACOU – Boars Hole Farm (Hermitage Parish).**
Application to determine if prior approval is required for a Proposed: change of use of a barn on the site from its current agricultural use to a commercial/storage/distribution/business (Class B8/Class E) use.

It was agreed that BPC would submit its concerns on the potential impact of this change of use on Bucklebury, particularly the potential additional vehicles accessing the site from Bucklebury.

7.3.3 **24/01554/HOUSE – Kingsmead (Stanford Dingley Parish).**
Two storey side extension with internal alterations to create additional master bedroom.
BPC will not make any comment on this application.

7.3.4 **24/01680/NONMAT – Brewery Fields Farm (Bradfield Parish).**
Application for a 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. Amendments: The addition of an equestrian menage with associated traditional agricultural post and rail fencing within the curtilage of the approved exercise track.
BPC will not make any comment on this application.

7.4 Update on the Local Plan.
WBC has until the 16th August to respond to the Planning Inspector about his request for NE Thatcham to be increased to 2,500 and for extra sites to be included to increase the number of homes to be developed during the life of the Local Plan to 9,270. District Cllr. Read has a meeting with Cllr. Jeff Brooks (Leader of WBC) and Cllr. Denise Gaines (WBC portfolio holder for highways, housing and sustainable travel) to go through his concerns. District Cllr. Read is going to have a conversation with Olivia Bailey MP about the situation.
BPC must get involved in the master planning process, but what community engagement is going to happen needs to be clarified. It is questioned whether there will need to be more Supplementary Planning Guidance to identify the quality of housing and what it will look like.
Andrew Black (BPC's planning consultant) has reviewed the Planning Inspector's findings so far and thinks there are grounds for a legal challenge, but it is questioned how this might be funded.
The master planning process would determine the access roads and an outline for the recreation areas etc. It is important that sufficient CIL funds are contributed for the needed infrastructure.

8 **District Councillor's Report.**
District Cllr. Read circulated a written report prior to the meeting. The key areas were:

1. Local Plan Review: Proposed changes to the NPPF introducing mandatory housing targets for all local authorities involving a different method of calculating the number resulting in West Berkshire having its target more than doubled.
2. Green waste subscriptions are now payable at £55 for the first bin. Stickers will not be issued this year. Residents are asked to mark bins with house name/number so collectors can check against a list.
3. WBC has introduced new pothole criteria which only requires potholes to be 40mm deep (rather than 50mm).
4. Applications for Rural Business Grants (between £10,000 and £40,000) are still open and the next round of funding will be awarded in September.
5. Bids for CIL grants for between £10,000 and £100,000 can now be made by community groups for projects benefitting the area.

9 **Meeting with Olivia Bailey MP.**
Chairman of the other parish councils within the Bucklebury Ward have been invited to attend the meeting on 25th September. One parish is being chased up for a response. The aim is to make her aware of the priorities of the rural area. It was suggested that each of the other parishes raise one topic. Topics suggested during the meeting included NE Thatcham, the new Royal Berkshire Hospital which was in her election manifesto and has since been put off, and protection of the rural environment to include speeding and 4x4s.

10 **Finances.**

10.1.1 Payments to be authorised by Councillors:

Flowers for internal audit	£50.00	
The Alpha Xperience	£547.00	900 copies of the July Oaks (24 pages).
The Victory Room	£165.60	Rent 1/1/24 to 30/6/2024.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£420.00	Waste management 1/1/24 to 30/6/24.
Bibby Commercial Finance Ltd	£124.80	Dog waste bins and bus shelter cleaning.
Expenses including sandbags and defibrillator pads.	£134.01	
Salaries, PAYE & Pension contributions	£1,093.84	

Receipts of £240 have been received for two memorials in the cemetery.

10.2 To review current balances.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£14,521.67	
Lloyds Current Account:	£16,872.52	19th July 2024
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£32,878.70	19th July 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 12th August 2024.

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

There has been a noticeable increase in litter with the school summer holidays.

Cllr. Teal has identified a contractor to quote to tarmac the surface of the BMX track, with the hope of having a quote in time to submit an application for CIL funding. PT

12 **Cemetery.**

It was agreed that Cemetery Carols will take place on Monday 23rd December.

The charity Thatcham Support and Welfare Society has been suggested as a possible charity for supporting through Cemetery Carols. More information will be found out about the Society. HP

13 **Highways.**

Cllr. Dickens remains to be convinced that WBC is monitoring the performance of its highway contractors sufficiently. Cllr. Read commented that other parishes in the ward have similar concerns and agreed to arrange a meeting with the chairman of the parish councils in the ward and the relevant portfolio holder. CR

It was noted that a number of verges at road junctions need to be cut. Councillors were asked to report these to Cllr. Read and WBC. All

13.1 Speed Indicator Device (SID).

SID continues to be deployed across the parish. An article has recently been printed in the Newbury Weekly News about speeding vehicles. Thames Valley Police (TVP) had a "Have Your Say" session at Chapel Row which Cllr. Southgate attended along with a number of residents of Chapel Row to raise the issue of speeding. Questions were asked about why there are no chicanes or other anti-speed measures in Chapel Row. Three more volunteers were recruited to operate SID.

It is understood that the Police and Crime Commissioner Mat Barber is meeting with Auto Speedwatch. It would be helpful if PCs could apply pressure to Mat Barber to support the implementation of Auto Speedwatch.

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

14	**Environment.**	
14.1	Sustainable Bucklebury. Cllr. Loader reported that a Sustainable Bucklebury group has been formed which aims to be an umbrella organisation for all the sustainable, green groups/projects in the parish. At the moment, the group is trying to gauge interest and preparing to hold a stand at the Bucklebury Beer fest.	GL
	There was a discussion about whether they should be a separate entity or a working group/committee of BPC, the advantage of the latter being insurance and potentially finance.	
14.2	Works on the Common. Alasdair Jones-Perrott will be attending the Common Clearing event on the 5th October and explaining the plans for the work on the Common to members of the public.	
14.3	Peaches Noticeboard. It was agreed that Cllr. Allum would hire a CAT (Cable Avoidance Tool) scanner to scan the site for the Peaches noticeboard. There is the suggestion that a high voltage cable runs very close to the hedge.	JA
	Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Teal will then install the noticeboard.	PT
14.4	Bucklebury Ford. Concern has been raised about the depth of the water at the ford. Two solutions have been suggested: raising the level of the ford, increasing the depth of the channel below the ford.	
	New signs are to be installed below the existing ford warning signs which warn of the depth of the ford.	
	Cllr. Dickens will consult Piers Allison about the level of the water in the ford.	BD
14.5	VE Day 80 (8th May 2025). Cllr. Woods will ask Bucklebury Events Committee for their views on organising an event for the occasion.	GW
	Lighting the beacon, having a band, a beer tent and inviting people to attend to have a picnic were all ideas put forwards.	
15	**Correspondence.**	
15.1	Skyway short term deployment w/c 19th August. Concern was raised about Bucklebury becoming a drone route.	
16	**Reports from any other meetings.**	
16.1	Bucklebury Recreation Ground. The Recreation Ground committee has met to discuss an increase in football club fees to cover WBC carrying out a sports cut of the grass. No decision was reached, and another meeting is scheduled for September.	
17	**Round Table Comments.**	
17.1	Resignation of Cllr. Clarke. Cllr. Clarke tendered her resignation from BPC. Cllr. Dickens commented that she has been a stalwart supporter of BPC, and Bucklebury Village in particular, during her 17 years as a councillor. She has worked on the Parish Plan, the Parish Plan Refresh, Bucklebury Vision and the Conservation Area Appraisal as well as lots of smaller projects. She has also helped new councillors find their feet on BPC.	
17.2	Tree for Erica Tipton. Erica Tipton has spent fifty years in Bucklebury Village, initially running the Village stores, as well as taking on numerous roles including Chair of the Parish Council, the PPG and the Recreation Ground. The planting of a tree on the Recreation Ground is being discussed to mark this achievement.	

17.3	Graham's Tree. It is noted that the tree planted to mark Alderman Graham Pask's service to the community is not looking very healthy, after its bark was strimmed by the grounds' maintenance team.	
17.4	Removal of burnt-out vehicle from the Common. It was reported that after the removal of the burnt-out vehicles on the common a lot of debris has been left. WBC does not appear to carry out any form of clean up after the vehicles have been recovered.	
17.5	Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall has a current account balance of £24,600. They are in the process of working on projects to refurbish the toilets and to improve the surface of the carpark (particularly for disabled people). Questions were asked about the funds which BPC has which are earmarked for the hall. Following the various ruling on dogs, research has found that a lot of halls have restrictions about dogs, some saying that hirers have liability for any dogs in the hall. It was agreed that the Coffee morning risk assessment should include dogs and a check be made with the insurance company.	HP
17.6	The Swale. Cllr. Southgate commented that he doesn't believe all of the issues with the swale have been resolved. He will document his thoughts and circulate them.	DS

The meeting concluded at 10.15pm.

Date of next meetings:

BPC Planning meeting: Tuesday 27th August 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room (*Cancelled).*

BPC meeting: Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.

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

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