

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. A. Aldridge, Cllr. T. Banks, Cllr. T. Slatford and Cllr. R. Ranken.

OTHERS

District Cllr. G. Pask.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 9th October 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 9th October 2017 were correct and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 23rd October 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting which took place on Monday 23rd October were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CR1. WBCS Work Parties.

Cllr. Frankum reported that she had met Richard Hubbard and walked round the Hockett Field and the meadows. A work party will be held in January to concentrate on the hedges on two sides of the Hockett Field which have become overgrown.

It is hoped that it will be possible to have a second work party where volunteers can spend some time on the meadows.

The fence between the Cottage Inn and the southern meadow has been damaged; this is being repaired by Gary Bush at the Cottage Inn.

CR2. Broad Lane.

The scheduled resurfacing of Broad Lane at the end of October did not take place because the GigaClear work was not expected to finish on time; in reality it was finished. It is understood that the resurfacing is possibly being rescheduled for December.

CR3. Planning Applications for which the Applicants attend the meeting.

It has been pointed out that when applicants or their representatives attend meetings to listen and possibly contribute to the meeting about the application, it is often given more time than would be the case otherwise.

CR4. Peaches Garage.

There are a number of rumours circulating about what is happening to Peach's Garage and whether it is up for sale. It is understood that the gentleman who ran it has died and his mother is now the owner.

CR5. Christmas Tree Festival.

The Christmas Tree Festival will take place on Sunday 3rd December. Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Hillerton have offered to decorate a BPC tree.

All offers of help will be very welcome.

CR6. Housekeeping.

Cllr. Frankum reminded members that all emails should be copied to the Clerk and preferably the Chair. All correspondence should go through the Clerk.

Signature

Date

CR7. Horticultural Society.

A very good social evening, with an Italian theme was enjoyed by members.

CR8. Fireworks at the Cottage Inn.

It is understood that the fireworks at the Cottage Inn were very good and well attended.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Thames Water.

The Clerk has spoken to Thames Water and understands that the legal work to replace the pump on Harts Hill has now been completed. Progress on the replacement water main is understood to be taking place, but very slowly. Thames Water was not willing to share any planned dates for the work.

As a result of there being little information from Thames Water, the Clerk contacted Kay Lacey (Consumer Council for Water) who has identified that the work for the replacement pump is scheduled to start in April 2018 and take 9 months. There is no additional information about the replacement water main.

It was agreed that the level of information from Thames Water was unsatisfactory and that making a complaint to OFWAT should be explored.

CL2. Common Clearing.

Common Clearing in October was very successful with approximately forty parishioners out picking up litter on the common and around the parish. The skips were not collected on the Monday following the event as arranged. The Memorial Hall skip was collected last Monday (6th November) and the skip at Chapel Row is still there. Unfortunately, it is now piled too high for Hills to remove it. They attempted to remove it last Monday, but had a mechanical failure with the lorry. The Clerk is in contact with Simon Barnett (BBOWT who organise the skips on behalf of BPC) to organise the skip removal and the clearance of any remaining rubbish.

CL3. Parking on Common Land and the Pavement at Chapel Row.

A parishioner has contacted BPC about parking on common land and the pavement at Chapel Row. In some instances the parking is completely obstructing the pavement. The Clerk has recommended that the parishioner report the incidents to Thames Valley Police on 101 and also to contact Bucklebury Estate.

CL4. Arrangements for December Meeting.

It was agreed that the December meeting will begin at 7.30pm so that seasonal refreshments can be enjoyed after the meeting. Cllr. Frankum, Cllr. Cairns and Cllr.

Clarke will bring seasonal refreshments.

Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Brims gave their apologies because they will not be at the meeting.

CL5. Streetlights.

The Clerk reported a number of failing streetlights to SSE Contracting. As a result, SSE Contracting have fixed them for the time being, but have identified that one of them is missing the shade, which is now an obsolete part. A second is a "day burner" due to vegetation covering the light sensitive switch; they have requested that this be cut back. It has been suggested that the lights be replaced with LED lights. As a result the Clerk has requested a quote for the following: replace all 5 lights, to replace the one light missing a shade and to remove all lights. In addition, the Clerk has asked whether it is possible for them to cut back the vegetation.

The approximate cost of the five lights is £140 (power and maintenance contract) per year.

PLANNING

Planning decisions made by WBC:

Signature

Date

- P1. 17/02266/FUL Little Roselands, The Avenue.
Demolition of the existing dwelling, annexe, garage and outbuildings and the erection of a replacement 5 bedroom dwelling with associated parking and access arrangements.
 BPC **objected** to this application but it has been **approved** by WBC.
- P2. 17/01884/HOUSE Vanners, Bucklebury.
 &
 17/01885/LBC2 *Upgrading and remodelling of historic cottage and replacement of C20 north range with new kitchen and family room range.*
 BPC had **no objection** to these applications which have been **approved** by WBC.
- P3. 16/02923/CERTE Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane. (Adjacent Parish).
Retail garden centre.
 BPC made **comment** on this application which was **refused** by WBC. However, the applicant took the decision of WBC to appeal and a **Certificate of Lawful use comprising of mixed use** has been allowed.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

DC1. Boundary Proposals.

District Cllr. Pask commented that today was the last day for consultation on ward boundaries for West Berkshire.

The consultation on the Constituency boundaries continues until the 11th December. Under the latest proposal, the existing Bucklebury Ward would be moved from the Newbury Constituency to the Reading West Constituency.

DC2. State of the Highways.

Cllr. Dickens raised the issue of worn road markings which are not being repainted and road signage which is not being cleared. Both of these are leading to some junctions being much more dangerous than they need to be. WBC is not carrying out the work due to lack of budget; it is possible the work will be carried out in the next financial year.

TOPICS

T1. Constituency Boundary Proposals.

Cllr. Dickens is collating comments from councillors on the Constituency Boundary Commission proposal for the existing Bucklebury Ward to be moved from the Newbury Constituency to the Reading West Constituency. The people of Bucklebury instinctively look towards Newbury for shops and services. There is little empathy with the issues facing the people of the Reading West Constituency. Cllr. Dickens will send a copy of the comments to the Clerk which will then be sent to the Boundary Commission.

BD

It is understood that parishioners are generating a petition.

It was agreed that people should be encouraged to submit their comments on the website and notices raising the key points be placed on the noticeboards and the website. Cllr.

Dickens will identify the key points and forward them to the Clerk.

BD

T2. Cemetery Carols – Monday 18th December 2017 at 6pm.

Cllr. Dickens has organised the use of the PA system from Brockhurst and Marlston Schools. Cllr. Brims will speak to Graham Plank about borrowing the urn with vacuum insulation for the mulled wine.

JB

Mr. Beeson has again offered to make the mulled wine and supply the generator and lights.

All

Cllr. Frankum has arranged with Mr. McNish to comper the evening as usual.

Cllr. Brims and Cllr. Dickens will be available on the evening to help. Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Hillerton will make small mince pies for serving. Cllr. Aldridge has been asked if he can make some ginger biscuits for the children.

Help is required to decorate the Chapel at 10am on the 18th December. Members who can help were asked to arrive as close to 5pm as possible as people generally arrive early.

Signature

Date

Help is needed to tidy up the Chapel at 10am on the 19th December.

It was agreed that funds raised will be split between West Berks Foodbank and Bucklebury Community Bus Charity.

T3. Bucklebury Vision.

It was agreed that the Clerk will circulate the latest draft to all members for ratification of the text at the December meeting. It will then be sent to WBC for approval. The inclusion of colour photographs will be resolved once it has been determined whether or not hard copies will be produced. HP

T4. Projects for the Future.

It was agreed that the projects suggested should be broken into two categories; those which should be investigated further now and those which need to be prioritised before further work is carried out. Those to be investigated further at this stage are: resurfacing of the BMX track (pump track), infra-red CCTV behind the Memorial Hall, a further donation to Bucklebury Community Bus Charity, re-instatement of the cast iron grave markers, clearance of the scrub in the Cemetery, a new bench in the Cemetery, replacement or removal of the streetlights on Burdens Heath and at the top of Harts Hill Road and the Victory Room redevelopment.

Cllr. Cairns made a proposal that a donation of £4,000 be made to the Memorial Hall for the project to modernise the toilet facilities, benefiting all users; this was seconded by Cllr. Clarke and carried with 4 members in favour and 2 in favour of a larger donation.

This is to be a one off ring fenced donation and any further funding requests from the Memorial Hall will be considered in the budget for next year.

If any councillors have any issues with the hall, they were asked to inform Cllr. Dickens or Cllr. Brims who are the BPC representatives on the Memorial Hall committee.

The Clerk will produce a list of the remaining projects and members can send their priorities back to the Clerk for review at the December meeting. HP All

T5. Bucklebury Meadows.

Some progress has been made and there has been a suggestion that transfer on the 1st December may be possible.

T6. Cemetery and Chapel.

Cllr. Frankum thanked Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Southgate, Cllr. Brims and Cllr. Banks for attending the working party. A number of unattended graves in the old Cemetery were weeded and tidied.

It was agreed that a quote should be obtained to remove the material around the wall and shred whatever is big enough.

It was noticed that part of cross has rotted and fallen down. It would appear that the cross bar needs to be replaced. The Clerk will investigate a quote for the work. HP

The work to repair the cracks in the Chapel has now been delayed until next Spring. A further crack in the north wall of the Chapel was identified during the working party; the builder carrying out the repairs to the other cracks will be asked to look at this crack too.

T7. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Playpark Inspections:

Cllr. Hillerton reported that there were no new problems with the equipment. The pole supporting the tube slide has been repaired.

Concern was raised about the situation with the wooden steps on the small slide unit which now have significant amounts of rot. The Clerk will obtain a quote from AES as a matter of urgency to get a quote for repairs to the steps. HP

Cllr. Southgate had raised concerns about carrying out the replacement of the roof sections of the slide unit in relation to insurance. The Clerk has contacted the insurance company who have responded that providing the Council believe that whoever is carrying out the repairs is competent to do them and they are of a low risk cover is provided. Cllr. Southgate was considered competent to replace the roof sections.

Signature

Date

T8. Countryside.

The barriers which have been put up to close off the byways are being driven over in some places. This has been reported to Sallie Jennings at WBC and she is investigating the possibility of gates or bollards. Any misuse of the byways needs to be reported to Thames Valley Police. However using the website is a long process and calling 101 can now incur a long wait. If Police officers are contacted directly it does not get logged correctly, however, there is a separate email address which can be used which Cllr. Carins HC will forward to members.

A two week period has just begun where firearms can be surrendered to Police Stations (running from the 13th to the 26th November).

The river Pang remains dry at the ford. Vehicles (and/or motorbikes) are being driven along the river bed; this needs to be reported to the Environment Agency.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd	£12.18	Supply to streetlights (2/9/17 to 1/11/17).
SSE Contracting Ltd	£19.32	Streetlight maintenance.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£70.05	Rent (1/8/17 – 31/12/17).
Agricultural and Estate Service Ltd.	£282.00	Repairs to tube slide support.
Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care Ltd	£540.00	Clearance of rhododendrons in the Cemetery.
P. W. Frankum	£1.85	Milk for Common Clearing.
Helen Pratt	£141.28	Re-imburement for expenses 1/3/17 to 31/10/17.
Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's August salary.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£46,774.69	(£25,489.95 ring fenced for Victory Room).
Lloyds Current Account:	£47,739.94	On 20 th October 2017.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,735.78	On 1 st October 2017.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,578.20	On 1 st October 2017.

REPORTS

R1. Victory Room AGM.

A few people, other than committee members attended the AGM. Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Dickens attended. Cllr. Dickens commented that it was very upbeat and thought an amazing job of fundraising had taken place to date.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Pension for the Clerk.

Cllr. Cairns commented that BPC could and should be paying into a pension for the Clerk. (This is not a legal requirement). Cllr. Cairns volunteered to obtain a quote from Kennet Life and Pensions.

RT2. Remembrance Service.

Cllr. Clarke reported that John Tennant had spoken to her at the church Remembrance Service and commented that it would be well received if more parish councillors could support the Remembrance Service.

RT3. Morton's Chapel, Turners Green.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he had raised the concerns about Morton's Chapel with his neighbour. The ownership of the Chapel is very unclear. The porch is falling away from the main building and part of the structure may need underpinning. There are two graves to the left of the gate.

Signature

Date

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Future Meetings

Planning Meeting:

8.00pm Monday 27th November 2017.

BPC Meeting:

7.30pm Monday 11th December 2017.

Cemetery Carols:

6.00pm Monday 18th December 2017.

Signature

Date