

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS

Geoff Arthur; Stephen Manson; Andy & Tricia Jones; Duncan Mathewson; Louise Harry; Jennifer Ainsworth; Charlie Hoffman; Pip Miles.

APOLOGIES

Mr. B. Dickens; Mr. J. Brims; 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 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mrs. Frankum.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by Mrs. Hillerton.

PUBLIC SESSION

PU1. Planning Application 15/00597/HOUSE – Oak Acre House, The Avenue.

This item is minuted under the Planning section of these minutes.

PU2. Planning Application 15/00646/FUL – Greenwood, Hatch Lane.

This item is minuted under the Planning section of these minutes.

PU3. Bucklebury Primary School – Proposed Federation with Beenham Primary School.

This item is minuted under the Topics section of these minutes.

PU4. Dog mess in Paradise Lane.

The meeting was **closed** for Pip Miles to speak.

Pip Miles said that a number of people use Paradise Lane as a safer route than Hatch Lane to walk to the bus stop and the Bladebone Public House, particularly from Paradise Way. However the lane suffers with a significant amount of dog mess. Residents have put up notices asking people to clear up after their animals but this has had little effect. As a result, Pip Miles presented a petition of approximately 30 signatures to BPC requesting dog bins at either end of Paradise Lane. It is understood that the landlord of the Bladebone is willing to contribute towards the cost of a dog bin.

The meeting was **reopened**.

The Clerk advised BPC that the cost of emptying the dog bins in the meadows in Upper Bucklebury is currently approximately £50.00 annually per bin (being emptied on a weekly basis). It was suggested that a single dog bin situated half way down Paradise Lane would suffice.

It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with Mr. Aldridge and Pip Miles to identify a suitable location for the bin. Once identified, the Clerk will contact WBC about the suitability of the location for those servicing the bin and hopefully obtain permission from the relevant land owner. A bin can then be ordered which will be paid for by contributions. BPC agreed to pay for and arrange the servicing of the bin.

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CLERKS REPORT

- CL1. Kissing Gate on Path Next to 32 Broad Lane.  
Mr. Banks said that he had spoken to the resident of 32 Broad Lane who is responsible for the kissing gate. The resident asked what the process is for making the repairs to the gate and whether permission is required from WBC. The Clerk will contact Elaine Cox and find out if there is a process for such maintenance. HP
- CL2. Deep Potholes in Cemetery Road at the Cemetery.  
The Clerk reported that she had received a phone call from a former resident of the parish who said she had tripped in a deep pothole on the edge of the road at the Cemetery and had spent the previous afternoon in A&E with a potentially cracked kneecap; luckily she had only suffered bruising.  
The Clerk logged a call with Streetcare, indicating that an injury had occurred as there were actually 3 holes which had appeared very quickly. All 3 holes were filled promptly and have been added to a list for further ongoing work in this financial year by WBC.
- CL3. Trees Close to Cemetery Wall in 1970's Cemetery.  
C.R. Landscapes were approached to remove the trees, which include a tree resting on the BT cables; they felt that they wouldn't be able to undertake the work. "Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care" and "Opus Tree Care" were both contacted, have been met on site to discuss it and have submitted quotes. BPC agreed to accept the quote from "Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care".
- CL4. Berry's Road Flooding – ELM 131271.  
The Clerk reported that there was no update; investigations weren't due until the new financial year had begun.
- CL5. School Parking.  
Bucklebury School has replied to the letter requesting a meeting, saying that they didn't think a meeting necessary. BPC will continue to monitor the situation.
- CL6. Parish Assembly.  
The Clerk reported that a number of groups who meet within the parish have been invited, although only a small number have replied positively.
- CL7. Chapel Row Culvert – ELM 129153.  
The Clerk reported that the blockage of this culvert has been reported to the WBC project team for investigation.
- CL8. Flooding along the Ridge – ELM 129520.  
Work on this is now understood to be complete; the ditch along the south side of the road has been dug out and the drains have been jetted.
- CL9. Tylers Lane Culvert and Adjacent Ditches – ELM 130278.  
The ditch between Tylers Lane and Red Hill House has been dug out as has the ditch from Ford End westwards to byway 13/1; however the latter has been dug sufficiently close to the edge of the road to cause a hazard. WBC has admitted that the riparian owners didn't carry out the work as they would have liked; to improve the situation it was suggested that a white line be painted along the edge of the road until further work can be done to remedy the situation. HP
- CL10. Water Supply.  
On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March the water supply to Upper Bucklebury and the Windmill Lane area was significantly reduced for a number of hours. With the new valve in Cold Ash, it was understand that if the Harts Hill pump failed this situation shouldn't occur. The Clerk will contact Thames Water and find out what happened. HP
- CL11. Peaches Noticeboard.  
The Clerk reported that permission has been obtained from the freeholder of the Peaches site, Simon Quentin Smith to replace the existing noticeboard. A quote from Greenbarnes Ltd. for a new oak noticeboard has been received and was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that the new noticeboard will have a self-healing pin board and

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black filled engraved lettering across the top. The new noticeboard will require installation, which it was agreed could be carried out by Parish Councillors. A question was asked about any guarantee with the new noticeboard; the Clerk will investigate.

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## COUNCILLORS REPORT

### CO1. Swilly Hole.

Mrs. Clarke reported that she had emailed Piers Allison, but had not received a reply. Mrs. Cairns said that before the sewage plant was constructed, a stream flowed down to the swilly hole and this stream still runs, although it may be supplemented by water from the sewage plant. The stream is still running into the swilly hole and the gully on the other side of the road is dry. It is therefore assumed that the swilly hole is working.

### CO2. Abuse of Byways by 4x4's.

Mrs. Cairns and Mr. Slatford were thanked by Mrs. Frankum for all the work they had carried out to gather the evidence of 4x4 abuse of byways for GLEAM.

## TOPICS

### T1. Bucklebury Meadow.

The residents of Brimstone Cottage have now moved their fence. Mrs. Frankum has looked at it and whilst the north end appears to be in the correct position, she believes that the south end is still approximately 1m from where it should be. Mr. Aldridge will visit the site and give his opinion.

AA

### T2. Bucklebury Primary School.

The Clerk circulated the following documents prior to the meeting:

- minutes of the last Governing body meeting of Bucklebury Primary School
- the consultation letter sent from the Governing body to the parents
- the document produced by some parents in response to the consultation letter

Mrs. Frankum expressed thanks to the Clerk for finding and circulating these documents.

As a response to the letter produced by the parents, a petition against the federation between Bucklebury and Beenham Primary Schools has been started which currently has 107 signatures representing 67 of approximately 90 of the families with children at the school.

Mrs. Hillerton then proposed that BPC should not support a federation between the two schools for the following reasons: the school is at the heart of the Bucklebury village/community and as such is a community asset, and secondly having read a large number of the publically available documents didn't feel that there was a convincing reason why the two schools should federate. Mr. Banks seconded the proposal and it was carried with six members supporting it and 1 abstaining.

It was agreed that a letter concerning the future of the school and expressing continued support would be sent to the Governing body, the Local Authority and the Diocese.

There was some discussion about ways in which BPC could support the school. It was agreed that the most effective way would be for a member of BPC to stand as a governor, however nobody present felt able to take on the role.

### T3. Insurance Policy Renewal.

The Clerk presented BPC with the insurance premiums which have been paid for the previous 5 years. These have actually decreased year on year. It was agreed to enter into a further 3 year agreement (saving 5% each year) with Came & Company.

## PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

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P1. 15/00597/HOUSE

Oak Acre House, The Avenue.

*Proposed garden and pool room.*

Concerns were raised that the house has already approximately doubled in size.

The meeting was **closed**.

Mr. Hoffman, the applicant said that he would be investing in the site and would be developing the existing garage as it was falling down and constructing the adjacent annexe (planning permission 12/00351/HOUSE). This application is for a pool house to accommodate plant equipment for a small pool and changing and shower facilities.

Mr. Mathewson, the architect commented that the pool room had been designed to be subservient to the main house. He also commented that the 50% guideline on percentage increase is rather a crude method of determining applications and that out-buildings more than 5m from the dwelling are not included.

There was some question from BPC as to whether the pool itself would require planning permission. Mr. Mathewson said that swimming pools do not require permission.

Mrs. Ainsworth, the neighbour commented that they have concerns over damage which may be caused to hedges during construction of the pool house and also noise, which can travel significant distances over open land.

Mr. Hoffman commented that his neighbours at Nine Elms had no objections to his plans; that they had no plans to remove any hedgerow for the construction of the pool or pool room and that there were significant hedges between Oak Acre and Lower Common House.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was noted that there was no design statement for the application giving any details of the size of the original dwelling or the size of any of the extensions. Mrs. Clarke proposed that BPC **object** to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the domestic curtilage assuming that the annexe is developed. This was seconded by Mrs Cairns and carried with 5 members supporting the motion and 2 abstaining.

*Subsequent to the meeting it has been determined that swimming pools require planning permission if they are more than 20m from the house and more than 10m<sup>2</sup>.*

P2. 15/00646/FUL

Greenwood, Hatch Lane.

*S73: Variation of condition 2: Approved plans, of planning permission 13/02860/FUL: Proposed replacement dwelling with detached garage – revised proposals.*

It was explained that the variation being requested in this application is to move the garage from the rear of the house to the front, backing onto Southwick in Hatch Close. It was noted that garages in front of properties is contrary to Bucklebury Vision and there are no obvious garages of this nature in Hatch Lane.

The meeting was **closed**.

The applicant commented that a number of trees on the boundary between Greenwood and Southwick have been removed allowing more light into Southwick. The area of the proposed garage is smaller than the approved garage. The residents of Southwick have been consulted about the variation and are understood not to object. It was also noted that Mallards Bottom on the opposite side of the road has a garage to the

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front of the house.

The meeting was **reopened**.

Mrs. Clarke proposed that BPC **object** to this application due to the impact on the street scene; it is contrary to Bucklebury Vision and the potential loss of light to Southwick. This was seconded by Mr Aldridge and carried with 6 members supporting the motion and 1 abstaining.

P3. 15/00546/HOUSE

Carbins Wood, Chapel Row.

*Part rebuild/refurbishment due to fire damage. Rebuild to include new side extension (to replace existing) and new first floor extension. New complete roof structure to replace existing.*

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

P4. 15/00649/FUL

The Dell, Windmill Lane.

*Demolition of existing detached house and garage and erection of new detached dwelling with separate double garage incorporating bat roost. Relocation of existing drive access.*

There was some discussion about this application and the modern design proposed for the replacement house. The replacement house is approximately 50.37% larger than the existing.

Mr. Dunkerton proposed that BPC have **no objection** to this application. This was seconded by Mr. Banks and carried with 5 members supporting the motion and 2 abstaining.

P5. 15/00642/FULD

Marywell, Chapel Row.

*Demolition of existing house and construction of a replacement dwelling and associated works.*

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application. The size of the original dwelling is unknown by the applicant; however it is thought that the proposed replacement dwelling is at least 50% larger than the existing. It was felt that a request should be made for worthy trees on the site to be protected by TPOs as a significant oak has been removed since the last planning application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P6. 14/03258/HOUSE

47A Roundfield.

*Conversion of loft into a habitable space.*

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

P7. 15/00051/HOUSE  
& 15/00052/LBC2

Bucklebury House.

*The erection of a greenhouse within the kitchen garden.*

BPC had **no objection** to these applications. WBC has **approved** application 15/00051/HOUSE and determined that application 15/00052/LBC2 was **not required**.

P8. 15/00157/HOUSE

Lynthorpe, Tylers Lane.

*Rear extension to accommodate ensuite on ground floor and bedroom extension on the first floor.*

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

P9. 15/00079/HOUSE  
& 15/00080/LBC2

Cherry Orchard Cottage, Hatch Lane.

*Single and two storey extensions, re-positioning entrance gates and new boundary fence.*

BPC **objected** to these applications which have been **refused** by WBC.

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- P10. 15/00152/HOUSE 79 Roundfield.  
*Demolish existing garage, brick store at rear and build 2 storey side and single storey rear extension.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P11. 14/03257/FULD Bucklebury Farm Park.  
*Siting of a log cabin to provide on-site staff accommodation at Bucklebury Farm Park.*  
 BPC **objected** to this application which has subsequently been **withdrawn**.

## REPORTS

- R1. West Berkshire Councillors Report.  
 Mr. Webb reported that a grant of £1,500 had been secured under “Members Bids” for improvements to the carpark at the Recreation Ground in Bucklebury village.  
 Mr. Pask commented that there was a great deal of work going on within WBC to try and move the situation with Bucklebury School forwards in a positive way. Discussions are taking place between the Diocese and the Local Authority.
- R2. Parish/District Conference.  
 Mrs. Frankum and Mrs. Cairns attended the conference, but said that there was nothing of significance to report.
- R3. Memorial Hall Meeting.  
 BPC were thanked at the recent meeting for the insurance money for the BMX track. New stage curtains have recently been installed. The committee are still looking for a new treasurer.
- R4. Victory Room Meeting.  
 Having taken comments into consideration, Chris Willett is talking to the company “Pinelog Ltd” and drawing up further plans for the redevelopment of the Victory Room. These drawings are unlikely to be ready for the Parish Assembly and there was some concern that the architect Chris Willett would be unhappy with them being presented in an incomplete state. However some form of presentation may be possible.

## FINANCE

- F1. Cheques signed by Councillors:
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|---------------------|---------|--|
| L. Slatford         | £6.00   | Delivery of The Oaks to Broad Lane & Mortons Lane.         |
| SSE Contracting Ltd | £105.97 | Streetlight - Standing maintenance charge and maintenance. |
| SSE                 | £17.58  | Streetlight electricity supply.                            |
| C.R. Landscapes     | £840.00 | Clearance of scrub at the Cemetery.                        |
| BALC                | £432.43 | Annual Membership.   |
| S. Cornell          | £35.00  | Cleaning of bus shelters.                                  |
| Helen Pratt         | £554.27 | March salary.  |
| Helen Pratt         | £117.45 | Parish Council expenses.                                   |
- F2. To review current balances and financial position.
- |   |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: | £12,972.42 | On 14/4/2015. |
| Lloyds Current Account:   | £15,138.87 | On 19/3/2015. |
| Scottish Widows Reserve Account:  | £37,436.15 | On 1/1/2015.  |
| Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:   | £5,535.17  | On 1/1/2015.  |

## CORRESPONDENCE

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The following correspondence has been received:

- C1. West Berkshire Heritage Forum AGM – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 6.45pm. Mrs. Frankum and Mrs. Cairns will be attending this and hope to request that further training be given.
- C2. SLCC Regional Roadshow – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. It was agreed that the Clerk could attend this seminar at a cost of £69.00 plus VAT.
- C3. Report on Heritage in West Berkshire - This report requests information about heritage assets in the parish, however it is noted that no BPC councillors have yet received training.
- C4. Community Policing Awards 2015 – Nominations have been invited of any members of Thames Valley Police for an award.
- C5. Bucklebury Wolves - In light of the previous grant application from Bucklebury Wolves for this financial year not coming to fruition a request has been received for a donation of £200 for new kit. A donation of £200 was approved.
- C6. Chapel Row Community Group AGM – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The speaker is Dr. Edwards Moss on the ebola epidemic in Sierre Leone.
- C7. Upstream – copies were distributed.
- C8. Care and Support Leaflets - copies of the leaflet explaining the changes in the law about care were distributed.
- C9. Defibrillators in Phone boxes – a letter has been received from Richard Benyon MP about the “Minutes Matter” campaign which aims to get old red telephone kiosks recognised as housing life-saving defibrillators. This is particularly relevant in rural areas which are more than five minutes from medical treatment. Both the red telephone kiosks at Chapel Row and in Upper Bucklebury were mentioned. It was agreed to have this as an agenda item at the next parish council meeting.

#### ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

- RT1. GLEAM - was featured on “Countryfile” on BBC on Sunday evening.
- RT2. Shooting of Cat in Byles Green – it was reported that a cat has been shot with an air rifle in the Byles Green area.
- RT3. Briff Lane and Byles Green - suggestions have been made that Briff Lane and Byles Green have become a short cut to avoid the traffic calming in Broad Lane.
- RT4. Royal Birth – Bucklebury Events Committee are planning to order a small run of mugs to commemorate the birth.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

**NEXT BPC MEETING:**

**7.45pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Memorial Hall.**

**NEXT PLANNING MEETING:**

**8.00pm Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Victory Room.**

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY:**

**8.00pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Memorial Hall.**

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