

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held the Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury on Monday 10th October 2016 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr. J. Brims (Chairman); Mrs. L. Clarke; Mr. T. Banks; Mrs. H. Cairns; Mrs. A. Hillerton; Mr. A. Aldridge; Mr. G. Pask (District Councillor); Mr. Q. Webb (District Councillor); Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

Mr. Tim Malpas (Land Agent, Wasing Estate); Ian Harding (Green Frog Energy) .

APOLOGIES

Mrs. P. W. Frankum; Mr. B. Dickens; Mr. T. Slatford.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of Interest on any Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 12th September 2016.

The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 12th September 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr. Brims.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 26th September 2016.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 26th September 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr. Brims.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. 11/02529/OUTD Land at Harts Hill Copse, Electricity Generation.

The discussion on this planning application is minuted under the “Planning” section of these minutes.

CLERK’S REPORT

CL1. Blacklands Copse.

Wessex Woodland has contacted BPC about young people who have set fire to the scrub (from the clearance work), resulting in the Fire Brigade being called. Young people have also been seen standing on the wood piles. The Clerk drafted an email which has been circulated to the parents of the children who use Bucklebury Community Bus, warning them of the dangers of these activities.

CL2. Water Supply.

On Thursday 29th September, after a short power cut, the water main burst on Harts Hill outside of Greenbank. As a result of this many houses in Upper Bucklebury were without water completely for a significant part of the day and many others with severely reduced pressure.

As a result of this, the Clerk contacted Thames Water on Friday 30th September, asking a number of questions. This was acknowledged by Thames Water by telephone and a response is expected within 14 days (by 14th October).

CL3. Bucklebury Village Conservation Area.

The Clerk has contacted Dennis Greenway and Sarah Orr, the conservation officers at WBC about documentation to support the conservation area. No response has been received.

CL4. Flooding at Chapel Row Culvert.

Mr. Aldridge reported that during and after heavy rain, the road is still flooding, but that the catch pond is empty. The Clerk will request that WBC look into the matter.

HP

Signature

Date

COUNCILLORS REPORT

CL1. High Speed Broadband.

Mr. Banks reported that Colin Batchelor had reported that GigaClear are back on time with their installation of superfast broadband. Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury are understood to be scheduled for April to June 2017. Mr. Banks will request a timeframe for each of the different areas of the parish.

TB

CL2 Community Assets – The Cottage Inn.

It is understood that the CAMRA application for the Cottage Inn to be a community asset has failed. Mrs. Cairns has approached Mr. Scullion at CAMRA for the material included in their application, so that BPC can make another application and not have to trouble Mr. Bush for the relevant information.

HC

The Cottage Inn has recently been awarded “Community Pub of the Year” again.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

P1. 16/02529/OUTD Land Adjacent to Summerfield, The Ridge (Adjacent Parish).

Outline application for change of use of part of existing agricultural field to residential and the erection of 5 no. detached dwelling houses with ancillary garages, access, parking, landscaping and associated works. Matters to be considered access and layout.

It was unanimously agreed to **object** to this application on the grounds that it is agricultural land outside of the settlement boundary.

P2. 16/02423/FUL Land at Hartshill Copse (Adjacent Parish).

Gas fuelled capacity mechanism generation plant to support the National Grid.

This application is for the installation of 24 gas turbines, each of which is housed in a container similar to freight containers used for transportation. The plant would be surrounded by security and possibly an acoustic fence. It was understood that the site is at the intersection of a gas main and high voltage mains cables with capacity for extra power.

The meeting was **closed**.

It was clarified that the site is not currently being used for paintballing; the gas turbines would be situated on some of the ground currently used to administer the paintballing.

The purpose of the plant is to boost local power in the north Thatcham and Bucklebury areas at times of peak demand. The plant can be producing power in less than a minute, whereas larger power stations take days to increase production. The plant would be remotely operated and only require a visit once every few days. The site would be monitored using CCTV and PIR lighting would be in use in the area within the fencing.

The location of the gas main was clarified as being at the bottom of Harts Hill. In order for the gas to be brought to the plant, it would be laid up Harts Hill to footpath THAT 5/1 (the footpath around the old gravel pit) and then directly to the proposed site.

The life of the installation is expected to be in the region of 20 years.

A question was asked about who or what is driving this application. The Government is holding a Capacity Market Auction in November, by which time pre-qualification of the plants has to be completed including planning. There are generally capacity auctions annually, but it depends upon whether there is a requirement for additional power capacity. Green Frog Energy have an installation site in Wallingford.

Questions were asked about why this plant couldn't be installed at Colthrop Mill Estate or another similar brown field site, rather than in woodland

Signature

Date

adjacent to the AONB.

The meeting was **reopened**.

Councillors commented that this was hard landscaping in ancient woodland adjacent to the AONB. The gas main is not as close as had been thought to the site. It was unanimously agreed that BPC **object** to this application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P4. 16/01949/HOUSE The Dell, Windmill Lane.
Construction of open swimming pool and reterrace surround.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 16/01926/HOUSE Osgoods Gully.
Two storey rear extension.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- P6. 16/01526/FULD Marlston Farm, Marlston.
Conversion of an existing barn into ancillary residential accommodation. A dining room extension and remodelling of front porch to the main dwelling.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- P7. 16/00123/FULD Manor View, Hopgoods Green.
Use of first floor annex as a separate dwelling.
BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant then took WBC's decision to appeal and the appeal has been **dismissed**.
- P8. 16/01151/HOUSE Wayside, Hatch Lane.
First floor extension, single storey front extension, internal alterations.
BPC **objected** to this application; however it has been **approved** by WBC.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

DC1. Road Surfaces.

Parish Councillors commented that the road surface in places is dire; this is particularly so in Chapel Row.

DC2. Briff Lane.

Whilst the verge has been cut, it was noted that hedges, trees and brambles have not been cut back and are restricting the width of the road in places. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this to WBC.

HP

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows.

The Clerk updated the council on the position of access holding up the transfer of the land. The view of BPC was that the existing access to the north should be pursued.

T2. Countryside

Unfortunately, vehicles have been entering the Pang close to the small ford again. The damage to the byway between Briff Farm and Hopgoods Green has been further exacerbated; it was agreed the Clerk would report this to WBC.

HP

T3. Wheelie bin stickers.

Approximately half of the wheelie bin stickers were distributed along Marlson Road in Bucklebury. It was agreed that the remaining stickers should be used in Chapel Row, close to the bus stop.

T5. Defibrillators.

Training sessions are now in place with two sessions to take place in the Victory Room on 27th October 2016 and two sessions to take place in the Memorial Hall on the 24th January 2017.

Signature

Date

T6. Parish Plan.

Mrs. Clarke reported that she had spoken to Jo Naylor about the Parish Plan. Ideally Parish Plans should be refreshed every 5 years; however this is not obligatory and if there is not the enthusiasm, it was suggested that a refresh should be deferred. CCB is no longer in a position to offer any support with a refresh.

T7. Parish Assets.

The grit bin on Carbinswood Lane near Fireside Cottage is missing. The Clerk has contacted WBC and they have agreed to replace it as they may have removed it by mistake. WBC will replenish the grit in all the grit bins and break up any that have gone solid this autumn as a good will gesture; after this the contents will be the responsibility of BPC.

It was noted that the bench in memory of Olive Edwards and the Brooke bench in the 1970's Cemetery need to be added to the asset register. The Brooke bench is in need of some attention.

It was agreed that the budget for next year should include a replacement laptop.

T8. Autumn Common Clearing – Saturday 15th October 2016.

Mrs. Frankum and Mrs. Hillerton will serve the refreshments at the Common Clearing event.

The Clerk has arranged for Rupert Hartley Russell to attend with his truck to collect up larger items and bags of rubbish.

T9. Co-option of a new Councillor for the West Ward.

It has been suggested that the school be approached to see if there is a parent or a governor living in the parish and may be interested in joining BPC.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

SSE Contracting Ltd	£18.96	Street light maintenance.
Helen Pratt	£43.50	Wheelie bin stickers from Smart Wheelie.
The Alpha Xperience	£299.00	Autumn edition of The Oaks.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£22.93	Hall hire for the defibrillator training.
Sylvia Cornell	£40.00	Bus shelter cleaning; Jul, Aug & Sep '16.
Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's September 2016 salary.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£36,654.90	
Lloyds Current Account:	£27,059.18	On 20/9/2016
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,660.78	On 1/7/2016.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£5,568.38	On 1/7/2016.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been received:

C1. WBC District Parish Conference – Tuesday 18th October.

Mrs. Frankum has agreed to attend this conference.

C2. Newbury Weekly News Christmas Parcel Donation.

It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100 to the Newbury Weekly News Christmas Parcel Donation, this being the same as last year.

C3. BALC AGM – Thursday 3rd November.

The Clerk agreed to attend this meeting.

Signature

Date

C4. Commons Advisory Meeting – Thursday 10th November.

It was agreed that Mrs. Cairns would attend this meeting on behalf of BPC.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Parking on Broad Lane.

Parking, obstructing the pavement outside of 1, 2, 3 and 4 Roundfield continues to be a problem. A motorbike has been parked leaning out into the traffic of Broad Lane in front of one of the properties on the triangle at Mount Pleasant. Both have been reported to the Police.

RT2. Welcome Packs.

Mrs. Cairns requested a Welcome Pack for new residents of The Slade.

RT3. Charity for Cemetery Carols.

It was suggested that the charity to be supported at Cemetery Carols be Bucklebury Community Bus Charity.

RT4. Bucklebury Beerfest.

Once again the afternoon was very successful, particularly considering the weather. It was noted that Mr. and Mrs. Brims do a tremendous amount of work for the Beerfest.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Next BPC Meeting:

7.45pm Monday 14th November 2016 Memorial Hall.

Planning Committee Meeting:

8.00pm Monday 28th November 2016 Victory Room.

Signature

Date