

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. P. W. Frankum (Chair); Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. T. Banks; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. A. Aldridge; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. B. Dickens, Cllr. R. Ranken and Cllr. T. Slatford.

OTHERS

District Cllr. G. Pask; Mr. Spinks; Mrs Scott-Spinks; Mr. James Spately; Mr and Mrs. Clarke.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Planning application 17/02670/HOUSE for Poppies, Long Grove.

The minutes for this item are reported under the Planning section of these minutes.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 11th September 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 11th September 2017 were correct and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 25th September 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting which took place on Monday 25th September were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CR1. Alan Dunkerton.

Unfortunately Alan Dunkerton (a former parish councillor) was taken unwell whilst on holiday. Whilst he remains very unwell it is understood that he is improving.

CR2. Morton's Chapel.

Earlier in the year, Chris Willet inspected the Chapel and advised that the building should be heated in order to limit the deterioration of the structure. Sheila Kent is very much against this idea despite persuasion from Cllr. Frankum. The ownership is unclear and the land is not registered. It has been suggested that the deeds are in a safe.

The Congregational Chapel was built by public subscription in 1839/40 and celebrates the important role John Morton made to the life of his congregation. John Morton and his wife are buried in the Chapel. Six or seven years ago, the Chapel was tidied up for a Morton family wedding and there was a carol service in the Chapel in 2015.

Whilst Sue Ellis was of the view that it wasn't worthy of local listing, councillors questioned this given its significance in the history of the saving of Bucklebury Common from enclosure by John Morton.

Cllr. Southgate will carry out further investigation into the ownership and history of the Chapel.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Speed Awareness Campaign - Wheelie Bin Stickers.

The wheelie bin stickers have all now either been delivered or will be very shortly. They have been delivered to all houses which put their bins on Broad Lane, Burdens Heath, Harts Hill Road, around Mount Pleasant and on the main road through Chapel Row within the 30mph zone.

Signature

Date

CL2. Thames Water.

The Clerk has spoken to Thames Water and understands that the replacement of the pump on Harts Hill is still awaiting legal work (believed to be completion of the transfer of the land). There was no update on the replacement water main up Harts Hill Road on either the route it is to use or when the work will be carried out. The Clerk has made Kay Lacey who is on the Consumer Council for Water aware of the situation and she is investigating.

CL3. Extension to the Speed Limit – Burdens Heath.

Extending the 30mph speed limit along Burdens Heath to include Heath End is due to be considered by the Speed Limit Review group tomorrow. The recommendation is in favour of extending the speed limit, but not at the cost of the speed limit capital budget (the tax payer). The cost of extending the speed limit is between £5,000 and £6,000, mainly due to the coloured markings on the road marking the beginning/end of the zone.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

P1. 17/02619/HOUSE Marlston Farm.

Single storey gable extension to the front façade with cat-slide ground floor extension to the west, east and south elevations with the associated removal of existing external stairway.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC **objects** to this application.

P2. 17/02670/HOUSE Poppies, Long Grove.

Two-storey side extension. Front porch extension.

It was suggested that the red line round the domestic curtilage of the property was incorrect and that therefore the application was invalid. The Clerk advised that this could be added as a comment on the observations sent to WBC.

The meeting was **closed** for the applicant, Mrs. Clarke to speak.

Mrs. Clarke showed members conveyance documents clarifying the land she owns.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P3. 17/02279/FULD 49 Roundfield.

Proposed new build detached bungalow, including basement level, and additional parking space.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

P4. 17/02162/HOUSE Firlands, Burdens Heath.

Demolish existing garage and construct new single storey rear/side extension.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

P5. 17/02249/AGRIC Land at Hatch Pightle Gulley, Hatch Lane.

Toolshed, open fronted log store.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been determined as **requiring a full application**.

P6. 17/02002/HOUSE 4 Broad Lane.

Retrospective new detached garden store.

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

Signature

Date

P7. 17/01905/FUL St. Crispins Farm, Chapel Row.
*Demolition of the existing house and replacement with a simplified form with double pitched roof. Accommodation will be split over 2 no. floors with the footprint remaining at 244m² to match that of the existing property. BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.*

P8. Trees.
The Clerk advised members to be aware of trees which may screen any proposed development, therefore making it more acceptable. If there is such a tree which is viewed as worthy of protection, BPC could request that it be considered for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) rather than just root protection during development which doesn't actually protect the tree.

P9. Blacklands Copse.
Cllr. Dickens received an email from someone who was considering purchasing Blacklands Copse, requesting the views of BPC on the development of a significant log cabin on the land. There were also suggestions that the lease on the land had been sold. Nigel Steljes, the owner of the lease has clarified the situation and confirmed that contrary to rumours he still owns the land and if it should be sold, he will inform BPC via email. It was also noted that conditions of the lease of the land specify that there is to be no habitation on it.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

DC1. Resurfacing of Broad Lane.
District Cllr. Pask reported that Broad Lane will be resurfaced from its junction with Burdens Heath to the Memorial Hall during the half term holiday (23rd October – 27th October). During this time the road will be completely closed to through traffic; access will be maintained. This work was scheduled earlier in the year, but has been waiting on the completion of the GigaClear work. Whilst five days have been allocated for the work, it is hoped that it can be completed in a shorter time.

Cllr. Frankum raised concern about the impact the road closure will have on local businesses, particularly Peach's Stores and The Cottage Inn.

DC2. Planning Application Amendments.
After questions in previous meetings about amendments and the lack of notification to parishes, District Cllr. Pask has spoken to the Planning team at WBC. It has been agreed that if an amendment is more than trivial, parishes will be informed of the amendment.

TOPICS

T1. Common Clearing – Saturday 14th October, 2.00pm
The Clerk requested information on any areas which have a large amount of litter; these can then be addressed earlier in the afternoon.
Cllr. Banks suggested that Bucklebury Primary School be contacted to advertise the event in their weekly letter home to parents.

T2. Bucklebury Vision.
A draft version of Bucklebury Vision has been created with some new colour photographs. It has been suggested that some of Ian Pratt's photographs be added. Once these photographs have been added the draft version will be circulated to members with a view to it being ratified at the BPC meeting in November.
The Clerk has spoken to Paula Amorelli from the Planning Policy team in WBC who has clarified the process for updating Parish Design Statements (of which Bucklebury Vision is one). There may need to be some form of consultation in order to get the updated version of Bucklebury Vision adopted. Ideally, a version identifying the changes needs to be generated.

Signature

Date

- T3. Projects for the Future.
 At the last meeting there were various suggestions for projects for the future. Resurfacing the BMX/pump track needs to be considered. Other suggestions included the Victory Room redevelopment, the Memorial Hall, Morton’s Chapel and a trim trail or outdoor gym. It was agreed that the Clerk would put all of the possible projects into a spread sheet with any relevant information. HP
 Various options have been suggested for the Memorial Hall and BPC needs to determine to what if anything, it might contribute. Cllr. Hillerton commented that the Police have recommended an infra-red CCTV camera be placed behind the hall, but it is unknown whether the current CCTV system can be extended to include this. It was agreed that the Clerk would draw up a spreadsheet of the options for the Memorial Hall. HP
- T4. Bucklebury Meadows.
 Despite the Clerk chasing DWH, it transpires that nothing has been done to progress the transfer. Andrew Lehmann has said he will definitely progress the transfer this week (week beginning 9th October).
- T5. Cemetery and Chapel.
 Cllr. Frankum has proposed Saturday 4th November for a working party in the Cemetery. It is understood that MERL (Museum of English Rural Life) in Reading has the original wooden template for the iron grave markers in the Cemetery. This should give more information about how the markers were originally held in the ground. The Clerk will contact MERL and ask if they can send a photograph. HP
 The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is seeking to erect signs at Cemeteries containing war graves to raise awareness of the war graves in this country. The Cemetery in Upper Bucklebury contains one war grave so would be eligible for a sign. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.
- T6. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.
Playpark Inspections: Cllr. Hillerton commented that litter is a problem. No other issues were raised.
Working Party: The Clerk will check with the insurance company that councillors are covered to carry out the necessary work and that the work doesn’t invalidate the insurance.
 There is to be a working party of young people to pick up litter around the youth shelter and to reinsert the panels into the shelter (they become detached at the base either through inclement weather or abuse).
 It has been suggested that a competition be held for young people to propose designs for the youth shelter which could then be painted onto the shelter. It is understood that it is not the “done thing” to graffiti over other people’s art work.
 There has been an issue with vandalism at the Memorial Hall and Playpark in which a hall window has been broken.
 Cllr. Hillerton has written an article on the Playpark and BMX /pump track for The Oaks and requested volunteers to help maintain the area.
- T7. Countryside.
The Pang: The river is dry between Bucklebury ford and Stanford Dingley. This is not due to water extraction upstream but due to the low rainfall earlier in the year. The level of the Pang has been steadily dropping over the summer; details can be found on the Pang Valley Flood Forum website (<http://www.floodalleviation.uk/>).

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors:

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|---------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Mazars LLP | £240.00 | External Audit. |
| The Alpha Xperience | £269.50 | October edition of The Oaks. |
| Helen Pratt | £554.27 | Clerk’s August salary. |

Signature

Date

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| St. Martins Club | £250.00 | Donation – see Dec '16 minutes. |
| Bucklebury Tennis Club | £200.00 | Donation – see Dec '16 minutes. |
| Heartstart Thatcham | £350.00 | Contribution for the maintenance/insurance of defibrillators. |

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

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|---|------------|--|
| Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: | £46,571.67 | (£25,489.95 ring-fenced for the Victory Room including 2017/18 grant). |
| Lloyds Current Account: | £36,297.70 | On the 20 th September 2017. |
| Scottish Widows Reserve Account: | £37,734.83 | On the 1 st July 2017. |
| Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: | £4,578.08 | On the 1 st July 2017. |

F3. Report on Six Months Spending Against Budget.

The Clerk commented that the insurance is over budget; this is because it includes a premium for the playpark for part of the previous year.

The expected cost of training by the end of year will be over budget, but half of the cost of the CiLCA training the Clerk is undertaking will be passed on to Frilsham and Stanford Dingley parish councils.

The cost of works in the Cemetery is likely to be under budget; it was suggested that some of the work proposed for the following year could possibly be bought forwards.

The youth budget is also likely to be under budget. The possibility of making an additional donation to the Bucklebury Community Bus Charity was considered.

REPORTS

R1. Victory Room.

Bucklebury Beerfest, on the 29th September was very successful and just over £9,000 was taken with a profit of approximately £3,000. The Community Bus ran from Upper Bucklebury via Chapel Row to the Victory Room and back and worked well.

The AGM of the Victory Room will take place on 9th November.

R2. Bucklebury Community Bus Charity AGM.

A small number of parents attended the AGM.

The committee are still waiting to hear how successful they have been with their grant application to The Good Exchange for a newer minibus.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1. CCB AGM - Thursday 19th October.

No one was available to attend.

C2. WBC District Parish Conference – Tuesday 7th November.

This date was publicised to members who are waiting for an agenda to be published.

C3. Newbury Weekly News Over 80's Parcel Fund.

A request has been made by the Newbury Weekly News for their Over 80's parcel fund. A donation of £100 was agreed in the budget and will be sent to the appeal.

C4. West Berkshire Heritage – Greenham: Tracks across the Common

This presentation will take place on Thursday 26th October from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. Several members were interested in attending.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Cottage Inn Fireworks and Horticultural Society Event.

It was noted that the Horticultural Society Social event on the 11th November clashes with fireworks at the Cottage Inn. Parking is likely to be an issue.

RT2. GigaClear.

There were assurances from GigaClear that the damage caused when laying the cables would be made good. GigaClear need to be reminded of this. It was also noted that the bin at the back of the carpark at the top of Briff Lane has been removed.

Signature

Date

RT3. The Blade Bone Inn.

Cllr. Aldridge reported that The Blade Bone Inn is a regional and national winner of England's Gastro Pub of the Year 2017

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Future Meetings

Planning Meeting:

8.00pm Monday 23rd October 2017.

BPC Meeting:

7.45pm Monday 13th November 2017.

Signature

Date