

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at the Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. P. W. Frankum (Chairman); Cllr. B. Dickens; Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. T. Banks; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. A. Hillerton; District Cllr. G. Pask; District Cllr. Q. Webb; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

Charlotte and James Wakelyn; Stephen Manson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. T. Slatford and Cllr. A. Aldridge.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

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

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Planning Application 16/03176/FUL for Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.

For the minutes on this item, please see the Planning section of these minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CR1. Veteran Tree Leaflet.

Eight years ago, Dick Greenaway (with funding from various sources) produced the Bucklebury Veteran Tree Leaflet, giving photographs, locations and statistics about a number of distinctive older trees in the parish. This leaflet has been distributed with the Welcome Pack; however we have run out. Dick Greenaway has been contacted about the possibility of re-printing it, but having looked at it, has decided that it should be updated. He is willing to help with the update, but is unable to carry out any of the field work (involving locating the trees, measuring the girth of each tree and potentially photographing them). Sally Wallington, Cllr. Frankum and the Clerk are hoping to carry out the required field work in January 2017. Funding to print the leaflet should be available from a number of different sources. It was agreed that in principal, BPC supports the reprinting of the leaflet.

WF  
HP

CR2. Cemetery Working Party.

There was a working party in the Cemetery on Saturday to cut back some of the rhododendrons, which have become very overgrown. Thanks were particularly expressed to Alan Dunkerton and Chas Cairns for their help.

It was agreed that the rhododendrons have become very overgrown and need to be cut back by a professional. Quotes will be sought from C.R. Landscapes, Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care (Roger Malloy) and Opus Tree Care after a specification has been drafted by Cllr. Frankum, Cllr. Dickens and the Clerk in the new year. This specification will also include pruning of the two yew trees growing in front of the Chapel so that they are not so close to the building.

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CR3. Cemetery Chapel.

Alistair Anderson, who has been advising BPC on the wall around the Chapel and the Chapel itself, will produce a quote to make repairs to the cracks in the Chapel, to paint the windows inside and out and paint the door with wood preservative.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Meetings in 2017.

The Clerk reported that all meetings for both full council and the planning committee will be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall. The full council meetings will start at 7.45pm and the Planning Committee meetings at 8.00pm.

CL2 Parking on Pavement at Peach's Garage.

Cllr. Pask reported that the owner of Peach's garage is in dispute with WBC over the ownership of the pavement in front of the garage. WBC is working to resolve the situation.

CL3. Paint for the Chapel Row Telephone Box.

The paint for the telephone box has arrived; the Clerk will give it to Cllr. Clarke after the meeting.

CL4. Parking outside 1, 2, 3 and 4 Roundfield.

The Clerk has received clarification from Sgt Hawkett that it is an offence to park on the pavement and a £30.00 fine can be imposed. There was a discussion about the best way forward and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the church to enquire whether it may be possible for the residents to park at All Saints on a temporary basis, whilst Sovereign Housing are contacted again about the possibility of providing parking for these apartments. If the church is happy for the residents to park in the All Saints carpark, a letter will be sent to each of the 4 apartments giving them this option and warning them that a fine may be imposed if they park on the pavement. Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Banks will deliver the letters to each of the 4 apartments with the intention of speaking to them to discuss the problem.

HP

BD

TB

CL5. Thames Water.

After a number of telephone calls a meeting has been arranged with representatives of Thames Water. This meeting will be attended by Cllr. Frankum, District Cllr. Pask and the Clerk. It will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The aim of the meeting is to find out what plans Thames Waters has for improving the water supply to and in Bucklebury Parish.

It was noted that one day Bucklebury Farm Park was without water.

GRANTS

G1. Grants to be made to Local Charities during FY17/18.

The following groups have made an application to the Clerk for a grant: St. Martin's Club, Bucklebury Tennis Club (for coaching for year 5 pupils at Bucklebury Primary School) and Bucklebury Community Bus Charity. The following grants were unanimously agreed: St. Martin's Club - £250.00, Bucklebury Tennis Club - £200.00, Bucklebury Community Bus Charity - £500.00.

G2. Grants and Membership of Environmental/Conservation Bodies.

The West Berkshire Countryside Society has carried out various tasks in the parish, including clearance of the birch growing on the Common, initial management of the meadows in line with the Management Plan and advice from Sally Wallington on how to deal with various issues. In view of their contribution to the parish, it was unanimously agreed to make them a donation of £1,100 during FY17/18.

Membership of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) and GLEAM (Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement) were unanimously agreed.

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PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

- P1. 16/03153/HOUS 5 Catherine Place.  
E It was unanimously agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P2. 16/03176/FUL Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.  
*Change of use of land to residential for the positioning of a temporary mobile home as a forestry worker’s dwelling (application for 3 years).*  
Cllr. Brims explained the planning history of this 60 acre site. There have been a number of security problems involving vandalism and theft. Some of the approved planning has not been implemented; however there is a building to the south of the track for which planning permission is questioned. There was some debate about whether the income from 60 acres of woodland is sufficient to sustain someone living on site.  
The meeting was **closed** for Mr. Wakelyn to speak.  
Mr. Wakelyn confirmed that he manages the woodland (which belongs to his father) full time and employs part time workers on a seasonal basis. He commented that they have had a lot of vandalism and theft.  
There is currently no water on site; this will need to be piped up from Hatch Lane, a septic tank will be required for waste.  
Mr. Wakelyn commented that in addition to wood from the application site, wood is purchased from other local woods and prepared for fire wood.  
The meeting was **reopened**.  
Cllr. Brims and Cllr. Dickens proposed that BPC offer **no objection** to this application providing that it is sustainable from the 60 acres of land at Middle Wood. This proposal was carried with 4 members in favour and 2 members abstaining.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P3. 16/02638/HOUSE 32 Broad Lane.  
*Two storey extension and single storey garden room.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P4. 16/02790/FUL Fairchilds, Sadgrove Lane.  
&  
16/02794/LBC *Section 73 – Variation of condition 4 – Implementation of amended drawings of approved application 93/42717/FUL & 93/4718/LBC – Demolish existing study utility room and construction of two storey extension.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application (providing the 1993 application was still extant) which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 16/02496/HOUSE Brockley, Little Lane.  
*Single storey extension to replace conservatory.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 16/02477/FULD 39 Hillfoot.  
*Retrospective in part: Replacement dwelling. This application is required as the dwelling had to be demolished due to instability caused by severe frost and water damage.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 16/02423/FUL Land at Harts Hill Copse.  
*Gas fuelled capacity mechanism generation plant to support the national grid.*  
BPC **objected** to this application; however on closer examination by WBC it was considered invalid.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

DC1. Local Plan.

The Planning Inspector has reviewed the latest Local Plan and agrees with WBC on 95% of the material. The changes are now at consultation stage which runs until the 30<sup>th</sup>

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January 2017. Once this has been completed, the final report can be made and it is hoped that this will be ratified in May 2017.

As soon as this Local Plan is complete, work needs to begin on the next one and there will be the associated request for land suitable for development.

DC2. Number of District Councillors.

The number of District Councillors is currently under review and it is likely to cut from 52 to between 41 and 43 when the ward boundaries will be reconsidered. It is unclear how this will affect the Bucklebury Ward and whether or not Bucklebury Parish will continue to have 1 or 2 District Councillors.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows.

The Clerk reported that following legal advice, DWH has been asked to provide a legal access sufficient to manage the meadows as per the Management plan. BPC has offered to work with DWH to achieve legal access.

Richard Hubbard, Sally Wallington, Cllr. Frankum and the Clerk have looked at the hedges in the meadows and the three oak trees which were planted to replace the trees cut down illegally. Parts of the hedge between the northern and middle meadow are not suitable for coppicing and much of the material in the hedge is dead; it is proposed that these sections are cleaned out and replanted by the West Berkshire Countryside Society in January 2017. Sally Wallington has produced a quote for the required whips, canes and guards of £111.48; this expenditure was approved by BPC. Sally Wallington was of the opinion that changing the fencing around the oak trees wasn't necessary and that it would be better to replant the two trees which are struggling with other locally sourced oak trees.

The hedges already planted need to be weeded or sprayed. Sally Wallington is of the opinion that spraying twice a year for the first 3 years gives the whips the maximum chance of thriving, however the hay meadows are organic. Cllr. Frankum will contact Andrew Waters about the position.

WF

T2. Countryside

Bucklebury Ford – Sally Wallington, Cllr. Frankum and the Clerk have made a site visit to the ford to inspect the damage done by 4x4s driving in and out of the river to consider what can be done. Positioning a scaffolding pole in the middle of the river, as requested at the last BPC meeting will go ahead. It was suggested that WBC be asked to put wooden posts between the road and the river from the main ford towards the byway ford for a short stretch to stop 4x4's going into the river; however not everyone was in favour of this idea.

Rights of Way – Cllr. Cairns reported that byways BUCK 49/1 (Greens Old Farm to Sadgrove) and BUCK 39/1 (Briff Farm to Hopgoods Green) were discussed at the Commons Advisory Meeting and it was agreed that WBC would make an application for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) to be placed on them.

Footpath Fingerposts – A significant number of the fingerposts marking rights of way in the parish have broken off at the base. Cllr. Frankum reported that in order to replace any fingerpost, a full survey has to be carried out of the site for any services which may be buried in the ground.

Footpaths - Cllr. Clarke raised footpath BUCK 122/1 from Hillfoot to Hillfoot Farm which had been blocked by undergrowth and a fallen tree. It was thought that this had been cleared; Cllr. Clarke will carry out an inspection.

LC

T3. Assets of Community Value.

The Cottage Inn - Cllr. Cairns has spoken to Steve Mann (WBC) about the application for the Cottage Inn to be made an Asset of Community Value. He has asked what model of operation the parish would adopt if it were to become necessary for the parish to purchase and manage the establishment. It was agreed that the parish would wish to run

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it as a pub, with employed staff, volunteers or a mixture. Cllr. Cairns will add this information to the application.

HC

Bucklebury Recreation Ground – It was suggested at the last BPC meeting that consideration be given to applying for Bucklebury Recreation Ground to be made an Asset of Community Value. It was understood that Recreation Grounds elsewhere in the country have been made Assets of Community Value. Cllr. Cairns has spoken to Steve Mann about the possibility; no recreation grounds in West Berkshire are registered but he will look into the possibility. Cllr. Clarke commented that WBC owns Bucklebury Recreation Ground and it is managed by a Management Committee and therefore questioned whether there was any value in giving it this designation.

T4. Parish Assets – Chapel Row Noticeboard.

It was agreed to place an order for a new noticeboard at Chapel Row. It will be the same as the one purchased for the Victory Rooms and positioned inside the bus shelter where it can be more easily read.

HP

T5. Cemetery Carols.

Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Hillerton will all decorate the Chapel, meeting at 9.30am on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Councillors helping on the evening were asked to arrive as early as possible after 4.30pm. Cllr. Dickens will ensure that seats in the Chapel are only available for the elderly, disabled and very young. Cllr. Brims and Cllr. Banks will hold buckets at the end for the collection. Cllr. Clarke will collect Carol sheets. Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Hillerton will serve mince pies and mulled wine.

The Chapel will be tidied up at 9.30am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December by Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Hillerton.

Bucklebury Community Bus Charity has offered to make a minibus run from All Saints Church, primarily for the school record players and their families who come from Thatcham.

T6. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

It was agreed that costings will be obtained for the BPC meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017. This will enable Cllr. Dickens to attend the Memorial Hall meeting in February with a proposal.

HP

T7. Co-option of a new Councillor for the West Ward.

Mr. Manson, in attendance at this meeting is considering the possibility of putting himself forwards as a councillor. After this meeting he will contact the Clerk when he has made a decision.

## FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last Meeting:

NWN Over 80's Christmas Party	£100	Donation.
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F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd	£11.94	SSE Street light supply.
Berkshire Training CIC	£96.00	Planning training in September.
C. R. Landscapes	£616.68	Cemetery grounds maintenance, September, October and November 2016.
P. W. Frankum	£2.99	Expenses (Christmas cards).
Helen Pratt	£192.13	Reimbursement March to December 2016, including paint for the Chapel Row telephone box.
Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's October 2016 salary.
West Berkshire Countryside Society	£1,100.00	Donation, see December '15 minutes.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£35,715.09
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Lloyds Current Account:	£39,535.35	On 18/11/2016.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,698.69	On 1/10/2016.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,573.70	On 1/10/2016.

## REPORTS

### R1. Local Listing.

Cllr. Frankum reported that she had met Sue Ellis, who works in close conjunction with Anthony Pick on listing “items” of local importance. Cllr. Frankum took her to look at: the brick built pound at Hillfoot, the Cemetery Chapel with the cast iron grave markers and the Turners Green Chapel.

Sue Ellis was very keen for applications for local listing to be made for the pound, the Cemetery Chapel and particularly the cast iron grave markers.

She was very concerned about the stability of the Turners Green Chapel and in particular the roof (which is bowing) and the electrical wiring. These concerns have been raised with Mrs. Shelia Kent who is the only custodian of the Chapel of which the ownership is uncertain. The late John Morton and his wife are both buried in the Chapel. Sue Ellis was of the opinion that the Turners Green Chapel was not worthy of local listing. Cllr. Frankum has contacted the Congregational Federation who may own the Chapel and they have opened a file on it; however they are short staffed and it may be some time before it receives attention. In the meantime, Chris Willet (a local architect who specialises in old buildings) has been contacted and will have a look at the Chapel between Christmas and the New Year.

Cllr. Clarke suggested that the cast iron grave markers in the churchyards should be listed if the ones in the Cemetery are, all of them having been made in the foundry at Bucklebury.

Since Sue Ellis came out, it has been confirmed that the Cemetery Chapel is a very early example of a concrete structure and on these grounds is potentially worthy of national listing. It has been suggested that in the short term an application is made for it to be locally listed with a view to making an application to Historic England for nation listing at some stage in the future.

### R2. Oaks Meeting.

A meeting has been held about The Oaks where the layout, content and distribution were discussed. It was agreed to leave things essentially as they are.

### R3. Bucklebury Planning Policy.

Cllr. Banks had circulated to councillors, a draft of a new Planning Policy for Bucklebury based on the information obtained from the Planning Training attended by Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Frankum in September. There was some discussion about site visits and visiting neighbours. It was agreed that Cllr. Banks will incorporate the changes suggested and circulate to councillors with the intention of ratifying the policy at the BPC meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017. TB

## CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been received:

### C1. WBC – District Parish Conference.

The next District Parish Conference will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

### C2. WBC’s Library Service Review Consultation.

Due to the budgetary issues, WBC has considered various options and is now asking for funding from all parishes in order to maintain each of the public libraries in West Berkshire (with the exception of Wash Common Library). The funding being requested is approximately £1.00 per electorate. It was noted that 381 parishioners from Bucklebury use the library service, 42 of whom use the mobile service.

There was a discussion about the options, after which Cllr. Dickens proposed that BPC

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make a payment of £2025.00 for 1 year only; this was seconded by Cllr. Banks and unanimously agreed. During the year it was suggested that parishioners are consulted for their views.

C3. Consultation on the removal of the Peach's and Victory Room Public Telephones.

British Telecom is consulting about the removal of a number of public telephones in West Berkshire including the telephones at the Victory Room and the one opposite Peach's garage. Neither telephone box has had significant number of calls made from it within the 12 month survey period. Whilst mobile reception in the area is generally poor it was agreed that there were sufficient houses with a telephone nearby which could be called upon if there was a genuine problem.

C4. WBC trial of Wheelie bin stickers.

WBC is carrying out a trial of wheelie bin stickers and asking for parishes interested to apply. The Clerk responded that Bucklebury were interested, however WBC is not in support of the wheelie bin stickers which BPC purchased and distributed in Bucklebury village, as they can apparently cause confusion. For this reason, speed checks cannot be carried out where such stickers are displayed.

Given that the BPC speed stickers have only been distributed in Bucklebury village, it was suggested that the WBC trial stickers could be used in Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury, where police speed checks are carried out.

C5. CAB Funding Cut.

WBC is proposing to cut funding to CAB by £60,000 in the next financial year, having cut it by £40,000 this year. CAB provides a free, vital service to the vulnerable and those in need. The reduction in funding was discussed and it was agreed that BPC would write to WBC commenting that whilst this may appear as a saving, in the long run it will cost WBC more.

LC

C6. Canopy at Bucklebury Primary School.

Bucklebury Primary School has contacted BPC about the possibility of support for the construction of a canopy at the school, not only to give children some protection from the weather at break times, but also for parents waiting at collection time.

It was agreed BPC would reply to the school that BPC is already supporting Bucklebury Primary School pupils in making a donation to Bucklebury Tennis Club for tuition for Year 5 pupils. Due to cuts in the WBC budget, unfortunately no further funding is available because of the increased calls being made on BPC's finances.

HP

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. The Bladebone Defibrillator.

Cllr. Hillerton reported that the yellow box, housing the defibrillator has now been replaced by a green one, after the landlord of the Bladebone received a complaint about the yellow one.

RT2. Bucklebury Vision Review.

Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Dickens will meet to review Bucklebury Vision in the New Year.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

**Cemetery Carols:**

**6.00pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Cemetery.**

**There will be no Planning meeting in December.**

**Next BPC Meeting:**

**7.45pm Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 Memorial Hall.**

**Next Planning Meeting:**

**8.00pm Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 Memorial Hall.**

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