

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 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. H. Cairns; Cllr. R. Rankin; Cllr. J. Brims; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

District Cllr. G. Pask; District Cllr. Q. Webb; Mr. T. Culley; Mr. P. Allison.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr. A. Aldridge.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

There was a discussion about the wording in the section about the Pang and ways to prevent 4x4 access. It was agreed that the Clerk will redraft them for signing at the August BPC meeting.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. School Playing Field.

Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Hillerton have had a meeting with Andy Higgs, the headteacher of Bucklebury Primary School, about whether it might be possible for local children to play on the school fields out of school hours. Mr. Higgs has agreed to discuss the proposal with the Board of Governors.

CH2. Aid Raid Siren.

John Tennant has asked if BPC would have any objection to the Bucklebury air raid siren, which has been stored in the church tower, being moved to the RAF Welford museum on a permanent load basis. Helen Relf from Bucklebury History Society has been consulted and has no objection. It was agreed that this was a sensible proposal.

CH3. Welcome Packs.

Production of the Welcome Packs has been delayed due to permission needing to be obtained from the contacts for each of the Clubs/organisations in order for the information to be included.

HP

CH4. Internal Audit.

Cllr. Frankum made a point that as an ongoing arrangement, the internal auditor is annually given a token in appreciation of the work she does.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Bucklebury Vision.

The revised copy of Bucklebury Vision has been sent to WBC. They have asked for a copy with the changes highlighted and will then advise BPC about the process to get it ratified as planning guidance. Cllr. Clarke offered to help the Clerk mark up a copy.

HP

CL2. Clerk's Forum.

There was a Clerk's forum meeting on Thursday last week in Compton. Items discussed included CIL money, how it can be spent and keeping track of it, and travellers and in particular the best ways to deal with illegal encampments.

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CL3. Fly-tipping.

There have been a number of black sacks of rubbish dumped around the parish. Two on Briff Lane have been reported to WBC, but there are a number of others. Please report them via the WBC website as accurately as you can.

CL4. Apologies for meetings.

If councillors wish to send apologies, please can they be sent via email to the Clerk, copying the Chair, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting (except in exceptional circumstances).

## PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

- P1. 18/01200/HOUSE Vanners, Bucklebury.  
& 18/01202/LBC2 *Upgrading and remodelling of historic cottage and C20th range, erection of new utility room lean-to range. Repositioning of previously approved new swimming pool and erection of new pool house.*

There was concern about an attic window in the roof facing the byway and it was suggested that this be moved to the rear roof. It was agreed that BPC **object** to this application on the grounds of the attic window only.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P2. 18/00667/HOUSE Corner Croft, Little Lane.  
*Erection of a summer house with decking and veranda to the side within the garden.*

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

- P3. 18/00866/FULD Site of Former Abbey View, Paradise Lane.  
*Proposed new dwelling with associated parking and amenity.*

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

- P4. 18/00953/FUL Travellers Rest Farm, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).

*Retrospective erection of 14 no storage containers.*

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

- P5. 18/00910/HOUSE Gamekeepers Lodge Farm, Hawkridge Hill (Adjacent Parish).  
*Demolition of outbuilding, construction of house extension and garden store.*

BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC.

- P6. 17/03052/HOUSE Wayside, Hatch Lane.

*Single storey front extension, dormer roof alterations and first floor extension.*

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

- P7. Planning Training Session.

It was felt that a training session, with emphasis on using the WBC website to access plans would be useful. In the first instance this should be held after a planning meeting.

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- DC1. **Padworth Recycling Centre** – The opening hours of Padworth Recycling Centre have been extended and all domestic rubbish will be accepted.

**Travellers** – There are a number of groups of travellers in the area. The Chief Constable has advised that padlocks securing land are checked on a frequent basis.

**Weather Reports** – WBC is now sending out Heatwave alerts with information on what to watch out for and ways to keep people safe. Questions were asked about what is being done to prepare for forest fires in the heat; essentially Emergency Plans should be

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sufficient to deal with the situations.

**Thames Water Meeting** – The meeting between Thames Water and members of BPC will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July. It was agreed that Cllr. Brims would invite the CEO of Thames Water to attend.

**Recreation Ground** – There is no news on progress with the Recreation Ground being awarded Centenary Field status. District Cllr. Pask has already discussed the situation with Sarah Clarke (WBC Head of Legal) and will pursue the matter again.

## TOPICS

### T1. Prevention of 4x4 Access to the Pang.

Cllr. Frankum explained to all present the importance of the River Pang, not only for the setting and tranquillity it offers in Bucklebury, but also for its value as one of only a few chalk streams worldwide and therefore a rare habitat. It was noted that trying to protect the land/river between the fords in Bucklebury has been discussed by BPC since 2013 and various experts have been consulted including Sally Wallington and Chris Booth from the Environment Agency (EA). Various options have been considered including posts in the river, tree trunks across the river and stock fencing.

EA permission was granted for posts across the river near the main ford and fencing between the Pang and the road; however this expired in 2017. Cllr. Brims has worked with the EA and got this permission renewed. Whilst it was agreed to go ahead with this proposal, the decision was made at a meeting when Cllr. Clarke was absent. Cllr. Slatford proposed that in fairness to Cllr. Clarke, the alternative proposal which she favoured should be considered by BPC.

Cllr. Brims showed photographs of the three entry/exit points into the river and various examples of how narrow Brocks Lane is, where it is restricted by trees and fencing within the vicinity of the fords.

Estimates for the fencing and the posts across the river are between £3,000 and £3,500. Questions were asked about whether the bank is wide enough for a fence to be secured and whether there would be sufficient width for farm vehicles to use the road without damaging the fence. It is understood that farm vehicles can be a maximum of 3m wide without needing an escort. It was noted that the tarmac is less than 3m wide in some places and that Andreas Hempell is unhappy about the fence proposal due to the width restrictions.

Cllr. Clarke has explored the option of tree trunks placed across the river 100m and 200m from the main ford and three wooden posts across the river adjacent to the main ford.

The meeting was **closed** for Piers Allison and Tim Culley to speak.

Mr. Culley commented that stock fencing is to keep animals in, not to prevent 4x4s from accessing land. Andreas Hempell is understood to be willing to insert the posts into the bed of the river. Mr. Culley was of the opinion that the posts should be installed and then wait and see what happens before doing anything else.

Mr. Allison commented that vehicles drive from the main ford up the river, so in the first instance the posts across the river would deter them. If the posts don't work, tree trunks could be added across the river as necessary. Cllr. Slatford asked if adding a natural barrier to the river was likely to cause a problem when it may be at flood. Mr. Allison commented that given the levels involved, the river would already have broken its banks by the time it would reach the level of the tree trunks.

Mr. Culley commented that Mr. W. Hartley Russell has already identified two poplar trees which could be used for the work.

Cllr. Clarke commented that she had consulted Stuart Clarke (WBC Highways engineer) who felt that the tree trunks were a much more viable solution and would look more natural.

The meeting was **reopened**.

There was a view that the tree trunks would be an eyesore. It was also suggested that if a

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fence was erected between the road and the river, vehicles might simply exit the river into Andreas Hempell's field.

Cllr. Banks proposed that 3 wooden posts be installed in the river and that the situation be reviewed in 6 months time. Cllr. Slatford added to this that in parallel BPC should seek permission from the EA for tree trunks to be placed across the river and three metal I-beams instead of three wooden posts across the river near the main ford. Cllr. Ranken seconded these proposals and they were agreed.

JB

Cllr. Brims will ask Ian Jeffrey if he will quote for just the three wooden posts across the river. It was noted that 14 days notice needs to be given to the EA prior to any work taking place.

T2. Bucklebury Meadows.

**Hedge to the north of 11 Mortons Lane** – A letter has been received from the resident of 11 Morton's Lane about the trees which are overhanging her garden fence. Cllr. Slatford has looked at the trees concerned and commented that there are several dead, dying or distressed trees in the hedge which are not likely to cause damage to the fence in the short term.

**Management of the Meadows** – The hay on the meadows has all been cut. It was noted that the kissing gate on the footpath between the north and middle fields needs to be moved to the shed in the Cemetery. Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Slatford agreed to do this.

TS  
DS

T3. Cemetery and Chapel.

The Clerk reported that there had been an interment of ashes on Saturday, which was very well attended.

Cllr. Frankum commented that it has come to light that there is no job description for the role of Cemetery Superintendent; she has therefore drafted a job description and circulated it to the Burial Board.

**Clearance Works** – C. R. Landscapes will complete the clearance work in the autumn.

**Cemetery Cross** – This has now been removed by Opus Treecare. The concrete base has been left but is covered with topsoil. It was noted that the oak trees in the immediate vicinity of the cross have grown up.

**Bench behind the Chapel** – Cllr. Southgate commented that the bench behind the Chapel may be salvageable and that it looked like the wood had shrunk. It was agreed that he would remove it from the Cemetery and investigate it further.

T4. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

**Playpark Inspections** – Cllr. Hillerton reported that a hole has developed under the basket swing which requires attention. It was agreed that investigations should be made to find a contractor to make the necessary repairs.

**Maintenance Work Update** – The static horse has now been beautifully restored and has been returned to its former location. The work has been carried out by Steve Beeson with help from Roger Malloy and various parishioners. Cllr. Hillerton has purchased beer to the value of £44 for those involved with the work.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed since last meeting:

A. B. Walker £1,356.00 Repairs to Memorials in the Cemetery.

F2. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

SSE Contracting Ltd. £19.97 Quarterly maintenance.

Opus Tree Care £300.00 Removal of the Cemetery cross.

Bucklebury Memorial Hall £402.50 Grass cutting in the playpark and around the BMX track for the last year.

Sylvia Cornell £40.00 Bus shelter cleaning April, May and June 2018.

S. Beeson £100.50 Refurbishment of the horse.

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Anne Hillerton	£72.05	Appreciation for restoration of static horse and Welcome pack folders.
P. W. Frankum	£1.99	2019 Diary.
Helen Pratt	£600.95	Projector and SLCC membership.
Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's salary for June 2018.
F3.	<u>To review current balances and financial position.</u>	
	Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£79,932.67
	Lloyds Current Account:	£84,908.30 On 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2018.
	Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,737.66 On 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018.
	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,578.43 On 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018.

## REPORTS

### RT1. Thames Water.

It was noted that compensation is available to individuals if they can prove that the closure of the road has caused an increase in their costs.

Concern was raised about whether the new pipe will be sufficient for the needs of the parish because it is smaller than the sum of the temporary pipes.

Thames Water has agreed to send an update to the Clerk at the end of each week to be posted on the website and each of the noticeboards.

It was suggested that a project plan be requested showing how the project will be completed on time.

WBC has placed a Section 61 notice on Thames Water, restricting their working hours down to Monday to Saturday. This is the result of a complaint from a resident. It was agreed that BPC should explore requesting that WBC lift the Section 61 notice for the benefit of everyone else.

It was suggested that a complaint to OFWAT should be considered.

### RT2. Heritage Forum.

Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Southgate attending the AGM of the Heritage Forum and gave an update on items of interest in Bucklebury.

## ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

### RT1. Victory Room.

Cllr. Brims reminded councillors about the Spanish Evening and the Beerfest events being organised by the Victory Room Committee. An application has been made to the Garfield Weston Anniversary Fund.

### RT2. Scams.

PCSO Sarah Preston has been contacted about scams. It was agreed that she should be asked to write an article to go on the website and into The Oaks.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

### **Future Meetings:**

**Next Planning Meeting:**

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

**Date of next BPC meeting:**

**7.45pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018.**

Signature .....

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