

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS

District Cllr. G. Pask; Mr. Francis Baker; Ms. Almona Choudhury.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr. R. Rankin, Cllr. J. Brims and Cllr. A. Aldridge.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Planning Application 18/01162/HOUSE for Highlands, Upper Bucklebury.

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting, but is minuted under the Planning section of these minutes.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of BPC held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CR1. The Oaks.

Cllr. Frankum thanked the Clerk for producing The Oaks and co-ordinating their distribution.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Internal Audit.

Mrs. Tipton has completed the audit of Bucklebury Parish Council and found no issues raising concern. Cllr. Frankum has arranged a garden voucher for Mrs. Tipton in appreciation of the work she has carried out.

CL2. Venue for the BPC meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Due to the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall being double booked, the BPC meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July will be held in the Victory Room.

There was a discussion about issues with three bookings of the Memorial Hall over the last year. It was agreed that Cllr. Dickens would suggest to the Memorial Hall Committee at their next meeting that it should be possible to book the hall more than one year in advance.

CL3. GDPR.

The Clerk will shortly be auditing the different data which BPC maintains and identifying the purposes for which it is used. This work will be completed in line with the NALC and SLCC advice and their templates.

CL4. Community Workshop to inform the Update to the Landscape Character Assessment for West Berkshire.

It was agreed that Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Ranken would attend this workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

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## PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

- P1. 18/00928/HOUSE Dingley Cottage, Southend (Adjacent Parish).  
*Extensions to dwelling.*  
It was unanimously agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P2. 18/01162/HOUSE Highlands, Upper Bucklebury.  
*Single storey rear extension and second storey over existing pool house.*  
It was noted that this property has previously been extended and is outside of the settlement boundary. There was a discussion about whether it fitted within the street scene and the AONB. Concern was raised that it would close the gap between the dwelling and outbuildings at Highlands contrary to Bucklebury Vision.  
The meeting was **closed** for Mr. Baker, the applicant to speak.  
Mr. Baker commented that the barn roof already closes the gap between buildings when viewed from Broad Lane and that you would still see everything around the dwelling once the changes have been made.  
The meeting was **reopened**.  
BPC agreed to have **no objection** to this application.
- Planning decisions made by WBC:
- P3. 18/01054/HOUSE Woodside, Long Grove.  
*Demolish the existing conservatory and replace with a single storey rear extension. Build a chimney stack and a new front porch.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P4. 18/00989/HOUSE Nine Elms Cottage, The Avenue.  
*Section 73A: Variation of condition 2 'Plans approved' of previously approved application 12/01439/HOUSE: Relocation of main entrance, new link to garden room and removal of outbuilding (REF 11/01439/HOUSE consent 4.10.11; partially implemented).*  
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.
- P5. 18/00646/HOUSE Camplins Cottage, Turners Green.  
*Construction of single storey oak framed orangery.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 18/00548/HOUSE Barfield House, Chapel Row.  
*Installation of 11m x 5.5m in-ground domestic swimming pool complete with high quality automatic safety cover, surrounded by Indian Sandstone paving with pool filtration sited within a new 1.83m x 1.22m apex timber shed and heated by an air source heat pump.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 18/00295/FULD Land adjacent to Thatchers, Chapel Row.  
*Erection of one 4-bed dwelling with associated car parking.*  
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- P8. 18/00508/PACOU Broad View Farm, The Ridge.  
*Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for the Change of Use of agricultural buildings to business use (B1 and B8) to form five small business units.*  
BPC had **no comments** to make on this application which has been **allowed** by WBC.

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Date .....

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Roads.

District Cllr. Pask reported that where there have been areas of machine patching, road markings have not been painted on the road. This is because tar and chippings need to be spread on these areas before the road markings can be painted.

DC2. Thames Water.

Cllr. Banks reported that he had emailed Annie Chinbuah at Thames Water on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and asked why the replacement of the Harts Hill water main and the relocation of the Harts Hill pumping stations are linked.

Harts Hill Road has been closed for seven weeks and during that time it has been blocked by Thames Water vehicles parked across the road; no holes have been dug and there are no obvious signs of work.

It transpires that the 4” rider pipe and the 4” water pipe which were supposed to provide Upper Bucklebury and beyond with water whilst the 12” pipe was being replaced are not sufficient for the job.

The diversion notices are very confusing. One diversion refers to the closure of Harts Hill and a second diverts vehicles down Fanny’s Lane for the closure of Briff Lane due to GigaClear work. District Cllr. Pask commented that he would take up the diversion notices with Mark Edwards in the WBC Highways department.

TOPICS

T1. Memorial Hall Grant.

BPC had previously agreed to make a contribution of £5,000 to the Memorial Hall; £4,000 of this was for the project to refurbish the toilets. With the closure of pre-school and the associated loss of income, this project has been put on hold.

The Memorial Hall Committee has asked if BPC could spend up to £2,000 of the contribution on replacement of the fire sensors at the Memorial Hall. This was unanimously agreed.

T2. Bucklebury Meadows.

Two of the oak trees which were planted in the meadows to replace those which were illegally felled have died. Arthur Culler, the tree officer at WBC, recommended that saplings from Penwood Nursery should be bought to replace them. However Helen Relf has offered an oak tree which is currently growing in a pot. Cllr. Hillerton commented that she also had one growing in a pot which could be used. It was agreed that it was worth planting these trees this autumn.

The Clerk will contact Willie Hartley Russell to start the process of getting the legal agreement in place (which has already been agreed) about access to the meadows from Byles Green.

T3. Cemetery and Chapel.

**Clearance of Scrub in the 1970’s Cemetery** – Contractors have cleared part of the wooded land, but not the whole area as the agreed first phase. Brambles and some small holly bushes remain in the part cleared. Both C. R. Landscapes and Opus Tree Care have been asked to quote for clearing the remainder of the site and also filling in the sunken graves; C. R. Landscapes have agreed to carry out the remainder of the clearing for the value of their original quote less 10% (£2,655 plus VAT) plus £200 (excluding VAT) for filling in the graves and Opus Tree Care have quoted for £2,400 (plus VAT) for clearance of the remainder of the site and £650 (plus VAT) for filling in the graves. Both quotes include stump grinding. It was agreed that C. R. Landscapes be asked to complete the work in the autumn.

**Repairs to the Cross** – Mc Curdy and Co. Limited in Stanford Dingley have made a site visit and assessed the condition of the cross. From a visual inspection there was clear evidence of brown rot fungal decay and associated fruiting bodies visible in the weathered fissures at the bottom of the oak post where it meets the concrete. There are only

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Date .....

relatively small metal corner angle straps and it is assumed that the base of the cross is in concrete. This environment will exacerbate the onset of decay to the oak member and even if it is sound, it is only a matter of time before it becomes unstable. It was suggested that an engineer should carry out a review of the structural integrity of the main post, possibly using a decay detection drill before the condition of the post at the point of intersection with the cross member is inspected. A new cross member would be made of green oak and be significantly heavier than the existing. BPC agreed that the cross should be removed. There was a discussion about what should be done afterwards, the options being nothing, replace with a new cross or plant a tree. It was agreed that nothing would be done for the present, but comments from parishioners would be considered once the cross has been removed. Cllr. Frankum agreed to contact Revd. Gadsby and inform him that the cross would be removed.

T4. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

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

**Maintenance Work Update** – Steve Beeson has been working on the restoration of the static horse, including the powder coating of the metal parts. Cllr. Hillerton reported that it already looks amazing and should soon be reinstalled into the Playpark.

The project to involve Bucklebury youths in the repainting of the youth shelter is beginning to come to fruition. A Kennet School art teacher who lives in the parish is involved and is organising a competition for designs for the shelter, she will then work with local youths to carry out the painting. There is a possibility that Kennet School may provide the paint.

A survey of users of the BMX track is in progress to help identify the best solution to maintaining the surface of the track.

T5. Countryside.

**Rights of Way** – Cllr. Cairns has contacted Sallie Jennings at WBC; byway 39 (Briff Farm to Hopgoods Green) should be repaired by the 29<sup>th</sup> June. It is planned that byway 11 (Holly Farm to Coles Farm), which is currently completely closed, should be repaired over the summer. Byway 51 (Oak Barn to Sadgrove) has been partially repaired. The barriers enforcing the seasonal closures are still generally in place; an email has been sent to WBC asking for their removal.

**The Pang between the fords** – Permission has been renewed by the Environment Agency for fencing along the river between the fords and three wooden posts to be inserted in the middle of the bed of the river. Cllr. Brims is seeking quotes for the different elements of the work.

Cllr. Clarke had an alternative proposal for three or four tree trunks to be placed across the river at intervals. It was noted that the banks of the river are higher at the small ford, (where a tree trunk has been very effective) than by the main ford. Cllr. Frankum commented that the action to prevent 4x4 access to the river had been being discussed for at least four years and a decision had been taken to go with fencing and posts in the river. *There was a discussion after the meeting and it was agreed that the decision about the course of action to be pursued would be revisited at the next BPC meeting.*

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Came and Company	£850.23 Insurance.
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F2. Cheques signed by Councillors:

GLEAM	£15.00 Membership.
Post Office Ltd	£5.56 Electricity (2/5/2018 to 1/6/2018).
The Alpha Xperience	£291.40 June edition of The Oaks.
The Victory Room	£17.50 Rent for July BPC meeting.
Hilary Cairns	£11.26 Annual Assembly expenses.
P.W. Frankum	£25.00 Voucher for internal audit.

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	Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's salary for May 2018.
F3.	<u>To review current balances and financial position.</u>		
	Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£83,380.90	
	Lloyds Current Account:	£89,566.25	On the 18/5/2018.
	Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,737.66	On the 1/4/2018.
	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,578.43	On the 1/4/2018.

## REPORTS

### RT1. Commons Advisory Committee.

Permanent TROs are being considered for some of the byways which are frequently damaged by 4x4s. The winter TROs on the byways has been a success and it is being planned that they become seasonal TROs on a regular basis.

Surveys on the oak trees along the Avenue have still not taken place. The cutting regime for the grass under the oaks on the Avenue was discussed. The permitted bridleway should be cut on a regular basis.

The wooden posts around the green at Chapel Row are rotting and alternative solutions to prevent vehicles from accessing the green were considered. Digging a ditch has been suggested; it was considered that if a sensible sized ditch was dug and made to look like a ha-ha it would not be visually intrusive.

### RT2. Memorial Hall AGM.

Due to the poor attendance at the Memorial Hall AGM, members of the committee asked whether it might be possible to hold the AGM as part of the Annual Assembly. BPC has considered the proposal and it was agreed that the Memorial Hall committee could be invited to give a five minute update at the Assembly, but not to hold their AGM as part of the Assembly.

The Memorial Hall committee is looking at ways in which the income from pre-school can be regenerated.

### RT3. Victory Room.

The Victory Room committee is organising two funding raising events: a Spanish evening on 21<sup>st</sup> July and the Annual Bucklebury Beerfest on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Volunteers for the Beerfest are currently being sought.

The development project is being split into two phases because some funding streams have a maximum limit in terms of the estimated cost of the project. Alternative sources of funding are currently being explored.

## ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

### RT1. Bucklebury Vision.

Cllr. Dickens asked about progress with the revised Bucklebury Vision. The Clerk responded that this still needed to be sent to WBC.

### RT2. Cutting of Grass.

Cllr. Banks had previously asked when the grass at the top of Little Lane (opposite Peaches Garage) was due to be cut. Keith Arnold (a resident of Little Lane) has cut it and will continue to keep it cut. It was reported that a number of sight lines at junctions are severely restricted by vegetation.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

### **Future Meetings:**

**Next Planning Meeting:**

**8pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

**Date of next BPC meeting:**

**7.45pm Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (Victory Room).**

Signature .....

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