

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS

Mr. Stephen and Mrs Elizabeth Baines.

APOLOGIES

Mrs. P. W. Frankum.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. There were no declarations of interest on any agenda items.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014.  
The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr. Dickens.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. 14/02326/HOUSE Juniper Cottage, The Slade.  
This item is minuted under the Planning section of these minutes.

CHAIRS REPORT

CH1 Common Clearing.

Mr. Dickens said that about 30 parishioners helped to pick up rubbish from the Common. However it was noted that the Ridge and the road from Upper Bucklebury to Chapel Row were particularly bad. It was requested that we ask WBC to litter pick these roads and Harts Hill Road on a more frequent basis.

HP

Mr. Dickens thanked all those who had attended or supported the event by providing refreshments.

CH2 Bucklebury Cricket Club.

Bucklebury Cricket Club currently play in Yattendon, however they would like to return to play at the recreation ground in Bucklebury. In order to do this, a proposal has been submitted to the Recreation Ground Committee for a cricket wicket. As a result of this there is some contention between Bucklebury Cricket Club and Bucklebury Wolves (childrens' football). There is a meeting this Thursday between both clubs, when hopefully the issues will be resolved.

CLERKS REPORT

CL1. Foundry Bridge.

The Clerk reported to WBC that BPC were not in favour of the proposed road improvements at the Foundry Bridge, as they would enable vehicles to travel over the bridge at higher speeds. As a result of BPC's comments, WBC has agreed not to pursue the proposed improvements. WBC was not aware of the most recent incident at the site, but asked for information, such that the bridge structure could be checked.

CL2. Flooding.

The Clerk reported that whilst she had not written to WBC, she had spoken to Sally Wallington and Dick Greenaway about the Swilley hole. It would appear that there is not a clear answer about the best way forward with the Swilley hole and the area or

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depth of ground which should be dug out. It was suggested that the two culverts at Chapel Row and Tylers Lane need to be dealt with separately; the one at Chapel Row having the potential to cause black ice on the busiest road through the parish in the winter and the Tylers Lane culvert being relatively low on the priority list. The flooding on the Ridge has extra complexities given that the ditch to be cleared is in North Thatcham rather than Bucklebury and probably belongs to Wasing Estate.

CL3. Complements Slips.

The complements slips have been ordered. There was a slight hold up about whether an email address should be included. With the view that the slips are likely to be in use for the next 5 years, it seemed sensible to use a more future proof email address rather than the yahoo address which is currently advertised. The email address [clerk@buckleburyparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@buckleburyparish.org.uk) has been set up to forward email to the yahoo email and has been included on the complements slips.

CL4. Water Supply.

The Clerk said that she had had a very constructive conversation with Ian Cuthbertson of Thames Water. The valve in Cold Ash which enables water to be fed to Upper Bucklebury and beyond when the pump at the bottom of Harts Hill fails is now in full operation. The amount of air in the water first thing in the mornings was of concern to him and two possible options were discussed: slightly increasing the overnight pressure of water coming up Harts Hill and an air release valve placed outside the concerned property. However which option is most suitable is really determined by how far reaching the problem really is. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan of West View, Briff Lane are communicating with their neighbours to get a better idea of how widespread the problem is.

CL5. Uncovered Manholes.

BBOWT have filled in the manhole closest to the path, which was covered by a piece of corrugated concrete/asbestos with birch logs, however the other manhole (which the dog fell into) remains unfilled. It was agreed to leave this on the Clerk's list as an item to be monitored.

CL6. Cemetery Roof Invoice.

The Clerk has received an invoice for £4,400 (including VAT) for the Chapel roof, however it is not clear from the invoice who the cheque should be made payable to. A number of attempts have been made to contact Steve Christmas without success and it is now understood that he has moved to Canada. The Clerk will continue to pursue this item. HP

CL7. Cemetery Gates.

Graham Plank has the new Cemetery gates and will be fitting them shortly. The Clerk has notified Mr. Plank of the burial which will be taking place on Thursday afternoon. This is the burial of the late Mr. Nigel Palmer.

CL8. Cracks below the Cemetery Windows.

Mr. Christmas had recommended and agreed to fill these cracks with silicon so that they wouldn't crack if there is movement in the building. He had also said he would make repairs to 2 memorials. These two tasks along with removing the moss from the ledge around the chapel will be grouped together to be done. Mr. Dickens suggested that CR Landscapes could be asked to remove the moss.

CL9. Allotments.

After chasing up WBC and making separate enquiries with the SLCC, the Clerk said that both had indicated that BPC were not liable in the case of allotment holders unlawfully erecting fencing around their allotments on the Common.

COUNCILLORS REPORT

CO1. Vodafone Mast.

Mr. Banks said that he had had a conversation with Piers Allison about mobile phone

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signals and broadband speeds. Mr. Allison is trying to carry out a survey of the broadband speed which parishioners of Bucklebury Village are actually achieving. The Rural Open Sure Signal requires a minimum broadband speed of 4MBps and this will provide coverage over a cell of approximately 500m. Many locations in the parish do not have sufficient broadband capacity to support this. It would only improve the signal for Vodafone customers. It was agreed that this wouldn't be pursued.

CO2. CCTV.

BPC had put money aside for a CCTV camera to assist with evidence against 4x4 misuses of byways and land within the parish. At Ramsbury Corner, 2 of the byways were sufficiently badly damaged that TRO's have now been placed on them, which are understood to be in place until the end of December 2015. Since the TRO's were applied there has been very little use of 4x4's off road across the parish. It was therefore agreed that BPC would wait for any developments before investing in equipment. BBOWT are working with Bucklebury Estate and will be putting logs down parallel to the byways with TRO's on them to ensure that the routes are clear. Given that there is currently no perceived problem, no CCTV signage is required. Mrs. Clarke commented that there are problems on the Pang between the fords where motorbikes are either entering or leaving the river directly onto the Brocks Lane.

TOPICS

T1. Transfer of Bucklebury Meadows.

The Clerk said that she had requested a copy of the .dwg file and the results of an index map search for the land to be transferred. Field Seymour Parkes had requested that DWH's legal representative carry out an index map search, and have agreed to forward BPC the details once they have received them from DWH's representative.

The Clerk has raised the question about the western boundary as the plans showed some discrepancies. DWH's legal representative has agreed that these discrepancies need to be resolved by DWH.

As no action had been taken by DWH, BPC has now taken on emptying, on a weekly basis, the two dog bins at either end of the meadow footpath at a cost of £73.99 per annum.

West Berkshire Countryside Society had been going to plant slips in the two gaps where the boundary hedge had been removed on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, however the slips are not ready due to the warm weather.

T2. Bucklebury Tennis Club.

In June 2014, BPC agreed a grant of £1,000 towards the lighting of the tennis courts, with the possibility of a further £500. A letter has been received from Mike James asking that BPC consider the additional £500. Mrs. Clarke proposed that BPC grant the tennis club a total of £1,500; this was seconded by Mr. Slatford and unanimously agreed.

The flood lighting has been installed, but on the day that there was the opening celebration, it was discovered that there was a problem with the electrical supply. In order to resolve the problem, there needs to be some investigation about the best possible solution.

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PLANNING

P1. To review the list of enforcement issues.

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated a new list of enforcement issues in which there were 4 sublists: Matters reported to enforcement, Matters reported to enforcement and closed, Sites where land usage is being monitored and Historical sites where land usage has been monitored.

There was some discussion about matters reported to enforcement and whether or not BPC is notified of their closure, and if notified, how they are closed. It has transpired that in a number of instances, sites which BPC understood were still under investigation haven't been looked at by WBC Enforcement for a number of years. Mr. Pask said that it is not mandatory for WBC to carry out enforcement.

It was agreed that Autumn House, Byles Green should be reported to Enforcement again as play equipment remains on the agricultural ground which is also being close mown.

It was also agreed that properties along the east side of Little Lane, whose owners have purchased sections of the paddock to the west of the largest of the 3 meadows belonging to DWH should be forwarded to Enforcement, as some of the properties are incorporating the agricultural land into their domestic curtilage.

Marlston Farm had been on the list of sites where land usage is being monitored, it was agreed to move it to the historical list.

Planning applications to be considered:

P2. 14/02308/HOUSE Hill Crest, Tylers Lane.

*Replacement roof to provide the additional bedrooms and bathroom, new front entrance with balcony over, replacement rear extension to enlarge kitchen and lounge.*

There was a discussion about the impact this proposal would have on the adjacent property to the north; Belvedere, which is an extended 1940's bungalow. Belvedere is approximately 1.1m north of the existing Hill Crest bungalow, with a velux window which faces south and would be completely obscured by this proposal at Hill Crest. The proposal would have a significant impact on the AONB

It was agreed that BPC would **object** to this application.

P3. 14/02326/HOUSE Juniper Cottage, The Slade.

*Rear conservatory.*

The last application submitted for this property was refused by WBC and allowed on appeal. In the current application there is no mention of the percentage increase in size. It was noted that the size of the garden associated with Juniper Cottage has increased since the cottage was first built.

The meeting was **closed** for Mr. Baines to speak.

Mr. Baines said that the proposed new conservatory will not be visible by anyone else and won't be intrusive. Mr. and Mrs. Baines have spoken with their neighbours, none of whom have any objections.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was agreed that BPC had **no objection** to this application

14/02303/HOUSE Kings Copse Bungalow, Southend.

*Construction of a timber framed building to house biomass boilers serving both King's Copse and King's Copse Cottage.*

BPC has **no objection** to this application.

14/02397/HOUSE Osgoods Gully.

*Single storey extension with balcony, alterations to dormer window.*

BPC has **no objection** to this application.

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- 14/02370/HOUSE Kennel Barn, The Slade.  
*Installation of a domestic in-ground swimming pool and adjacent shed.*  
 BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- Planning decisions made by WBC:
- P4. 14/01816/HOUSE Briff Well, Little Lane.  
*Single storey side and rear extensions.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 14/01753/FULD 49 Roundfield.  
*Construction of detailed dwelling and associated parking. An amendment was received for this application reducing the dwelling to a single storey bungalow.*  
 BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 14/01680/HOUSE Anyho, Long Grove.  
*Replace existing garage with new one.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 14/01501/FUL Land to the south of Red Hill House and adjoining its southern boundary.  
*Erection of stable block, change of use of land to equestrian use.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

## REPORTS

### R1. District Councillors Report.

Mr. Pask said that there had been 4 accidents in the parish in the last 10 days: a car spun and hit an oak tree on the Avenue near the Beenham turning; a vehicle coming from Southend Bradfield hit an oak tree at the north end of the Avenue; a mini countryman vehicle hit the back of a 4x4 on Harts Hill and tonight a vehicle has hit an electricity pole and ended up on its side on Broad Lane, opposite Berry's Road. He asked BPC to support his request to Acting Superintendent Lindsey Finch to consider seriously the request for more speed surveillance within the parish.

It was also brought up that Newbury Buses don't keep to their side of the road when coming up Harts Hill.

Five million pounds has been spent on roads and the vast majority of potholes have been filled. The winter maintenance plan has now been published; a question was raised about the roads in the parish which are single gritted as opposed to double gritted and in particular Harts Hill which is only single gritted. Mr. Pask said that double or single gritting was maybe to do with the surface of the road, but he would check up on this.

### R2. Bucklebury Beerfest.

Mr. Brims reported that the event had made a profit of between £2,300 and £2,500. Whilst the weather caused a bit of a late start all the beer was sold. The event was jointly organised by the Victory Room Committee and Bucklebury Events Committee in aid of the Victory Room improvements.

After the event there was some minor damage with youngsters setting fire to a bale of straw and pushing the corner of a tent over. There was no damage to the marquee or toilets, however security will be considered for next year.

GP

## FINANCE

### F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Bucklebury Tennis Club	£7,046.25	Balance of money received from Greenham Common Trust for Tennis Club lighting.
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F1.	<u>Cheques signed by Councillors:</u>		
	SSE	£10.02	Street light electricity supply.
	The Alpha Xperience	£287.50	October 2014 edition of The Oaks.
	CR Landscapes Limited.	£798.40	Cemetery maintenance.
	Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£61.25	Rent 1/8/2014 – 31/12/2014.
	SSE Contracting Ltd	£19.01	Street light maintenance.
	Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£1,719.08	Grant for Playpark and BMX track.
	L.Slatford	£3.00	Oaks delivery – Mortons Lane.
	Sylvia Cornell	£35.00	Bus shelter cleaning – July, August & September 2014.
	Carol Farmer	£6.00	Oaks delivery – Roundfield.
	Katie Powell	£12.00	Oaks delivery – Hatch Lane.
	Victoria Pratt	£3.00	Oaks delivery – Little Lane & Long Grove.
	Helen Pratt	£542.25	Clerk’s August Salary.
F2.	<u>To review current balances and financial position.</u>		
	Lloyds Current Account	£14,467.46	On 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2014.
	Scottish Widows Reserve Account	£37,360.89	On 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2014.
	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account	£5,524.04	On 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2014.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence has been received:

- C1. Berkshire County Blind Society – Letter of appreciation for grant.
- C2. West Berkshire Council Community Champion Awards.  
Information has been received about nominations for the Community Champion Awards.
- C3. Bucklebury Tennis Club – Letter of appreciation for grant for Bucklebury CofE Primary School childrens’ tennis coaching.
- C4. West Berkshire Countryside Society – Distribution of Upstream.
- C5. BALC AGM - This will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at Grazeley Village Hall beginning at 7pm. As no one is able to attend, apologies will be sent.
- C6. Newbury News Limited.  
Information has been received about the “Newbury Weekly News Over 80s’ Christmas Parcel Fund”. It was agreed that BPC would donate £85.00 to the fund this year.

**ROUND TABLE COMMENTS**

- RT1. Posts at the top of Little Lane.  
A vehicle has knocked over some of the posts around the grass at the top of Little Lane. This will be reported to WBC.
- RT2. Land opposite Byroms Chase, Carbinswood Lane.  
Mr. Gilbert said that the land opposite Byroms Chase in Carbinswood Lane (Woolhampton Parish) has been cleared and he is monitoring it.
- RT3. Hedges in The Slade/Tylers Lane.  
A resident of The Slade has written to WBC about a hedge overgrowing the road. Nick Coulson (from WBC) will investigate this.
- RT4. Victory Room AGM.  
This will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. All parish councillors were asked to attend if possible.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

**NEXT PLANNING MEETING:**

**8.00pm Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 Victory Room.**

**NEXT BPC MEETING:**

**7.45pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 Memorial Hall.**

Signature .....

Date .....