

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 11th December 2017 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. P. W. Frankum (Chair); Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. T. Banks; Cllr. R. Ranken; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. A. Aldridge, Cllr. A. Hillerton, Cllr. H. Cairns, Cllr. J. Brims, Cllr. B. Dickens and Cllr. T. Slatford.

OTHERS

District Cllr. G. Pask; District Cllr. Q. Webb.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 13th November 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 13th November 2017 were correct and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 27th November 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting which took place on Monday 27th November were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CR1. Christmas Cards.

The Chair reported that Christmas cards had been sent to those who support BPC.

CR2. Christmas Tree Festival.

The Christmas Tree Festival organised by Bucklebury Events Committee took place on Sunday 3rd December. Unfortunately a mistake was made with the hall diary, resulting in the hall being double booked from 9.00am until 10.00am with an exercise class. When the first member of the Events Committee, Wynne Frankum, arrived just before 9.15am, she asked to speak to the instructor. The situation was not resolved amicably. Since then some members of the exercise class, believing the event was organised by BPC have made a complaint to WBC about Cllr. Frankum.

A £100 was donated to each of the Newbury Food Bank and the Rosemary

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Thames Water.

The Clerk reported that a meeting has been arranged with Thames Water to take place on Wednesday 13th December with:

- Huw Thomas (Thames Water, Local and regional government liaison)
- John Sullivan (Thames Water, Head of Customer for Water Delivery)
- Andrew Cayless (Thames Water, Customer Experience representative)
- Kay Lacey (Thames Water Customer Challenge Group)

It is understood that the Harts Hill main is to be replaced at the same time as the pumping station is being moved and replaced.

Signature

Date

CL2. Libraries.

WBC asked BPC to consider making a donation of £2,025 for libraries across the district; this being £1.00 per electorate. There have been a number of emails from BALC advising parish councils that parish councils do not have the power to make such donations under S137 (the power of last resort) because the benefit obtained must be commensurate to the expenditure incurred. S137 spending is capped at £7.57 per electorate for FY17/18.

WBC has recently distributed more information about library usage by parishioners.

From this information, the average number of Bucklebury parishioners using the library on a yearly basis over the last 3 years is 277 (mainly Newbury, Thatcham and the mobile libraries). BPC has made expenditure of £1,800 under S137 spending in FY17/18. It was resolved that a donation of £6.68 per parishioner who uses the library was commensurate to the benefit, thus giving a donation of £1,850.00.

There was a discussion about whether there should be conditions on how this money is spent on the library service. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WBC to find out more about the use and the matter would be discussed at the January meeting.

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CL3. Planning Applications from 31st March 2018.

The Clerk advised BPC that WBC will not be sending out hard copies of planning applications after 31st March 2017. There was a discussion about how this will work in practice.

The Clerk commented that it would be possible to project plans onto a screen using the BPC laptop and a projector. It was agreed to have the January planning meeting in the Oak Room (subject to availability) and use the projector; alternatively, attempts to source

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a projector from elsewhere will be made with a view to using the Committee Room. It was noted that it would be more difficult to discuss plans with applicants and neighbours without a hard copy of the plans and also to compare applications with any previous ones.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

P1. 17/03095/HOUSE Windy Ridge, Burdens Heath.

Apply Cedral cladding to first floor elevations only to cover existing white painted render finish which has cracked.

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

P2. 17/03305/FUL J Sellwood, Long Grove.

Section 73 – Application for variation of condition (2) amended plans of approved application 17/00078/FUL.

After a discussion about the heights of the ridges, it was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P3. 17/02822/FUL Copse Close, Hopgoods Green.

Demolition of existing dilapidated dwelling and construction of new dwelling built to modern standards.

BPC had **no objection** to this application, but it has been **refused** by WBC.

P4. 17/02794/HOUSE Eliezer Cottage, Zin Zan.

Part demolish low grade two storey extension and construct new 2 storey extension incorporating garage.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

P5. 17/02670/HOUSE Poppies, Long Grove.

Two-storey side extension. Front porch extension.

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

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- P6. 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.
 BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- P7. 17/02535/HOUSE Autumn House, Byles Green.
Garage roof extension.
 BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- P8. 17/02260/FULD Fifield Farm.
Section 73A: Removal of Condition 7 – sustainable drainage, Condition 9 – Landscape, Condition 10 – protection of trees, Condition 11 – Spoil and Condition 12 – external lighting of previously approved application 16/01363/FULD: Demolition of existing outbuildings and barn and replacement by proposed erection of a new dwelling, as already approved by West Berkshire Council reference number 15/02340/FULD, but to include basement.
 BPC **objected** to this application, but it has been **approved** by WBC.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

DC1. Broad Lane.

It was noted that Broad Lane was resurfaced from the Memorial hall to Burdens Heath during the first week of December. The contractors were praised for the efficient way in which the job was managed, carried out and with the considerate manner in which parishioners affected were treated.

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The Clerk will write to Andrew Reynolds (WBC) to applaud his team for the job.

DC2. Budget.

WBC is investigating further ways in which savings can be made, including the amalgamation of services.

TOPICS

T1. Annual Parish Assembly.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Friday 20th April 2018.

There was a discussion about possible speakers, but no conclusion was reached.

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

Arrangements were reviewed and everything was found to be in order.

T3. Bucklebury Vision.

The updated version of Bucklebury Vision was ratified, once three small changes have been made. It was noted that documents of this type are call “Village Design Statements”, but when combined with a picture of Bucklebury village, this implies that it is only for Bucklebury village and not the rest of the parish; it was agreed that the wording would be modified to read “A Village Design Statement for the Parish of Bucklebury.”

Once the three changes have been made by Cllr. Southgate, the Clerk will submit a copy to WBC for their endorsement.

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T4. Projects for the Future.

Projects for the future will be considered at the January meeting.

T5. Bucklebury Meadows.

The draft transfer document refers to the Management Plan for the Meadows. Field Seymour Parkes LPP (FSP) requested a copy of the Management Plan for the Meadows from DWH; however they couldn't provide a copy because they hadn't retained it. The Clerk provided a copy of the original to FSP and comments are awaited from DWH.

T6. Cemetery and Chapel.

Cllr. Frankum is meeting with Carl Rivers from C.R. Landscapes to obtain quotes to fill in the subsided graves in the Cemetery and to clear the undergrowth and flatten out half of

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the remaining wooded area in the 1970s Cemetery. The intention is to maintain the area by strimming two or three times a year.

T7. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Playpark Inspections: No new issues have been raised.

Outstanding Work: The Clerk has asked AES to quote for the repairs to the steps and for various options on the BMX track; these are expected during the next few days.

It was ratified that the Clerk could accept a quote for a maximum of £300 for the repairs to the steps.

T8. Countryside.

Holly Lane (byway 11/1 and 11/2) is completely closed to all users for up to six months whilst it is repaired.

It was reported that there are now two entrances/exits into the Pang, between the fords which 4x4s are using on a regular basis.

It was suggested that a metal post or RSJ beam placed in the middle of the river bed would stop lot of the activity. The Clerk will check what permission BPC has to make changes to this area of the river and also talk to the Environment Agency.

HC

FINANCE

F1 Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

NWN Over 80's Christmas Parcel £100.00 Donation.
Fund

F2. Cheques signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd	£6.03	Streetlights 2/11/2017 to 1/12/2017.
BALC	£48.00	Finance training.
Playsafety Limited	£282.00	Playpark inspection training.
Sylvia Cornell	£40.00	Bus shelter cleaning.
West Berkshire Countryside Society	£1,100.00	Donation.
Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's November salary.

F3. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £44,644.39 (£25,489.95 ring fenced for Victory Room).

Lloyds Current Account: £48,633.46 On 20th November 2017

Scottish Widows Reserve Account: £37,735.78 On 1st October 2017.

Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: £4,578.20 On 1st October 2017.

F4. Draft Budget for FY18/19.

The Clerk had circulated a hard copy of a draft budget prior to the meeting.

The Clerk will obtain a quote for an external company to carry out the monthly payroll and investigate the setup costs for a workplace pension for the Clerk.

REPORTS

R1. Victory Room AGM.

Cllr. Brims has taken over as Chairman of the Victory Room committee.

Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Ranken reported that the committee are exploring various grant streams as well as fund raising activities. Potential builders are being investigated including one which is prefabricated and therefore a short build time (10 weeks). A local builder has been approached who could do the job much more cheaply but the committee would have to project manage and buy materials etc. This would take up to 6 months. A joint WBC members bid of £10,000 has recently been approved.

R2. Commons Advisory Meeting.

There was a review of the byways which have had seasonal TROs placed on them.

Since the issues with the removal of the skip from Chapel Row after Common Clearing, there was a discussion about where else this skip could be placed.

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Wardens from Snelsmore Common and Greenham Common may make visits to Bucklebury during nesting time to educate dog owners about keeping their dogs under control.

R3. Oaks Meeting.

There has been a meeting to discuss The Oaks. The possibility of a combined church and parish council magazine was discussed and is being investigated further. This would be a completely new magazine, produced by an independent committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

RT1. St. Martin's Club.

A letter has been received from St. Martin's Club thanking BPC for the donation of £250.

RT2. Newbury Weekly News Over 80s Parcel Fund.

A letter has been received from Newbury Weekly News Over 80s Parcel Fund thanking BPC for the donation of £100.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Dropbox Issues.

Cllr. Frankum asked if Cllr. Southgate had hard copies of the documents he had placed on Dropbox about Mortons Chapel as she couldn't access them. Other councillors had had similar problems.

RT2. Deed of Dedication of the Recreation Ground.

The Deed of Dedication has been prepared for the Recreation Ground in Bucklebury village to be dedicated as a Centenary Field in memory of those who lost their lives in WW1.

It has been confirmed that the Beerfest and other events can still be held on the field. A few points were raised by councillors. Cllr. Clarke will discuss these with a representative from Centenary Fields at a meeting on the 20th December. BPC, as trustees of the Recreation Ground Charity are in support of the Recreation Ground being dedicated as a Centenary Field.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Future Meetings

Cemetery Carols:

6.00pm Monday 18th December 2017.

No Planning Meeting in December.

Date of next BPC meeting:

7.45pm Monday 8th January 2018.

Signature

Date