

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Mrs. P. W. Frankum(Chairman); Mr. B. Dickens; Mrs. L. Clarke; Mr. T. Banks; Mrs. A. Hillerton; Mr. A. Aldridge; Mrs. H. Cairns; Mr. A. Gilbert ; Mr. J. Brims; Mr. A. Dunkerton; Mr. G. Pask (District Councillor); Mrs. H. Pratt(Clerk).

OTHERS

PCSO Alex Upton.

APOLOGIES

Mr. T. Slatford.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

- M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Minutes for Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014.  
The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mrs. Frankum.
- M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Minutes for Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014.  
The minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mrs. Frankum.

CHAIRS REPORT

- CH1. Policy.  
Mrs. Frankum reminded members to ensure that if a meeting is taking place the Clerk and Chairman are made aware. Members were also reminded that there should be two members of BPC present when meeting with either parishioners or other organisations.
- CH2. Rights of Way.  
The Ramblers have recently surveyed the Rights of Way in the parish and sent a report to Elaine Cox at WBC. It was agreed that the Clerk would request a list of the problems which the survey has identified.
- CH3. West Berkshire Countryside Society.  
Volunteers have agreed to carry out work on either the hedges at the Hockett Field or planting slips in Bucklebury Meadow on the 11<sup>th</sup> November this year.
- CH4. Traffic Signs.  
The traffic speeding signs which have recently been put up around the parish are for a temporary period only.
- CH5. Commons Clearing.  
Mrs. Frankum thanked all those who helped with Common Clearing.

HP

CLERKS REPORT

- CR1. Flooding – meeting with Stuart Clarke.  
The Clerk reported that she had returned a map to WBC detailing the locations where problems were identified and asking for a meeting to discuss the work required.
- CR2. Cemetery Gates.  
A quote for metal gates has been obtained from Graham Plank. There was some discussion about the relative merits of metal versus wood. Mrs. Clarke proposed that metal gates be purchased and installed at a maximum value of £2,250.00; this was seconded by Mr. Dickens and unanimously agreed. The Clerk will investigate the

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CR3. CCTV Camera.

Simon Barnett from BBOWT has been trialling a trail camera which was being considered for CCTV use in the parish. Unfortunately the images from it are not of sufficient quality for use by the police. Simon will pursue other options.

TOPICS

T1. 4x4 Misuse in the Parish.

Mrs. Clarke said that the bank, between the River Pang and the field to the south of it adjacent to the small ford, has been built up. In addition, substantial tree trunks have been laid on both bank sides of the River Pang east from the byway ford to the fallen tree to stop the damage from the 4x4s. Sally Wallington has applied to the Environment Agency for permission for a fence between the main ford and the fallen tree in addition to the work which has already been carried out.

WBC has put extra resources into placing TRO's on byways 13 and 15 whilst awaiting repairs and also to investigate the possibility of seasonal TRO's. These TRO's will be implemented via signage rather than physical barriers.

It was agreed that the group of people who initially met to discuss the destruction of the common at Ramsbury Corner will officially be called the "Bucklebury 4x4 Action Group" and this will be a working group of BPC. As this group is looking at the Common as a whole, and 4x4 issues within the whole parish Mrs. Clarke asked to be involved.

T2. Parking Issues at the Junction of Little Lane and Roundfield.

Mr. Dickens and Mr. Banks have met on site and considered the options. After the site meeting, Mr. Dickens met with Rachel Williams from Sovereign Housing and Mr. Murphy. Sovereign Housing own between 60 and 65% of properties in Roundfield and are investigating the possibility of new pull-ins for parking and bollards on the ring area of Roundfield. Sovereign Housing are also looking at pull-ins on Roundfield off Little Lane. The resident of the bungalow who removed the hedge, such that he could get his vehicle closer to his property for his disabled wife has replanted hedging. Mr. Murphy who is developing the site of 46 and 47 Roundfield is interested in the possibility of increased parking. The land between the road and the houses is owned by WBC. It was agreed that BPC would write to WBC and investigate whether they would consider the principle of making the area into parking spaces, possibly with the use of S106 money.

The situation outside of 1, 2, 3 and 4 Roundfield was again raised. These addresses do not have any allocated parking and often cars are parked in Broad Lane completely blocking the pavement. The Police were urged to do something about this. Equally it was noted that Sovereign Housing are aware of the situation.

T3. Annual Assembly.

It was agreed that Mr. Aldridge would source wine, soft drinks and nibbles for the Annual Assembly on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Mr. Brims will obtain the glasses from the Victory Room.

Mr. Aldridge will provide a projector to show the slides of the Pang Valley, taken by Dick Greenaway, during the recent flood at the end of the meeting.

T4. Water Supply.

Recently there have been two occasions on which Upper Bucklebury has been without water due to issues with the Thames Water pump at the bottom of Harts Hill. It is understood that standby generators are not in place due to thefts. It had been understood that if there was a problem with the pump at the bottom of Harts Hill, a wireless connection opened a valve in Cold Ash, which would provide an alternative water supply at lower pressure; however this doesn't appear to be the case any longer.

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It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Damien Crawford at Thames Water and ask for an update in time for the annual assembly.

HP

T5. Transfer of Bucklebury Meadow.

The transfer of the Meadow is progressing, although no date has been suggested. David Wilson Homes have agreed to costs of £12,200.00 for works outstanding in addition to the commuted sum.

T6. Upper Bucklebury Cemetery.

The Cemetery is split into three separate areas: the Victorian part, the 1970's part (which is now full apart from reserved graves) and the new section. It was planned that the new section would be a lawn cemetery, however this is proving difficult to implement as families are not complying with the rules.

In light of the lack of compliance to the rules, BPC unanimously agreed to the new section being a meadow cemetery.

There will be a working party in the Cemetery at 10am on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May to cut back the rhododendrons and remove some of the holly. It was agreed that Mr. Brims, Mr. Dunkerton, Mrs. Hillerton and Mrs. Frankum would be present; other helpers would be most welcome.

## PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

P1. 14/00578/HOUSE Osgoods Gulley.

*Double storey front and rear extensions with associated internal alterations.*

It was noted that the dwelling has already been massively extended. However, the cottage is not listed, the proposal is infill and it cannot be seen from any Rights of Way.

BPC agreed with 7 votes in favour and 2 abstentions to “**no objection**” to this application.

Planning Decisions taken by WBC:

P2. 14/00165/FUL Winchcombe Cottage, Briff Lane.

*Replacement dwelling and replacement ancillary outbuilding.*

BPC had **no objection** to this application; however it has been **refused** by WBC.

P3. 14/00026/HOUSE 1 Snowdrop Cottage, The Slade.

*Two storey rear extension and porch.*

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

P4. 14/00021/HOUSE 1 Riverside Cottages.

& 14/00022/LBC2

*Erection of single storey oak framed garden room kitchen extension.*

BPC had **no objection** to these applications which have been **approved** by WBC.

P5. 14/00325/FUL Sunridge, Bucklebury Road (Adjacent Parish).

*Revised scheme for replacement dwelling house and garages – change of use from agricultural to residential for driveway, access etc.*

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

Planning Decisions taken at Appeal:

P6. 13/00663/FULD Fifield Farm, Marlston.

*Barn conversion into a private dwelling, with an existing open barn into car parking and garden store. The third small barn to be demolished. (All barns and the yard are unused.)*

BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant took the decision to appeal and it has been **dismissed**.

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14/22

P7. Land submitted to the SHLAA.

After an initial discussion on the land submitted for the SHLAA, it was agreed that this should be on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting to be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

REPORTS

R1. District Councillors Report.

The temporary speed signs will be up for 3 or 4 weeks. The effect so far has been noticeable. It was agreed that the signs need to be enforced by the police actually carrying out more speed checks. PCSO Upton agreed to raise this with the Neighbourhood Sergeant.

R2. District Parish Conference.

Mrs. Frankum reported that there had been an update on the recent flooding. There have been problems across the area with cold calling on the elderly; this has meant that "No Cold Calling" zones have been set up in some places. It was agreed that this should be talked about at the Annual Assembly. WBC will no longer produce leaflets about keeping hedges cut; it will be up to the parishes to do this if they wish.

R3. Commons Advisory Committee.

There was a report by the Bucklebury 4x4 Action Group which has identified 37 sites for CCTV warning signage across the Common. Paul Hendry (WBC) will be producing the signs.

There was some discussion about Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) being placed on some of the byways. Mr. Hartley Russell has agreed to fell some trees and help with the reinstatement of the byways. A request was made that if byways are being damaged, this should be reported to both Paul Hendry and Mr. Hartley Russell.

All the allotments sites on the common are currently full.

All the trees on the Common are the responsibility of WBC until a tree survey has been carried out, after which BBOWT will take over the responsibility of them.

The next Commons Advisory Committee meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

R4. Neighbourhood Watch Update.

Mrs. Cairns reported that scams are one of the biggest problems in the area at the moment, with recognised company names being used. Currently Trading Standards are working with West Berkshire CAB in an effort to address some of the issues.

Anthony Stansfeld reported that cyber-crime is one of the biggest problems and costs the country £65 billion, one of the biggest issues is that not enough is reported to the police.

Mr. Stansfeld has a budget of £400 million and has three main issues: burglary; cyber-crime and under age prostitution. He is also responsible for the purchase of 4x4 vehicles for the Police in an effort to stop theft of farm vehicles.

The Newbury Police Deputy Chief Inspector said that a priority had been put on rural crime including hare coursing, empty building theft, vehicle theft and fuel thefts.

Over the whole of Berkshire there was a reduction in fires during 2013 from over a 1000 in 2012 to 875 in 2013; this has been put down to education in schools. Two manned fire stations allow the service to attend events. It was noted that the "Lions" have a container for personal information (name, medication etc) which can be placed in the fridge which is one of the least likely things to be destroyed in a fire. The ambulance and fire service are both aware of the potential container in the fridge.

R5. Standards Committee.

Mr. Dickens reminded members that under the Code of Conduct gifts of more than £25.00 must be declared.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

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TM1. Items to be discussed at future meetings.

Housing Survey.  
Emergency Plan.  
Parish Plan

FINANCE

F1. Insurance Renewal.

The Clerk advised that BPC will begin the third year of a three year fixed term cover with Came and Company who specialise in insurance for parish councils.

F2. Cheques signed by Councillors:

Southern Electric	£12.23	Street light supply.
SSE Contracting Ltd	£72.41	Street light maintenance & repairs.
C.S. Morris	£3.00	Oaks delivery to Berry's Road.
S. Cornell	£36.47	Bus shelter cleaning: Jan, Feb & March 2014.
BALC	£428.36	Membership.
Helen Pratt	£542.25	Clerk's March salary.
Helen Pratt	£88.79	Council expenses.
Broker Network Ltd	£592.11	BPC insurance.

F3. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account	£10,062.53	On 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2014.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account	£37,314.74	On 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account	£6,513.62	On 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014.

F4. Appointment of Internal Auditor.

The Clerk has contacted Erica Tipton who is willing to carry out the internal audit. It was agreed to purchase a gift to the value of £25.00 in appreciation of this work.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been received:

C1. Community Policing Awards 2014.

It was agreed to nominate PCSO Sarah Preston for this award for her help in the parish.

C2. Upstream from West Berkshire Countryside Society were distributed.

C3. Street Light Maintenance Contract.

A new street lighting maintenance contract had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was agreed by all present.

C4. BALC Training Opportunities.

It was agreed that Mrs. Hillerton would attend the New Councillor training session and the Clerk will attend the training on VAT.

C5. North Wessex AONB LEADER Programme meeting

Mrs. Carins agreed to attend the meeting to be held at Hamstead Norreys on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

C6. St. Martins Club Request for Donation.

A request has been obtained to support the activities of St. Martins Club. It was agreed to make a donation of £800.00 to the Club which includes £300 from BPC funds and £500 from the Gilroy fund, which is payment 3 of 5, to be paid on an annual basis.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

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RT1. Artisan Food Market.

Mrs. Clarke reported that an Artisan Food Market had been held at Chapel Row on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April and that it was planned to hold further markets on the first Saturday of each month.

RT2. Frilsham Parish Council Clerk.

The Clerk advised BPC that she has taken on the role of Clerk to Frilsham Parish Council alongside Bucklebury.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

**NEXT PLANNING MEETING:**

**8.00pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 Victory Room.**

**NEXT BPC MEETING (AGM):**

**7.45pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 Memorial Hall.**

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY:**

**8pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 Memorial Hall.**

Signature .....

Date .....