

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 10th September 2018 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. P. W. Frankum (Chair); Cllr. B. Dickens; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. R. Ranken; Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. A. Aldridge; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. T. Banks; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. T. Slatford; District Cllr. G. Pask; District Cllr. Q. Webb; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

Mr. E. Holloway (short part of the meeting).

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 13th August 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th August 2018 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 28th August 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28th August 2018 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. CPRE Campaign against Fracking.

The Chairman asked whether members wished to support CPRE's campaign against fracking. It was agreed that BPC would not support the campaign on the grounds that Bucklebury isn't in an area likely to be affected by fracking and whilst there are objections to fracking, there are also reasons for supporting it.

CH2. Thames Water and Harts Hill.

The last letter from Thames Water (dated 10th September) was very poorly worded and not clear about which roads would be open/closed when. The map was felt to be difficult to understand.

Prior to the Thames Water letter, an email came from WBC advising that Harts Hill would be open from Monday 17th September and that the other two roads around the Mount Pleasant Triangle (Burdens Heath and past the Saab garage) would be closed for a maximum of 5 days. Traffic lights will be in use on the cross roads where Briff Lane meets Burdens Heath during the closure. Bob Bosley (WBC) has confirmed that there is no planned diversion, but signs should be displayed in Cold Ash advising drivers to seek alternative routes.

District Councillors were asked if WBC had used the opportunity of Harts Hill being closed to repair pot holes and repaint white lines.

CH3. Berry's Road.

A resident has suggested that Berry's Road needs resurfacing.

CH4. GLEAM AGM.

The GLEAM AGM will take place on Friday 12th October at Pangbourne Village Hall.

WBC Community Champion.

WBC launched the Community Champion of the Year awards 2018 on the 10th September. It was agreed that Cllr. Brims would nominate Graham Plank for the Lifetime Achievement award and Cllr. Frankum would nominate Helen Relf for the Volunteer of the Year award.

Signature

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CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Bucklebury Vision (The Village Design Statement).

The Clerk confirmed that the updated version of Bucklebury Vision has been received by WBC. The process for having it ratified should be determined before the end of September.

CL2. WBC District Parish Conference.

The next District Parish Conference will take place on Tuesday 6th November.

CL3. Accident, outside The Bladebone at Chapel Row Sunday 2nd September and speeding.

WBC received a report of excessive speed being the possible cause of an accident at Chapel Row on Sunday 2nd September when the wall in front of The Bladebone Inn was hit by a vehicle.

There was a discussion about the road markings at Chapel Row which have faded and haven't been repainted, although they have previously been discussed and raised with WBC. It was noted that there are very limited traffic calming measures available when there are no streetlights.

District Councillors agreed to inquire about the possibility of WBC highways department GP doing an audit of the roads at Chapel Row.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered:

P1. 18/02106/HOUSE Avalon, Bucklebury.

Extension to existing chalet bungalow and internal alterations to reconfigure layout and fenestration.

It was reported that the proposed extension would lead to an increase in height of 1.2m to the existing building, but that this would still be lower than the surrounding buildings. The neighbours have no objection to the extension, but are unhappy about the felling of the monkey puzzle tree.

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

P2. 18/01824/FUL

St. Crispin's Farm.

Section 73: Variation of conditions 2 'plans approved' and 3 'materials as specified' of previously approved application 17/01905/FUL: Demolition of the existing house and replacement with a simplified form with double pitched roof. Accommodation will be split over 2 no. floors with the footprint remaining at 244 sqm to match that of the existing property.

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

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P3. 18/01787/HOUSE The Old Police House, Bucklebury.

Demolition of single storey extension and outbuildings. New extension and alterations to The Old Police House. Revised proposals.

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

P4. 18/01555/HOUSE Bracken Close, Burdens Heath.

Single storey side extension.

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

P5. 18/00642/HOUSE Eliezer Cottage, Turners Green.

Side and rear extension with detached garage.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Adult Social Care.

It was reported that there has been a huge increase in the required budget for Adult

Signature

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Social Care. As a result, WBC is looking at the projected end of year figures and has determined not to recruit any more staff unless absolutely necessary.

DC2. Dog Bins.

It has been noted that the dog bins on the meadow have not been emptied during the last week. District Cllr. Pask reported that he has discussed the matter with Paul Hendy. It is understood that the normal contractor has been on holiday and his replacement didn't know where the bins were.

DC3. Chinese Lanterns.

WBC has agreed to ban the lighting and subsequent take-off of all Chinese lanterns, and items with candles in them, from their land. It is urging parish councils to do the same. BPC agreed unanimously to support WBC in this decision and ban such items from being used on Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

TOPICS

T1. Countryside.

Posts in the Pang – Three wooden posts have been put into the bed of the river Pang, slightly upstream of the main ford. These are very unobtrusive. John Munroe Ashman has volunteered to replace the wooden posts with metal posts should anyone remove or tamper with them.

Application to the Environment Agency (EA) – The revised application to include the tree trunks across the river and additional posts at intervals between the fords was submitted to the EA at the end of August. It is hoped that this will be allowed to go through as an amendment to the original application.

Rights of Way – The byway from Briff Farm to Hopgoods Green (BUCK39/2) has been repaired. Cllr. Cairns commented on what a good job had been made of it.

A question was asked about when Holly Lane was likely to be repaired.

Footpaths at Westrop Green (BUCK 89/2) – There was some debate about whether this matter could be discussed again on the grounds that a decision was taken about it at the May 2018 meeting. The Clerk advised that provided a period of time had lapsed, the decision could be reconsidered. *The period of time is 6 months (from Standing Orders).* It was agreed that David Edwards-Moss be invited to the next meeting to answer councillors' queries.

Off Roading on the Common – There have been no known issues with off roading on the Common.

T2. Bucklebury Meadow.

It was agreed that there should be a Meadows Committee meeting in October to determine what BPC should aim to achieve with the meadows.

T3. Cemetery and Chapel.

Business – The Clerk reported that there have been two interments of ashes at the Cemetery since the last meeting; at both there have been issues with the grave digger and at the most recent a memorial mason from another undertaker dug the hole to enable the interment to go ahead on time. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of complaint to the undertaker concerned.

Management of the Grounds – C.R. Landscapes have quoted £800 (plus VAT) for a recycled bench to be placed where the cross was in the 1970s part of the Cemetery. It was resolved to accept this quote.

C.R. Landscapes have quoted £610 (plus VAT) to treat the rhododendrons which are growing back in grave spaces which were cleared earlier in the year. It was resolved to accept this quote.

Job Description of Cemetery Superintendent – A draft job description for the Cemetery Superintendent was circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the description once the person specification has been moved into an annex of the document.

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Meeting of the Burial Board – A meeting of the Burial Board will be organised for October.

T4. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Update on weekly inspections –The inspections have revealed that one of the wooden half logs on the climbing part of the multi-play unit has been broken off. Cllr. Southgate agreed to go and remove it and Cllr. Banks agreed to get a replacement and fit it.

Maintenance of the Playpark – The Clerk has delivered the kit of rubber mulch to repair the safety surface at playpark to Cllr. Southgate. It is planned to split the rubber mulch into two batches (one for future use), so that it can be managed more sensibly. Cllr. Southgate is now waiting for the right weather window when the surface is dry enough before making the repairs.

Surfacing of the BMX track – Cllr. Hillerton reported that generally existing users are quite content with the surface as it is. In the meantime, Odin Manners, who cuts the grass around the equipment has suggested using the pile of grit on site to repair the track with a view to making repairs on an as needed basis. Unfortunately, a hard shell has formed on the pile of grit which will require heavy equipment to break up. Mr. Manners has been asked for a quote to break the shell and carry out the initial repairs.

Cllr. Southgate suggested that if the top few inches of surfacing were removed and the flints taken out before the surfacing is replaced, the flints will not be able to become such a hazard.

T5. Common Clearing – 13th October.

Cllr. Hillerton gave her apologies for Common Clearing.

Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. Alderton, Cllr. Frankum, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Southgate agreed to make cakes for those returning from collecting rubbish. Cllr. Frankum and Cllr. Cairns will organise and serve the tea.

There will be skips at Chapel Row and the Memorial Hall; the Clerk has requested that when the skips are booked, a collection date of Monday 15th October be requested in order to prevent the issues with the collection of the skip at Chapel Row.

T6. Grit Bins.

Cllr. Slatford reported on the condition of all of the grit bins and how much grit they contain. The new grit bin purchased in the spring is still to be delivered to The Slade.

Cllr. Southgate proposed that a grit bin should be placed on the junction of Briff Lane and Turners Green. This was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk has contacted Willis and Ainsworths about the possibility of refilling all of the grit bins in the parish (and possibly neighbouring parishes), but they have yet to reach a decision.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd.	£5.68	Streetlights (2/8/2018 – 3/9/2018).
C. R. Landscapes Limited	£822.96	Cemetery grounds maintenance.
David Southgate	£107.28	Wood treatment for Cemetery bench.
Helen Pratt	£581.79	Laptop, software and materials for repair to playpark surfacing.
Helen Pratt	£554.27	Clerk's salary for August 2018.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£77,471.29	
Lloyds Current Account:	£79,749.59	On 20 th August 2018.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,738.60	On 1 st July 2018.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,578.54	On 1 st July 2018.

Signature

Date

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Bucklebury Beerfest – Saturday 6th October.

Cllr. Brims reported that currently there are 11 different beers, Tim Wale’s cider and gin to be drunk at the Beerfest.

The Community Bus will be providing transport to the Beerfest; 300 flyers will be distributed in Upper Bucklebury advertising the event.

RT2. Bucklebury Events Committee

The Events Committee is planning an event on the weekend of 22nd/23rd June 2019.

RT3. Bucklebury Recreation Ground Playpark.

Cllr. Clarke reported that WBC has beautifully refurbished the Playpark on the Recreation Ground and included some new equipment.

RG4. Oak Trees on Bucklebury Meadow.

Cllr. Southgate asked when the replacement oak trees would be planted in the Meadow.

Cllr. Frankum agreed to contact Richard Hubbard and enquire. Generally, the view was that it has been too dry at the moment.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Future Meetings:

Next Planning Meeting:

8pm Monday 24th September 2018.

Date of next BPC meeting:

7.45pm Monday 8th October 2018.

Signature

Date