

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 12th January 2015 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Mr. A. Gilbert; Mr. T. Slatford.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 15th December 2014.
The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 15th December 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mrs. Frankum.

CHAIRS REPORT.

CH1 Cemetery Carols.

Mrs. Frankum thanked everybody who came to the “Carols by Candlelight” and commented on the fact that there was almost a full complement of Parish Councillors present. Mrs. Hillerton, Mrs. Cairns and Mrs. Pratt were thanked in particular for helping to set up and Mrs. Hillerton and Mrs. Cairns for helping to clear up the following day. A record number of people attended resulting in a donation of £170 to Two Saints in Newbury. Next year, there will have to be an increase in the amount of mulled wine and blackcurrant.

CH2 Meadows.

A Little Lane resident has erected a substantial fence very close to the stock proof fence on the west side and several meters beyond the actual boundary. BPC has been in touch with them and it is hoped the situation can be resolved amicably.

CH3 School Parking.

A meeting still has to be held to discuss the parking in the Berry’s Road area at school drop off and collection times. However it has been agreed that the traffic cones, which have been in place for approximately three years need to be replaced with a more permanent arrangement. The cones now have notices on them which say “Do not move.” Unfortunately though, the wind still blows them around.

It has been suggested that Blackland’s Road is made a voluntary “No parking” area and if this fails, parking restrictions such as yellow lines should be implemented, but these must be enforced. It was suggested that a way forward may be to work with the Friends of Bucklebury School (FoBS). The Clerk will write to the Head and ask for a meeting with the Chair of FoBS.

CLERKS REPORT

CL1. Cemetery.

The Clerk has inspected the wall with Mr. Dunkerton; it is composed of breeze blocks and engineering bricks which have been rendered. The render is breaking down on the top of the wall and at corners of the pillars. In order for remedial works to take place, an access strip needs to be cleared all around the wall on the inside of the Cemetery; it is planned to carry out this work during a working party of the Burial Board on 31st January, meeting at 10am.

C.R. Landscapes have been asked to quote to clear and chip the gorse and scrub which has grown up on the north side of the path, between the graves and the wooded section

Signature

Date

in the 1970's Cemetery.

COUNCILLORS REPORT

CO1. Superfast Broadband.

Mr. Banks said that the procurement of Phase 2 is due to go out to tender in the Summer (2015). Until this process has been completed the details of which cabinets are to be upgraded is not available. However, some councillors have heard suggestions about specific cabinets being upgraded later this year.

Mr. Banks said that parishioners should be encouraged to register for superfast Broadband if they haven't already done so. This item will be left open, with an update from Mr. Banks expected in August/September 2015.

TB

C02. Emergency Plan.

There is an Emergency Plan meeting scheduled for Friday 16th January.

C03. School Parking.

This is covered under the Chair's Report.

TOPICS

T1. Transfer of Bucklebury Meadow.

The Chairman and the Clerk have both independently met the resident who has erected the substantial fence on the meadow. During the latter's conversation, the resident accepted that the line of the boundary was on the bank, on the meadows side of the trees. This means that the trees belong to the residents, but the ditch belongs to the meadows. In places it is easy to see the old boundary fence, however during clearance work this has been removed from this particular property. The new fence is in places between 2 and 3 meters from the original fence line. BPC agreed that the new fence needs to be moved back to the line of the original fence.

BPC agreed that a letter needs to be sent to other residents with land which shares a boundary with the meadows, so that they are aware that the stock proof fencing is not the boundary of their land.

HP

T2. Annual Parish Assembly.

The Clerk has arranged for Chris Boulton from the Greenham Common Trust to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly on Friday 15th May. There had been some debate considering whether Friday was the best day for the Parish Assembly. However, it was ascertained that the only day on which the Memorial Hall is available is a Friday and in order to encourage as many groups as possible to benefit from hearing Mr. Boulton speak, BPC will invite each of the parish groups to have a display at the Assembly, making the Memorial Hall the preferred venue. It was agreed that for this year the Parish Assembly would remain on a Friday evening. The Clerk will send out invitations to the individual groups.

HP

T3. Flooding.

The culvert at Chapel Row has been jetted. Councillors living close to the culvert were asked to monitor the success of the jetting.

The Clerk reported that she had met with Mr. Slatford, Mr. Pask and Anop Gehlot (WBC) at a site meeting to inspect the flooding which occurs after rain on the Ridge near the top of The Slade and the Hotshots site. It is not anticipated that all of the water will flow west; some of it should flow east towards Burdens Heath and then south in a ditch before reaching Windy Ridge. As a result of the meeting Mr. Gehlot will contact Wasing Estate to get the culvert under the entrance to Hotshots cleared, look at the levels of the ditch and investigate the drain on the north side of the road, which ultimately runs south in a ditch.

The culvert at the bottom of Tylers Lane has been logged with WBC, but hasn't to date been followed up.

HP

Signature

Date

Flooding of the top of Berry's Road has been reported and the drains have been jettied. However this hasn't resolved the problem and the road is still flooding after heavy rain. The Clerk will send photographs to WBC to show the problem.
Flooding was also reported at the junction of the road to Midgham Green from Carbinswood Lane. The Clerk will report this.

HP
HP

T4. Byway Repairs.

An email has been received from a parishioner enquiring whether BPC would be willing to help with repairs to the byway used to access his property, or alternatively to apply pressure to WBC to make repairs.

As a result of the enquiry, the Clerk contacted Elaine Cox at WBC to enquire what processes were in place for the maintenance of byways. A number of properties in the parish are accessed via byways which need to be maintained. WBC has a process of inspecting such byways, but do note that the minimum standard from their perspective is generally not that of the residents who use the byways.

The Clerk stated that Parish Councils have the powers to maintain footpaths and bridleways, but not byways; this also means that BPC cannot pay WBC to maintain the byway.

The council agreed to inform WBC of the request from the resident and contact the parishioner and let him know the outcome of his request.

T5. Finances.

The budget, circulated prior to the meeting was reviewed and agreed (attached to the end of these minutes).

It was unanimously agreed to leave the precept at £25,000 for the financial year 2015/16, the same as the current year.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

- P1. 14/03228/HOUSE Pentwyn, Tylers Lane.
Single storey extension to rear.
It was unanimously agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- Planning decisions made by WBC:
- P2. 14/02553/HOUSE Holly Cottage, Kiff Green (Adjacent Parish).
Two storey side and rear additions with altered vehicular access.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P3. 14/02774/HOUSE Aynho, Long Grove.
Erection of double storey rear extension.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P4. 14/02577/FUL The Highlands, Upper Bucklebury.
Change of use of small area of land to domestic curtilage, and erection of replacement outbuilding.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 14/02733/HOUSE Waven, Bucklebury.
Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling, together with new garage building.
BPC objected to the initial application. An amendment was received which resited the garage, air source heat pump and solar panels. BPC had **no objection** to the amended application which has been **approved** by WBC.

Signature

Date

- P6. 14/02987/HOUSE Camplins Cottage, Turners Green.
Two storey side extension comprising study at ground floor and en-suite above.
 BPC had **no objection** to this application, however WBC has **refused** it.
- P7. S106 Money for Open Spaces in relation to 06/02837/FULD for Coach House Barn, Marlston.
 BPC has received £4,440.00 for the improvement of public open spaces in the parish in respect of S106 contributions paid on application 06/02837/FULD for the development of Coach House Barn at Marlston.
 It was unanimously agreed that Helen Pratt, the Clerk will sign the letter acknowledging the basis upon which the money has been paid and return the letter to WBC.

REPORTS

- R1. West Berkshire Council Report.
 Mr. Pask commented that in a neighbouring parish two pubs had been approved as being a “community interest”. This gives a certain level of protection to the pubs, should their future come into question. In order for an asset to be approved as a “community interest” a score has to be given based on a set of criteria. The question was raised as to whether there are any assets in Bucklebury which should be registered. It was agreed that more information should be sought from WBC before this is discussed more fully at the next BPC meeting. HP
- R2. Cemetery Carols.
 It was noted that there were issues with some of the sound reproduction and in particular the recorders being heard by people standing outside. If possible this should be improved next year if the necessary equipment can be borrowed. It was also felt that there needed to be a group of singers to lead the singing, and ideally these would be local people. The Clerk agreed to make some enquiries for the next Cemetery Carols. HP
- R3. Victory Room.
 Chris Willett has presented three different sets of plans to the Board of Trustees for the Victory Room; 2 of these retain the existing building and the third is a rebuild with a smaller hall than has previously been discussed. The Board of Trustees has voted 10 to 1 in favour of a new build of not less than 30m in length. It is planned to communicate with the parishioners.
- R4. Speed of Traffic.
 The speed survey results for Bucklebury village have been accepted by the residents. The PCSOs are being trained to carry out speed enforcement. Figures for Broad Lane, Upper Bucklebury have now been obtained and whilst high are not high enough to be considered an issue.

FINANCE

- F1. Cheques signed by Councillors:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---|
| SSE | £17.36 | Streetlights – supply. |
| SSE Contracting Ltd. | £19.01 | Streetlights – maintenance contract. |
| The Alpha Xperience | £20.40 | 200 Carol sheets. |
| Mrs. J. Hale | £25.00 | Cemetery cleaning. |
| Mrs. P. W. Frankum | £5.17 | Expenses. |
| Helen Pratt | £27.35 | October, November & December 2014 expenses. |
| Helen Pratt | £542.25 | Clerks December salary. |
| West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau | £100.00 | Donation as per December '14 minute C2. |

Signature

Date

F2.	<u>To review current balances and financial position.</u>		
	Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received.	£16,033.50	On 13/1/2015.
	Lloyds Current Account	£14,611.41	On 19/12/2014.
	Scottish Widows Reserve Account	£37,436.15	On 1/1/2015.
	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account	£5,535.17	On 1/1/2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been received:

- C1. West Berkshire Countryside Society – Upstream magazines were distributed.
- C2. Affordable Rural Housing has published a new guide; A Practical Guide for Parish Councils – two copies have been ordered.
- C3. Newbury News Limited – A letter of appreciation for donation towards the Newbury Weekly News Christmas Parcel fund has been received. It was noted that parcels are sent out to anyone over 80, regardless of income.
- C4. West Berkshire Countryside Society – A letter of appreciation for the cheque for the donation and membership and has been received.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Streetlights.

Mr. Brims noted that the streetlight outside Cornerways appeared to be on at lunchtime. The Clerk will report this.

HP

RT2. Christmas Tree.

A number of parishioners have commented on the Christmas tree in Beenham and wondered whether it was possible to have a tree in Bucklebury. There was a discussion about where a tree would go and the potential costs and practicalities. The Clerk will speak to Marcus Allum who may know.

HP

RT3. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators meeting.

Mrs. Cairns said that she had attended the most recent meeting of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators which included a presentation about hoarders and the best ways to help them. ASBO's have now become Criminal Behaviour Orders.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

NEXT BPC MEETING:

7.45pm Monday 9th February 2015 Memorial Hall.

NEXT PLANNING MEETING:

8.00pm Monday 26th January 2015 Victory Room.

Signature

Date

