

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 10th February 2014 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Mr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Mr. A. Aldridge; Mrs. L. Clarke; Mr. T. Banks; Mrs. A. Hillerton; Mr. T. Slatford; Mr. J. Brims; Mr. A. Dunkerton; Mrs. H. Cairns; Mr. A. Gilbert ; Mr. Q. Webb (District Councillor); Mrs. H. Pratt(Clerk).

OTHERS

Durrant Heslop; Gordon Heslop; Gill Comley (West Berkshire Volunteer Village Agents); Dan Cooper (NWN).

APOLOGIES

Mrs. P. W. Frankum; Mr. G. Pask (District Councillor).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

- M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Minutes for Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2014.
The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 13th January 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr. Dickens.
- M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Minutes for Meeting held on Monday 27th January 2014.
The minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 27th January 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr. Dickens.

PUBLIC SESSION

- PS1. West Berkshire Volunteer Village Agents.
The meeting was **closed** for Gill Comley from West Berkshire Volunteer Village Agents to introduce BPC to the service the group offers. The aim is to put older or socially isolated residents in direct contact with community, voluntary and statutory agencies who may be able to help them in various different ways, therefore enabling people to stay in their own homes for longer. Ideally at least one volunteer agent will work in an area (as a volunteer). Neighbours or friends of those who they believe to be in need of advice will contact the Volunteer Agents who will in turn contact the person direct and identify the services likely to be of use to them.
A volunteer agent had been found for Bucklebury, however for personal reasons has had to reduce the amount she can do; a second lady is to be interviewed next week.
Mr. Dickens thanked Ms. Comley for attending the meeting and explaining the service.
The meeting was **reopened**.
- PS2. 4x4 Usage at Ramsbury Corner.
The meeting was **closed** for Durrant Heslop to speak.
Mr. Heslop introduced his brother Gordon Heslop to the meeting. Mr. D. Heslop said that on Sunday afternoon, he heard vehicle engines on the Common towards Ramsbury Corner and decided to investigate. He was horrified at the mess he found. Three Land Rovers were on the Common, away from any Rights of Way. A year ago Mr. G. Heslop was assured by WBC via email that action would be taken in the Ramsbury Corner area to improve things, however nothing has happened. It was suggested that renewed requests are made to get the byways closed as there is significant public risk in this area, which is protected ancient woodland. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) who now manage the Common need to be made aware that this is a serious issue.

Signature

Date

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was agreed that the Clerk would organise a meeting, to include a site visit to HP Ramsbury Corner, with the various agencies involved to try and address the issues.

CLERKS REPORT

CR1. CCTV.

Simon Barnett from BBOWT has a ranger who is currently running trials with CCTV cameras. BBOWT will then identify a suitable camera for use at the ford and elsewhere on the Common.

CR2. Tree Management in the Cemetery.

Roger Malloy has removed the birch trees which were resting on the BT cables and growing up between them in the new part of the Cemetery. He has also reduced the size of the yew trees adjacent to the Chapel door and tidied up some other trees.

TOPICS

T1. Allotments.

The Clerk has contacted WBC legal and asked their advice about referring parishioners to the Bucklebury Estate for allotments.

Mr. Dickens said that Mr. Houston has spoken to Mr. Hartley Russell who is understood to be considering his position and whether to apply for consent to carry out works on common land (erect the fencing) under Section 38 of the 2006 Commons Act or investigate the possibility of using other land for allotments.

T2. River Pang and the fords.

There has been a site meeting with various agencies including BPC, the EA, WBC and the Police at which it was felt that posts were not the best option because the banks of the Pang are too soft and the resulting posts would be unsightly. An alternative solution involving tree trunks along the bank of the river was discussed, however since the meeting Sally Wallington has commented that she doesn't feel this is the best option, and would like to seek the advice of Chris Booth (who was involved with the flood alleviation scheme). His charges are £45.00 per hour. Mr. Slatford proposed that BPC spend a maximum of £150 consulting with Chris Booth; this was seconded by Mr. Banks and carried. Mrs. Clarke will organise for Chris Booth to be consulted.

LC

There are some questions about the ownership of the land adjacent to the ford. Mr. Webb suggested that BPC might like to consider registering the land with the land registry, however a comment was then made that BPC would have responsibility for it. Mrs. Cairns and Mr. Slatford have met with Piers Allison and viewed a list of flood problem areas throughout the parish; these will be passed on to Stuart Clark at a meeting with him.

With the current persistent high rainfall, there are issues with rising ground water/ water seeping through underneath the bund on the recreation ground. Two pumps have been obtained and are currently being used to pump the water off the recreation ground and back into the river. Mr. Allison has asked for contributions for one of the pumps from villagers.

It is understood that Stuart Clark has obtained funding to dig out the swilly hole down to the chalk again which should help alleviate the issue of water from the Tylers Lane area.

T3. Faster Broadband.

Mr. Banks said that he had emailed Colin Batchelor(WBC) and Richard Benyon(MP) about the broadband facilities in Bucklebury. There are five phases in the implementation of high speed broad band across West Berkshire the first of these has been completed. By September 2015, all properties in West Berkshire are expected to have at least 2Mbits/s. Mr. Banks commented that there is also the option for parishioners to explore other sources of broadband including Virgin or satellite.

Signature

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It was agreed that parishioners should be encouraged to lobby Richard Benyon, WBC and BPC. Whilst Upper Bucklebury generally has fast broadband, Bucklebury village and Chapel Row do not, however it was noted that there are some infill areas just to the south and north of Bucklebury village. It was agreed that Mr. Banks should continue his investigation and that this be on the agenda for the March meeting for any updates.

T4. Parking in Berry's Road.

A meeting was held between members of BPC, a resident of Berry's Road, the PCSO, the head teacher and the chairman of the governors. Various options were discussed, including opening up the bottom entrance (where would the funding come from) and double yellow lines along Berry's Road. As a result of the meeting, the no waiting cones, which have been on the junction of Berry's Road and Blackland's Road for the last two years, have been removed. The result of this is that there is dangerous parking on the junction. Mrs. Rowe (the head teacher) will contact WBC and find out if it is possible to run a minibus from Thatcham as 60% of the current pupils come from Thatcham. The PCSO agreed to write a letter to parents stating the legal position on parking and once this has been sent out will then visit the area and ensure that parking is legal.

Claire Jordan (a parent) is very keen for there to be a crossing in Berry's Road.

T5. Annual Assembly

The Clerk has sent email to Anthony Stansfeld, however no reply has been forthcoming. Mr. Webb supplied some alternative contact details to the Clerk.

HP

T6. Cemetery and Chapel

Mr. Dickens reported that he had met with Chris Willett (a local expert with knowledge of old buildings) at the Chapel. Mr. Willett drew attention to some lead flashing on the roof which has slipped, missing mortar between the ridge tiles, cracks below the two side windows, moss on the exterior ledge and the staining/mould on the inside walls. The lead flashing and the missing mortar will be resolved when the roof is redone. It was agreed that a working party could remove moss from the exterior ledge and paint anti-fungal paint on the inside walls of the chapel.

Burial Board

The cracks below the windows have been filled previously, but would benefit from being raked out and refilled; this is a job which Steve Christmas could do, assuming he does the roof.

T7. Speeding.

BPC received an email from PC Matt Allen asking if BPC would be willing to spend a small amount of money on speed enforcement signs.

There was some discussion about speeding in various parts of the parish including Broad Lane (from Chapel Row), Chapel Row (from the Avenue), Chapel Row (from Upper Bucklebury), Burdens Heath and Marlston Road (through the village). Mr. Dunkerton shared some statistics for these sites.

It was agreed that whilst BPC is 100% behind use of speed cameras and enforcement, no further signage is wanted. Members were pleased to note that the speed enforcement van has been seen in the parish a number of times recently.

T8. Council Tax Support.

The Clerk reported that WBC has decided to pass on 75% of the Council Tax Support funding direct to parishes for FY14/15. For Bucklebury this equates to £607.08. In FY15/16 it is proposed to further reduce it to 50% and in FY16/17, 25%. WBC has given parishes the option to reduce their precept request as a result of the Council Tax Support income.

BPC agreed to leave the precept as agreed at the January meeting at £25,500.00 for FY14/15.

PLANNING

Signature

Date

Planning applications to be considered:

- P1. 14/00165/FUL Winchcombe Cottage, Briff Lane.
Replacement dwelling and replacement ancillary outbuilding.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

Planning Decisions taken by WBC:

- P2. 13/00019/FUL The Watermill, Bucklebury.
Restoration of derelict watermill to known original condition.
Restoration of complete mill base, super structure and cladding and roof to original known condition, retaining all original machinery returned to working condition as a complete conservation project.
BPC had **no objection** to this application, which has now been **approved** by WBC.
- P3. 13/00763/FUL Clover Cottage, Westrop Farm (Adjacent Parish).
Demolition of existing dwelling, outbuildings and hard surfaces, erection of replacement dwelling with parking, revised curtilage and landscaping.
BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant took the decision to appeal and the inspector **dismissed** the appeal.
- P4. 13/02018/FUL Fifield Farm, Marlston.
Stable yard including an American Barn, Menage and small store.
Change of use to equestrian.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 13/02723/FUL Frilsham Nurseries, Frilsham (Adjacent Parish).
Section 73A: Variation of Condition 4 – Surfacing of access, Condition 6 – Vehicle parking spaces, Condition 7 – Visibility Splays and Condition 12 Landscaping Scheme of application reference 12/01268/FUL. To vary the wording of the condition to remove reference to timing for compliance.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 13/02860/FUL Greenwood, Hatch Lane.
Proposed replacement dwelling with detached garage – revised proposals.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 13/02955/FUL Midgham Croft Cottage, Midgham Green.
Demolition of house and outbuildings. New four bedroomed house.
Reconstruction of garage and store to form studio.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P8. 13/02883/HOUSE Byrons Chase, Carbinswood Lane.
Alteration/construction of ménage for domestic private use.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P9. 13/02903/HOUSE Eaton, Turners Green.
New garage/car port construction.
BPC **objected** to the original application, but had **no objection** to the amended application which reduced the size of the construction. The application has been **approved** by WBC.

Signature

Date

	Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care Ltd.	£370.00	Tree management in the Cemetery.
	Karen Davies	£230.00	Hockett Field Management Plan.
	Carol Farmer	£6.00	Oaks delivery – Roundfield.
	Helen Pratt	£542.25	Clerk’s January 2014 salary.
	West Berkshire Countryside Society	£1,000.00	Grant for FY 13/14.
	West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau	£50.00	Donation – see Jan ’14 minute C4.
F2.	<u>Balances at Bank.</u>		
	Lloyds Current Account	£17,319.19	On 14 th January 2014.
	Scottish Widows Reserve Account	£37,314.74	On 1 st January 2014.
	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account	£6,513.62	On 1 st January 2014.
F3.	<u>S106 Agreement for 12/00351/HOUSE for Oak Acre, The Avenue.</u>		
	S106 contributions of £262.20 have been received from WBC for the development of the annexe at Oak Acre, The Avenue, to be spent on the improvement of Public Open Spaces within the parish.		
	It was agreed that the Clerk will sign the acknowledgement receipt to be returned to WBC.		

HP

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been received:

- C1. 2014 Dorothy Morley Conservation Awards – members were made aware of the opportunities.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

- RT1. Peaches Store.
The freehold of the Peaches Store in Upper Bucklebury is for sale. The business is not for sale. It was agreed that this information should be put on the web site.
- RT2. Bucklebury Meadows.
The tree survey has now been received from DWH. Unfortunately this is not conclusive on the ownership of the trees on the west boundary of the site and is based on the 2002 map of the complete site prior to the development of Mortons Lane.
- RT3. Parking on Harts Hill by Hawthorn House.
Photographs were shown of walkers having to walk in the road to pass cars parked, blocking the pavement outside Hawthorn House. The Clerk will contact Sovereign about the issue.
- RT4. Bucklebury Events Committee.
The loan made to the Events Committee needs to be returned by the end of the financial year.
- RT5. Brambles over paths.
Some footpaths have brambles growing over them, it was suggested that secateurs are used to cut them back.
- RT6. Black Bird Café.
Mr. Dickens reported that the Black Bird Café at Chapel Row is now open and serves good coffee and delicious home made cakes.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

NEXT PLANNING MEETING: 8.00pm Monday 24th February 2014 Victory Room.
NEXT BPC MEETING: 7.45pm Monday 10th March 2014 Memorial Hall.

Signature

Date