

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 10th October 2011 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Mrs. P. W. Frankum (Chairman); Mr. B. Dickens; Mr. J. de Lara; Mr. P. Brook; Mrs. L. Clarke; Mr. A. Gilbert; Mr A. Stott; Mr. H. Hind; Mr. S. Beeson; Mr. G. Pask (District Councillor); Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Mr. T. Slatford; Mr. J. Brims.

OTHERS

John Smart (Chairman, Bucklebury and Marston Horticultural Society); Julia Baker (Vice Chairman, Bucklebury and Marston Horticultural Society); Gillian Beale; Kevan Leggett; Claire Powers (1st Bucklebury Guides); Derek Matthews (Secretary, Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society); Mike Scholl (Chairman, Bucklebury Memorial Hall); Jonathan Moss; John and Tracey Tibble; Anne Hillerton (Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society); Malcolm Hynes (Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society); Emma Spriggs; David Carrie.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

- M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Minutes for Meeting held on Monday 12th September 2011.
The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 12th September were agreed and signed by Mrs. Frankum.
- M2. Planning Committee Minutes for Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2011.
The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 26th September were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr. Dickens.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Memorial Hall Bookings.

The Clerk read a letter from Erica Tipton, a long standing resident of Bucklebury, in which she expressed concerns over usage of Bucklebury Memorial Hall. The Clerk also read a letter from John Smart to Mrs Frankum as Chairman of Bucklebury Parish Council and an email sent to Mike Scholl in which John Smart documented the difficulties that Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society had been having securing its bookings for the coming season and also for the 2012/13 season.

Claire Powers (Guide Leader) commented that in John Smart's email to Mike Scholl, it implies that he is under the impression that the Guides would give up Friday nights for the Horticultural Society to have their meetings; this is not the case. It was agreed, but never minuted that Guides would use the hall on Friday nights during term time with the exception of the Friday evenings before the Summer and Autumn shows, and that the Horticultural Society would move their other meetings to a Monday evening; this was later confirmed by Julia Baker. John Smart commented that Mike Scholl had suggested that the Horticultural Society move from Mondays to Fridays to ease booking issues. The Horticultural Society is willing to move to the Victory Room, but is concerned that many people who attend their meetings walk, which would not be possible if they were to meet in the Victory Room. Mike Scholl commented that Monday evenings are no longer practical because the West Berkshire Ballet has the hall until 8.00pm, and KATs has a booking from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. John Smart commented that it is difficult to identify evenings for the Horticulture Society for next year as the block bookings are not shown on the online calendar that far in advance.

Signature

Date

Mike Scholl explained that the Memorial Hall is run by a voluntary committee and that originally Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings were reserved for “one off” events. Options which had been explored including the Horticultural Society moving their meetings so they fall outside of term time or moving their meetings into the Oak Room. Neither of these solutions are seen as satisfactory. The Horticultural Society AGM has been confirmed for a Monday in November 2011. Mike Scholl added that he had no intention of making life difficult for the Horticultural Society. The Oak room is big enough to seat 50 people and there is the possibility of a ceiling mounted projector.

Mr. Dickens commented that we are fortunate that the hall committee are victims of their own success. The revenue being generated is being put back into the facility and as a result, demand exceeds supply. He suggested that BPC could suggest guidelines for the bookings of the hall, with Bucklebury organisations being given priority.

Mike Scholl responded that there are approximately 1200 bookings a year and only around 3 bookings are contentious. The hall must be looked after for the benefit of parishioners and local people according to the trust deed.

Mr. de Lara received confirmation that there is a different rate for parishioners, as well as profit and non profit making block bookers.

Mr. Beeson thanked Mike Scholl for the work he does running the Memorial Hall and for the improvements made to the Playpark and BMX track.

Mr. de Lara commented that there is a perception that the very frequent block bookings take a precedent over other less frequent block bookings.

Mike Scholl commented that this wasn't entirely correct; there are only a limited number of non frequent block bookers which includes BPC and the Horticultural Society.

Mr. Beeson clarified that Mike Scholl is still negotiating with the groups involved to identify a solution to the problem, and it was confirmed that days other than Friday were being considered.

John Smart hopes that an amicable solution can be made and Mike Scholl stated he felt sure the situation could be resolved.

It was agreed that negotiation is better than escalation.

PS2. Better Cycling in Bucklebury – Emma Spriggs.

The Better Cycling in Bucklebury working group aims to improve cycling in Bucklebury and obtain a strategic viewpoint. Cycle ways are not always tarmac, but should enable cyclists to use the route without getting covered in mud. The initial route being considered in the parish is byway 56, which runs to the north of the Common road between Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury. WBC has been contacted and will be using Bucklebury as a beacon, but has not agreed to any funding to date. In order to apply for grants, quotes need to be in place. WBC produced a quote for £25,000 which was used to apply for a RASP grant, however the RASP engineer didn't like the surfacing and the grant was therefore unsuccessful. The “AONB” have been contacted and a second quote obtained, which is £35,000; however this has not been pursued to date. Adding a cycle route would be green, safer, and contribute to the community, but it requires funds.

Mr. de Lara asked if any consideration had been given to the route from Upper Bucklebury to Thatcham. The Parish Plan questionnaire gave byway 56 as the first priority and the Upper Bucklebury to Thatcham route as second priority.

Mr. Beeson commented that for cycle ways, the route must be scraped to a hard surface, drains placed either side of the route and then a hoggin foundation must be laid before the final surface dressing, which in the case of byway 56 needs to be agreed by WBC and Bucklebury Estate. For a RASP grant, the whole route must be surveyed.

It was agreed that BPC support in principle byway 56 being made into a cycle way.

Signature

Date

Mr. Beeson asked Mr. Pask if pressure could be applied to WBC to start the process as the surface of the byway is their responsibility, and they could be asked to get surveys and estimates carried out for the route in the first instance.

PS3. 11/01849/FUL Hillfoot Farm, Hillfoot.

An amendment has been received to this application, since the Planning Committee meeting, which moves the second tank round towards the barn and sinks the tanks further into the ground. Both Kevin Leggett and Jonathan Moss voiced concerns about smell and noise pollution. There was discussion about how much the tanks are being sunk into the ground as the second tank is located on lower ground and the base will actually have to be built up for the tank. Concern was also raised about the actual height and whether the height shown on the plans is the height of the sides or the top of the dome of the tanks.

For the decision taken by BPC please refer to the Planning section of the minutes.

PS4. 11/01807/HOUSE Foundry House, Bucklebury Village.

Mrs. Clarke introduced the application; Foundry House was built around 1828 and has had a number of extensions, mainly prior to 1948 and a modern conservatory. There are two main concerns, firstly the extension protrudes from the front of the house and secondly the style of the extension is not in keeping with the existing house.

The applicant explained that Foundry House had not been updated for modern living. The house lacks a significant reception room and has inadequate cloakroom facilities. This application attempts to rectify these points.

John Tibble, of the Old Smithy, expressed concern over the size and the height of the roof of the extension.

For the decision taken by BPC please refer to the planning section of the minutes.

CLERKS REPORT

CR1. RG7 Sorting Office.

The petition, which contained approximately 270 names, has been sent to Jonathan Holdaway from the Post Office. No response has been forthcoming.

CR2. Welcome Packs.

Six Welcome packs have been distributed, to new parishioners. Councillors were reminded to request Welcome packs for any parishioners new to the parish from the Clerk.

CR3. Grit Bins.

WBC will be moving the existing bin in Sadgrove Lane to the junction of Sadgrove Lane and Briff Lane over the next few weeks.

CR4. Path through Carbinswood.

The Secretary of State has decided that there is a case for setting a date by which the application should be determined and has given WBC 6 months from 4th October 2011 to determine the application for a path through Carbinswood.

TOPICS

T1. Better Bicycling in Bucklebury.

It was agreed to consider this activity in the budget process for the next financial year.

T2. Damaged Byways on the Common.

A number of byways on the Common are still being damaged by 4x4 vehicles. In order to try and prevent further damage, Mr. Beeson asked if BPC could write to WBC requesting that the following byways on the Common have temporary Restriction Orders placed on them: byway 56 (parallel to the Common road) along its entire length, byway 152 (from Osgood Holding towards Vanners), byway 67 (Carbinswood Lane to Chapel Row) and byways 15 and 23 at the top of Holly Lane. This was unanimously agreed.

HP

T3., Memorial Hall.

Signature

Date

Mrs. Frankum asked Mr. Hind if it was possible to ensure that Memorial Hall meetings don't coincide with BPC meetings. Obviously Mr. Hind and Mr. Brims cannot be at both meetings.

T4. Planning and Localism Regional Development Plan.

Mr. Gilbert reported that the Localism Bill is still before Parliament. As it currently stands, existing supplementary planning guidance will no longer be recognised and parishes must have a "Neighbourhood Development Plan", however this is expected to cost an estimated £20,000 to £30,000 to produce. There is the possibility of commercial properties being changed to residential use without planning permission. It was commented that Bucklebury Vision would benefit from being updated with green issues in mind.

A letter has been received from CPRE asking for support in protecting the rural nature of the countryside. It was agreed that BPC would support this action and Mr. Beeson agreed to draft a letter to Richard Benyon MP.

SB

T5. WBAGI.

After the successful WBAGI meeting held in the summer at the Victory Room it was agreed that a donation of £350 should be made to WBAGI.

HP

T6. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

This item was postponed until the November meeting.

PLANNING

Plans submitted for approval:

P1. 11/01849/FUL Hillfoot Farm, Hillfoot.

Biogas installation.

After much discussion about the impact of the application, Mr. Dickens proposed that BPC offer **no objection** to this application with the condition that no outside waste should be brought onto the site, and that every effort is made to minimise the visual impact on the AONB, and that every effort is made to reduce the effects of sound and smell pollution. This proposal was carried with two members objecting and two members abstaining.

P2. 11/01807/HOUSE Foundry House, Bucklebury.

Two storey front extension comprising entrance hall with en-suite bathroom/dressing area above with adjoining garden room.

It was agreed that BPC **object** to this application as it doesn't respect the style and line of the existing buildings and is not in keeping with Bucklebury Vision.

WBC planning decisions:

P3. 11/01388/FUL Brockhurst Preparatory School, Marlston House.

Retention and resiting of existing portacabin teaching accommodation involving the adaption of existing outbuilding.

BPC **objected** to this application and it has been **refused** by WBC.

P7. 11/01276/HOUSE Wishhanger, Tylers Lane.

Demolition of existing conservatory, rear extension with room in roof, with associated internal alterations and changes to rear drive and parking. Existing building to be rendered.

BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.

P8. 11/00821/FUL Gable House, Briff Lane.

Improve existing access at the long established field/paddock gate on Briff Lane, and form a natural track to the existing stable area boundary.

BPC **objected** to this application; however it has been **approved** by WBC.

Signature

Date

- P9. 11/00870/HOUSE Well Cottage, Long Grove.
Proposed 2 storey rear extension and single storey extension to car port.
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved** by WBC.
- P10. 11/00773/LBC2 Copyhold Farm, Hatch Lane.
Barn – Repairs to weak and rotted oak floor beams including introduction of posts.
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.
- 11/00869/HOUSE Robin Cottage, Zin Zan.
Conversion of existing garage to store/workshop with associated roof modifications.
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.

REPORTS

- R1. District Council.
Now that the Padworth recycling plant is open, food waste can be recycled. A small green bin and bio-degradable bags will be delivered to properties over the next week, these are for food waste which is to be put into the green or black wheelie bins, which will now be collected on alternate weeks.
- R2. Common.
The work in the fishponds area of the common to prevent 4x4's has largely been successful. The area around Holly Lane is still posing something of a challenge. Common clearing was very successful and had a good turnout. It was noted that the bins on the common are not being emptied as often as needed. It was agreed that the Clerk will report this to WBC.
- R3. West Berkshire Museum Redevelopment Project.
Mrs. Frankum reported that the existing museum consists of two listed buildings with a 1930's building in the middle. The proposal is to replace the 1930's building with a modern building to accommodate a new entrance, lifts and a restaurant. The listed building nearest to the market square will be used as a room for schools and groups. All of the space occupied by the small shops along the wharf will be incorporated in the museum.
- R4. Chapel Row Patient Participation Group.
Minutes of the last Patient Participation Group have been received and Mr. de Lara will attend the next meeting.

HP

PARISH PLAN

- PP1. Greening Bucklebury.
A very successful public meeting was held on 25th September, attended by approximately 36 people, some of whom agreed to become extra volunteers. Eight challenges have been determined. The launch will be held in January/February 2012.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- GA1. Carols in the Chapel – Monday 19th December.
Mr. Beeson agreed to supply a generator, barbeque, lights and mulled wine. In previous years it has been difficult to hear proceedings outside of the chapel; the Clerk will investigate some form of amplifier system.
It was agreed that once expense have been taken out for the mulled wine, proceeds should go towards the Bucklebury Diamond Jubilee fund, administered by Bucklebury Events Committee.

HP

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Signature

Date

- TM1. Items to be discussed at future meetings.
 Emergency Plan – November.
 Meadows Transfer.
 Budget for 2012/13 – November.

FINANCE

- F1. External Audit.
 The Clerk reported that the Mazars LLP, the external auditors, have completed their work for FY10/11 and have found no matters giving cause for concern.
- F2. Accounts for First Six Months of FY 11/12.
 During the period April to September 2011 (inclusive), BPC has received credits of £12,353 plus an additional £4,950.00 for the BMX track, and made payments of £11,052.27 plus £21,684.00 for the BMX track at the Memorial Hall. The Clerk gave a summary of credits and expenditure for the Financial Year to date; further detail will be sent to councillors.
- F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|
| Mazars LLP | £342.00 | External Audit. |
| Southern Electric Contracting Ltd. | £27.36 | Street lights maintenance |
| Saskia Pocock | £12.00 | Oaks delivery – Hatch Lane, Hatch Close and Paradise Way. |
| E. Weedon | £6.00 | Oaks delivery – Burdens Heath and Hopgoods Green. |
| A. Hanson | £3.00 | Oaks delivery – Broad Lane. |
| Victoria Pratt | £6.00 | Oaks delivery – Little Lane and Long Grove. |
| P. W. Frankum | £3.75 | New key for Oak room. |
| Helen Pratt | £52.71 | Clerks expenses. |
| Helen Pratt | £384.00 | The Clerks September 2011 salary. |
- F5. Balances:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Lloyds Current Account | £6,329.80 | At 16/9/2011. |
| Scottish Widows Reserve Account | £26,739.74 | At 4/7/2011. |
| Scottish Widows Gilroy Account | £4,475.82 | At 4/7/2011. |
| Scottish Widows Memorial Hall Account | £20,633.66 | At 4/7/2011. |

CORRESPONDENCE

- C1. GLEAM AGM, Friday 28th October, 2pm at Newbury Rugby Club.
 Unfortunately nobody is available to attend.
- C2. WBC Code of Conduct Training and District/Parish Conference – 18th October.
 Nobody is available to attend the Code of Conduct Training and we have released the place we had reserved for the District/Parish Conference as Mrs. Frankum is no longer able to attend.
- C3. Thames Valley Primary Care Agency – Determination of Rurality.
 This has been triggered by an application for a chemist in Pangbourne which results in the Primary Care Trust having to carry out a consultation exercise in the rurality of the area. The area in question is to the west of Pangbourne and the north of the M4. Mrs. Clarke confirmed that this does not affect the dispensary at Chapel Row Surgery in any way. It was therefore agreed not to comment.
- C4. WBC – 2011/12 Highway Winter Service Plan – Consultation.
 It was agreed that Mr. Dickens would review the Winter Service Plan which had been circulated via email.

BD

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

Signature

Date

RT1. Policing.

Mr. Beeson reported that Sergeant Caroline Harrison had contacted him about the vandalism which occurred several weeks ago.

RT2. Angels Corner.

It was noted that rubbish tends to accumulate at Angels Corner after it has been used by the Scouts. It was agreed to write to them and ask them to take their rubbish away with them.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm. .

NEXT BPC MEETING:

Monday 14th November 2011 7.45pm Memorial Hall

NEXT PLANNING MEETING:

Monday 24th October 2011 8.00pm Victory Room

Signature

Date