

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 12th February 2018 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. T. Slatford, Cllr. L. Clarke, Cllr. T. Banks, Cllr. H. Cairns, Cllr. A. Aldridge and District Cllr. G. Pask.

OTHERS

District Cllr. Q. Webb; Mr. and Mrs. Cork; Mr. Fisher; Mr Murphy; Mr. Bailey; Ms. Butcher.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. 18/00091/FULD - 82-83 Roundfield.

The minutes of the discussion on this application are minuted under the Planning Applications section of these minutes.

PS2. 18/00171/HOUSE – 32 Berry’s Road.

The minutes of the discussion on this application are minuted in the Planning Applications section of these minutes.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 8th January 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 8th January 2018 were correct and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee – Monday 22nd January 2018.

It was resolved the minutes of the Planning meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2018 were correct and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR’S REPORT

CR1. West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS).

The WBCS held a workparty on the Hockett Field, attended by 22 volunteers. Two of the hedgerows around the field were of herbage to encourage the whips planted earlier to thrive.

CR2. The Oaks.

A further meeting has been held to discuss the suggestion of replacing The Oaks with a community magazine combing both The Oaks and the Church magazine. This is successfully achieved in a number of surrounding parishes. The PCC has indicated that it would be willing to accommodate more community based information to produce a magazine similar to Newlink in Bradfield and Stanford Dingley; this would still be managed entirely by the Church. Cllr. Ranken will arrange a further meeting with Rev. Gadsby to further discuss how far the Church might be willing to consider an independent community magazine.

The suggestion put to the Church was that the magazine should be managed by a committee who are independent of either the Church or BPC. Those who met were of the view that a more community based church magazine was not acceptable.

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CR3. Welcome Pack.

A small working group (Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Ranken, Cllr. Frankum and the Clerk) will review the Welcome Pack and its contents.

CR4. The Clerk.

If anyone wishes to contact the Clerk, they should be aware that the email is not always monitored from lunchtime on Friday through to Monday morning.
Cllr. Brims is investigating the options for a pension for the Clerk.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. General Data Protection Regulations.

In order to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect in May 2018, it will be necessary for BPC to appoint a Data Protection Officer. It is still unclear whether the Clerk can fulfil this role, or whether it will have to be someone outside of the council. The Clerk will try to clarify the position.

CL2. Thames Water.

The new water main up Harts Hill will have to be laid in an open cut trench. The work to complete this will start in April.

There is a Drop In session for parishioners to ask questions of Thames Water on Thursday 15th February between 2pm and 7pm in the Oak Room at the Memorial Hall. It was agreed that parish councillors would be present for most of the session on a rota basis. It was suggested that a separate session for businesses might be sensible.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

P1. 18/00081/HOUSE Eliezer Cottage, Zin Zan.

Landscaping/regrading of rear garden, infill pond and relocation of garden outbuildings.

Whilst BPC had **no objection** to this proposal, it was noted that the work has already been carried out and two streams have been culverted. There was a question about whether any properties could be flooded should the culverts become blocked.

P2. 18/00091/FULD 82-83 Roundfield.

Demolition of two semi-detached dwellings and replacement with 5 new two storey properties and 1 bungalow.

This application replaces a pair of semi-detached dwellings with three dwellings (one a bungalow), parallel to Roundfield and a further 3 dwellings to the rear of the site. Cllr. Brims commented that if the site opposite, which has been developed, is considered in terms of the number of bedrooms to the size of the total size of the plot and compared to the site of 82 and 83 Roundfield, a total of 15 or 16 bedrooms would be expected in terms of density rather than the 19 bedrooms proposed. Plot 6, which is to the north east of the site, is a detached 4 bedroom house which is very dominant against the other dwellings on the site and against those in Little Lane. If you view the site from Little Lane, the dwelling in plot 6 will be very prominent.

Questions were asked about why there is no affordable housing element to the development when Sovereign Housing Association owns a number of dwellings locally.

The meeting was **closed** for parishioners to speak.

Mr. Cork, of Raemar, Little Lane asked if councillors had looked at the site from his rear garden. When councillors made the site visit they had knocked on Mr. Cork's door, but not gone into the garden. Mr. Cork commented that there will be seven windows looking directly into his

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garden and lounge; they will also lose sunlight during the winter. Mr. Bailey, the architect commented that the dwellings to the rear had been reduced in height as a result of pre-application advice and were 7.5m high.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC **object** to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site, however BPC are not against development of the site. It would be preferred if the house on plot 6 was removed from the proposal.

P3. 18/00100/HOUSE 7 Broad Lane.

Conversion of existing attic to additional bedroom with en-suite with internal alterations and additional parking.

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

P4. 18/00171/HOUSE 32 Berry's Road.

Single storey front and side extension.

It was noted that this extension is very similar to the extension on no. 9 Berry's Road.

The meeting was **closed** for the applicant to speak.

Ms. Butcher commented that the difference between the proposals and that at no. 9 is essentially that the front door will be on the side rather than the front of the property.

The meeting was **reopened**.

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

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P5. 17/03299/LBC2 Fairchilds, Sadgrove Lane.

Application for addition of low level brick plinth and repair replacement of roof tiles.

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

P6. 17/03305/FUL J Sellwood, Long Grove.

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

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

P7. 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.

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

DC1. Ward Boundaries – District Cllr. Webb reported that the Boundary Commission has now made its recommendations for ward boundaries. These proposals put Bucklebury into a ward with Stanford Dingley, Woolhampton and Midgham, with one district councillor.

Local Plan to 2036 – Scoping Report – This has now been published and comments are invited until 26th March.

Budget – There will be a 2.99% increase in Council Tax.

Members Bids – The deadline for applications for Members Community Bids is 30th April 2018.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Pre-School.

Cllr. Brims reported that unfortunately Bucklebury Pre-School closed permanently on Thursday 8th February because it was no longer viable. The Chairman and Secretary of

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Pre-School had met with Cllr. Brims, however no financial report has been forthcoming from the Treasurer since August 2016 and of the 192 possible sessions, the average take up of 100 fell to 60 in the Autumn term, although this had increased back up to 100 for this term. Meetings were held with WBC, but they could not offer any financial assistance. On the 2nd February there was a meeting attended by 17 parents; of these, 14 voted to close the Pre-School and 3 abstained.

Discussions are now taking place with Bucklebury Primary School about the possibility of providing provision for early years.

The loss of Pre-School will reduce the revenue of the Memorial Hall by between 26 and 30%.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC would pay up to £100 for meetings required for the closure of the pre-school.

Cllr. Brims was thanked for all the time he has spent with the Pre-School Committee to try and resolve the situation.

T2. Annual Parish Assembly – Friday 20th April.

District Cllr. Webb agreed to ask David Bruce of West Berkshire Brewery if he would be willing to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly.

T3. Projects for the Future.

The list of projects split into two groups: those upon which work needs to be done and those which are of a more optional nature. It was agreed that the following would be pursued: resurfacing the BMX track, infra-red CCTV, donation/grant to the Community Bus, restoring the cast iron grave markers in the Cemetery, clearance of scrub in part of the 1970's Cemetery, a further donations/grants to each of the Victory Room and the Memorial Hall and replacement or removal of the streetlights along Burdens Heath and Harts Hill Road.

There was a discussion on the optional projects which concluded the following:

Morton's Chapel

It is understood that ownership will revert to the relevant chapel organisation once it has been disused for 2 years. No further action should be taken.

Benches in the meadows

These would be obstacles when the meadows need to be cut for hay or when the hedges need cutting.

Additional noticeboards

Purchase and installation of new noticeboards would cost in the region of £500 each. BPC already has 4 noticeboards in the parish and doesn't own suitable land to put them on.

Litter bins and signage

BPC doesn't own/manage land to put them on (with the exception of at the Playpark).

Improvements to the Play area at the Victory Room

It is understood that WBC has some money which could be spent on improving this play area (which belongs to WBC). Cllr. Brims also commented that grant funding could be obtained for any improvements.

Sign cleaning/vegetation clearance

It was suggested that a group of volunteers might be able to do this, but they would need to come as a supervised group and then require instruction. There was also some question about whether they would require equipment.

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Hard copies of Bucklebury Vision

It was agreed that there would be no print run of the revised version of Bucklebury Vision, but pointers to soft copies. If parishioners are in need of a hard copy, the Clerk will print off black and white copies on demand.

It was therefore noted that for the reasons stated no further action would be taken.

The Clerk reported that at the end of the financial year, BPC will have £67,320.95 ring fenced for the Victory Room, Bucklebury Meadows and the refurbishment of the toilets in the Memorial Hall. This will leave a balance of approximately £47,000 unallocated. It was agreed that £5,000 should be ring fenced for each of the Cemetery and the Fred Dawson Playpark. It was agreed that the grant to the Memorial Hall would be increased from £4,000 (for the refurbishment of the toilets) to £5,000 and that a further £5,000 would be ring-fenced for the Victory Room. A grant of £1,000 was agreed for CCTV on the Community Bus.

T5. Bucklebury Meadows.

The transfer of the meadows from David Wilson Home to BPC was completed on the 23rd January 2018. The sum of £37,831 has been received as part of the transfer with which to manage the meadows going into the future.

There will be a meeting to discuss management of the meadows and how the Management Plan will be implemented before the next BPC meeting.

T6. Cemetery and Chapel.

The Clerk reported that there had been a funeral service in the Chapel followed by an interment on the 24th January.

Cllr. Frankum reported that she had received a quote of £200 to level the graves which have subsided in both the old and the 1970s areas. This quote was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Frankum has met with CR Landscapes about a quote for clearing the scrub and saplings from part of the wooded area in the 1970s Cemetery. A further two quotes will be obtained for the work. It was suggested that this might be a job which volunteers could do, but questions arose over whether they would have suitable equipment.

T7. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Playpark Inspections: No new issues were raised about the playpark.

Outstanding Work: It is hope that the wooden steps will be repaired on the 13th February.

RoSPA Inspection: It was agreed to use Playsafety to carry out the RoSPA inspections on the playpark and the BMX track this year.

BMX Track: It has been suggested that only the humps and parts of the BMX track which show the signs of wear (mainly the humps) be tarmacked. The Clerk will obtain quotes for both full tarmac and only the humps.

Pre Inspection Check: It was agreed that Cllr. Carins, Cllr. Hillerton and the Clerk would carry out an inspection of the Playpark and BMX track prior to the RoSPA inspection taking place.

T8. Countryside.

Rights of Way – Cllr. Brims reported that there were a number of fallen trees blocking Public Rights of Way; these will be reported to WBC.

Off Roding on the Common – Cllr. Southgate reported that there had been 10 4x4s from the Surrey arear on the Common which were reported to the Police. When the Police arrived only two of the drivers were charged (with not having insurance). No reference was made to the fact they were on the Common and not on open byways.

The Pang between the fords – Permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for three wooden posts across the Pang close to the main ford and fencing from the main ford westwards between Brocks Lane and the river. This permission has now lapsed, but it was agreed that work should go ahead once the permission has been renewed, possibly with the wooden posts being changed to steel posts. Cllr. Brims will ask Graham Plank to quote for

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the work and talk to Piers Allison.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd.	£11.71	Streetlight electricity.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£95.60	Rent from 1/1/18 to 31/3/18, to include the Thames Water drop in session.
The Alpha Xperience	£287.00	The February edition of The Oaks.
J. Hale	£30.00	Cleaning the Cemetery Chapel.
West Berkshire District Council	£1,850.00	Donation for the West Berkshire Libraries (£137).
P. W. Frankum	£1.10	Expenses.
Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's salary for January 2018.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£78,353.55	
Lloyds Current Account:	£43,683.98	On 19 th January 2018.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,736.73	On 1 st January 2018.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,578.32	On 1 st January 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE

RT1. District Parish Conference – Thursday 15th March.

The Clerk reminded councillors about the District Parish Conference on Thursday 15th March.

RT2. Pang Valley Flood Forum – Donation request and membership.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC would make a contribution of £100 to the Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF). Cllr. Brims has signed up as a member of the PVFF and it was agreed that BPC should sign up as a member.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Projector for meetings.

Cllr. Southgate asked about the future of projecting planning applications onto a screen. It was agreed that the Clerk should consult with Mr. Pratt about finding a suitable projector for BPC to purchase.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Future Meetings:

Next Planning Meeting:

8pm Monday 26th February 2018.

Date of next BPC meeting:

7.45pm Monday 12th March 2018.

Common Clearing:

2pm Saturday 14th April 2018.

Signature

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