

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were approved from Cllr. T. Slatford, Cllr. R. Rankin and Cllr. H. Cairns.  
Apologies were accepted from District Cllr. G. Pask and 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M2. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M3. Bucklebury Planning Committee – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were correct and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR’S REPORT

CR1. Comments from a resident of Little Lane.

A resident from Little Lane has contacted BPC and commented on the amount of litter left by the Thames Water contractors around the Little Lane area, but in particular around the sites where they took their breaks.

In addition he commented on the “road closure” signs which were in place when the road appeared to be quite passable, and the message this sent to road users.

CR2. Comments from a resident on the Closure of Harts Hill.

A resident has contacted BPC objecting to the proposed closure of Harts Hill for the replacement of the water main. Cllr. Brims assured the resident that BPC had asked Thames Water to consider laying the replacement water main in the farm land adjacent to the road, but that this option was not viable.

CR3. Streetlights.

BPC resolved that no action should be taken on the Burdens Heath streetlights for 2 years (April 2020).

CR4. Planning Committee Meetings.

The Planning Committee meetings are for the Planning Committee to make decisions on planning applications. BPC has only delegated power to the Planning Committee to make decisions on planning applications; no other decisions can be made during these meetings.

CLERK’S REPORT

CL1. Grit Bin in The Slade.

A grit bin and a small amount of grit have been ordered from Willis and Ainsworth Ltd in Thatcham. The new bin will replace the damaged grit bin.

CL2. Replacement of the Harts Hill water main.

There is a Drop In session on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April from 2pm until 7pm when Thames Water will be available to answer queries and concerns from residents.

A rota of parish councillors who will be present during the session was agreed.

Cllr. Hillerton reported that the arrangements for taking pupils to Thatcham, during the

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road closure, on the Community Bus are now essentially in place; Thames Water is hiring two mini-buses and drivers to take pupils to school in the mornings in addition to the Bucklebury Community Bus, and one mini-bus and driver in the afternoons to collect pupils (a number of pupils stay to after school clubs and are collected by parents). Once year 11 pupils leave (after GCSEs), it is planned to discontinue the second mini-bus.

CL3. Finance Report.

The Finance Report is issued on the Monday afternoon of meetings, such that any invoices received over the weekend can be included in the report, rather than having to wait until the following BPC meeting.

**PLANNING**

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P1. 18/00143/HOUSE St. Roches Cottage, The Avenue.  
*Single storey kitchen extension.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P2. 18/00125/HOUSE Hawthorn House, Windmill Lane.  
*Conversion and extension of garage, with new roof. Construction of detached replacement garages.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P3. 18/00213/HOUSE Hytaville, Byles Green.  
*Proposed extension and refurbishment of dwelling.*  
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P4. 18/00091/FULD 82-83 Roundfield.  
*Demolition of two semi-detached dwellings and replacement with 5 new two storey properties and 1 bungalow.*  
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- P5. 17/03493/MINMAJ Hartshill Copse, Budens Heath (Adjacent Parish).  
*Section 73. Variation of condition 1 (time period of operations) of the appeal decision APP/U0300/A/88/93423 for Extraction of hoggin from Land adjoining Harts Hill Road, to enable a satisfactory restoration scheme to be agreed, implemented and completed.*  
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

Planning decisions made on appeal:

- P6. 17/01787/HOUSE Nuttage House, Pease Hill.  
*Extension to annexe.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which was **refused** by WBC.  
The applicant took the decision of WBC to appeal and the appeal has been **dismissed**.

The following decisions of WBC have been taken to appeal:

- P7. 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 was **refused** by WBC.
- P8. 17/02535/HOUSE Autumn House, Byles Green.  
*Garage roof extension.*  
BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC.
- P9. 82-83 Roundfield.

Cllr. Brims reported that he had met with the applicant of the application for 82-83 Roundfield, who had explained his next provisional plans for the site. Cllr. Brims made no comments on

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these plans.

The applicant asked why BPC don't "support" applications of this nature, which would be of benefit to the whole community. There was a discussion on this matter and it was felt that this type of application has not previously arisen.

## TOPICS

### T1. Common Clearing – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

The majority of councillors are available to attend the event. It was suggested that it be advertised in the School newsletter.

### T2. Annual Parish Assembly – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm.

Councillors were asked to arrive between 7pm and 7.15pm. David Bruce, the speaker from West Berkshire Brewery is expected to arrive at 7.15pm with samples to be enjoyed.

### T3. Welcome Pack Review.

Cllr. Frakum, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Ranken have met to discuss the Welcome Pack. Cllr. Ranken is investigating a new folder for the pack.

### T4. Bucklebury Meadows.

**Alex Cruickshank (BBOWT) Ecology Meeting** – Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Slatford met with Alex Cruickshank who had looked at Sally Wallingford's Ecology Report prior to the meeting. He was of the opinion that it didn't need any significant updating, but made a few suggestions.

He advised that the hay be cut and removed when appropriate and that the docks near Byles Green Farm be cut at the end of May (before they seed).

**Management of trees in and surrounding the Meadows** – Cllr. Frankum is organising a meeting with Arthur Cullen (WBC Tree Officer) to look at the trees both in and surrounding the meadows. The Clerk will contact the insurance company for advice on the required regime for inspection of the trees belonging to BPC as there is conflicting advice amongst specialists. WF

### T5. Cemetery and Chapel.

**Report on Business** – The Clerk reported that there has been one full interment and the interment of two caskets of ashes.

**Clearance of Scrub in the 1970's Cemetery** – Contractors have cleared part of the scrub land, but not all which was envisaged. Brambles and some small holly bushes remain in the part cleared. Cllr. Brims and Cllr. Frankum will review the work on Wednesday. JB

A quote has been requested for the infilling of the sunken graves. WF

**Repairs to the Chapel** – Work on repairs to the cracks in the Chapel and painting have started.

**Repairs to the Cross** – Cllr. Frankum has spoken to Mc Curdys in Stanford Dingley who will visit on Tuesday and assess the cross.

**Maintenance on the Memorial Markers** – Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Brims are meeting several stone masons to look at the work required on stone memorials. JB

### T6. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

**Playpark Inspections** – No new issues have been identified.

**Maintenance Work Update** – The painting of several pieces of equipment is planned once the weather improves.

**BMX Track** – Several quotes have been obtained for tarmacking the surface of the BMX track; these very significantly. Cllr. Hillerton has contacted the person who will carry out the RoSPA inspection for advice. A tarmac surface will attract lower level users, which may make it more suitable for community use. Whilst professional views vary, it is felt that a tarmac surface will require less maintenance. It was agreed that current users should be surveyed for their opinions. Higher level users may feel ostracised by a tarmac surface and go elsewhere. No decision will be made until after the RoSPA inspection.

### T7. Countryside.

**Rights of Way** – It was noted that part of the byway at Angels Corner is currently closed

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due to a tree at a dangerous angle.

**The Pang between the fords** – After a number of attempts to contact the Environment Agency (EA) and clarify the position on renewing the expired permission for work between the fords on the Pang, it is understood that it should be a relatively straight forwards. The renewal is for 305m of post and wire fencing with several posts in the middle of the river.

There were several reports of a small tree trunk in the river which impedes the flow of the river; it was suggested that this should be moved onto the bank. Cllr. Brims will consult Piers Allison to clarify whether any action is required.

#### FINANCE

- F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:  
Bucklebury Toddler Group £250.00 Donation agreed at March '18 meeting.
- F2. Cheques signed by Councillors:  
SSE Contracting Ltd. £19.32 Streetlight maintenance contract.  
Opus Tree Care £744.00 Clearance of scrub in the Cemetery.  
Agricultural and Estate Services Ltd £453.60 Repairs to steps in Playpark.  
Bucklebury Pre-School £94.98 Hall rental for final meeting and sale.  
David Southgate £377.00 Materials for repairs in Playpark.  
Helen Pratt £554.27 Clerk's salary for March 2018.
- F3. To review current balances and financial position.  
Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £73,881.45  
Lloyds Current Account: £78,130.84 On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018.  
Scottish Widows Reserve Account: £37,736.73 On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.  
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: £4,578.32 On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

#### REPORTS

- RT1. Victory Room.  
There is a Victory Room Committee meeting in the coming week. Councillors were reminded about the quiz night, organised for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April.
- RT2. Recreation Ground.  
The Recreation Ground Committee has met and it is understood that they are investigating replacing two of the pieces of play equipment in the play park. WBC has some funding for this.

#### ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

- RT1. GigaClear.  
It was reported that people who have requested connections from GigaClear are still waiting for installation. It is understood that there is a 4 to 5 month delay in installations taking place.
- RT4. Mobile Phone Signal in Chapel Row.  
A resident has asked about improving the mobile phone signal in Chapel Row. It was felt that all residents of Bucklebury would like better mobile coverage. It is understood that the companies concerned are reviewing their commercial coverage.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

#### Future Meetings:

**Next Planning Meeting:**

**8pm Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.**

**Date of next BPC meeting (Annual Meeting):**

**7.45pm Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

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