

MINUTES OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS

Peter and Nicola Spores (neighbours to the site of the former Abbey View).

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received and approved from Cllr. R. Ranken.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Declarations of interest.

Cllr. Aldridge declared an interest in the planning applications 19/00474/FULD for the site of former Abbey View and 19/00221/FULD for Glenvale Nurseries.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. 19/00474/FULD for the Site of former Abbey View.

The discussion on this planning application is minuted under the planning section of these minutes.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 11th February 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th February 2019 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Frankum.

M2. Planning Meeting.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 25th February 2019 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. All Saints Church and Hall.

Cllr. Ranken and Cllr. Frankum met the Rev. J. Gadsby and understand that the kitchen area at All Saint's Church is being refitted. The PCC will be reviewing their lettings policy at the next meeting, with a view to making the hall and church areas more widely available. The PCC is mindful that this may have an impact on the Memorial Hall in general terms.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Tree Surveys.

Maps, detailing the location of the trees which need to be inspected were sent to Bee Tree Services in February. The Clerk reported that she is waiting to receive a quote from the company.

CL2. Nominations for Parish Council Elections.

Nominations have been invited for parish councillors: four for the east ward and seven for the west ward.

Candidates must complete a nomination form and return it, by hand to WBC after the publication of the Notice of Election on Friday 15th March and before 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April.

CL2. Annual Parish Assembly.

Jon Winstanley (the new head of the Highways Department at WBC) has agreed to speak

Signature

Date

at the Annual Parish Assembly on Friday 10th May 2019 in the Victory Room. The Assembly will start at 7.45pm.

CL3. District Parish Conference – Thursday 14th March

Cllr. Southgate has volunteered to attend the District Parish Conference.

CL4. Bucklebury Vision.

Paula Amorelli at WBC has commented that the copyright on all of the maps included in Bucklebury Vision need to be updated, not just the first one. Once this has been done, work can take place on the consultation.

CL5. Common Clearing.

Mike Scholl has agreed that litter pickers and equipment could be stored in the shed with the tables. Some reorganisation of the shed may be required to make space.

PLANNING

There were no planning applications to be considered.

P1. 19/00237/HOUSE 69 Roundfield.

Proposed part single-storey, part two-storey rear extension.

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

P2. 19/00437/HOUSE Pebble Croft, Chapel Row.

Single and two storey extensions.

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

P3. 19/00447/HOUSE Heathgate, The Avenue.

Installation of swimming pool and erection of associated pool house.

BPC has **no objection** to this application.

P4. 19/00474/FULD Site of Former Abbey View, Paradise Lane.

Proposed new 4 bedroom detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity.

This proposal is considered to be over development of the site and will involve building very close to the boundary. The site is very high in relation to surrounding land and therefore these plans would have a harmful impact on neighbours.

The meeting was **closed** for Mr. and Mrs. Spores to speak.

Mr. and Mrs. Spores understand that the applicant is not planning to remove any spoil from the site, as a result, the proposed property would be higher than it might otherwise appear. Concern was raised about the structure to the east of the dwelling, which could be used as a car port; if this were to be the case, car lights would shine directly into High Barrow. The original bungalow could not be seen from the green at Chapel Row; the approved plans for the site would be subtly visible and this proposal would be very obvious.

Mr. Aldridge commented that the approved application represents a 109% increase over the original bungalow and this application represents a 269% increase. He also raised concerns about light pollution from the dormer windows.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC **object** to this application.

P5. 19/00221/FULD Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).

Demolition of Glenvale Garden Centre and replace with 1 dwelling, retaining the existing entrance onto Hungerford Lane.

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

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P6. 19/00051/HOUSE The Cottage, Chapel Row.

One and one half storey extension.

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

Signature

Date

WBC.

- P7. 19/00033/HOUSE Eliezer Cottage, Zin Zan
Garage/Garden store.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P8. 18/03326/HOUSE Heathgate, The Avenue.
Erection of replacement detached garage following demolition of existing garage.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P9. 19/00023/LBC2 Pear Tree Cottage, Byles Green.
Install a woodburner.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P10. 18/03279/HOUSE Rose Bank, Marlston.
Erection of a greenhouse (part retrospective).
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P11. 18/03342/HOUSE The Highlands.
Single storey rear extension.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P12. 18/03259/HOUSE 3 Mortons Lane.
Proposed rear conservatory.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

P13. Bushnells Green Farm 18/01470/FULD.
Retention of existing timber lodge as farm worker accommodation. Supported by new and additional evidence. Non compliance with condition 12 of approved 13/03014/FUL.
The Eastern Area Planning Committee has considered this application and voted in favour of the applicants. It will now be considered by the Area Planning Committee on the 17th April.
Cllr. Brims thanked the District Councillors for their comments and support at the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

Planning Decisions taken to Appeal:

- P14. 18/01948/FUL - Site Of Former Abbey View Paradise Lane.
Proposed new 4 bedroom detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity.
BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by the Eastern Area Planning Committee of WBC.
- P15. 18/02838/HOUSE - Gable House, Briff Lane
First floor addition for a flat accommodation for groom/dependant relative over existing garage block.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which was **refused** by WBC.
- P16. Time of Planning Meetings.
It was agreed that Planning Meetings will start at 7.45pm from the next Planning meeting on the 25th March 2019.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

DC1. Thames Water.

It was reported that Thames Water are leaving, non-working traffic lights on roadworks; they tend to be set to red. It was noted that this tends to be a battery problem.

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DC2. Roadworks.

Some of the proposed diversions for road closures (generally due to Gigaclear work) are not satisfactory, as a result, District Cllr. Pask has been working with the highways department to try and ensure that only acceptable diversions are signposted.

It was also reported that a number of the pot hole repairs are very inferior.

TOPICS

T1. Speeding in the Parish

Cllr. Clarke reported that she had received an email from a resident of Chapel Row and had verbal comments about the speed of traffic through Chapel Row; particularly traffic travelling from Upper Bucklebury towards Bradfield.

Cllr. Frankum has spoken to Alan Dunkerton and he commented that BPC could purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for approximately £4,000 which could be installed so that traffic from the west activates it.

It was agreed that BPC support the use of speed traps, operated by the police at Chapel Row and in Broad Lane. A question was asked about whether there were speed guns which could be provided for use within the parish. District Cllr. Pask will investigate this. GP
District Cllr. Pask reported that since Alan Dunkerton has retired, his position at WBC will be filled by a former policeman.

It was agreed that the Police should be encouraged to carry out speed traps in Broad Lane again; the reports sent by WBC to BPC don't show Broad Lane as a current location, although it has been used in the past.

It was agreed that this subject would be discussed further at the next meeting.

T2. Bucklebury Meadow.

The hedges have been cut, but not reduced in height, due to the ground being very soft and wet. This has revealed the original fence line on the west boundary.

Alex Cruickshank, formerly of BBOWT is to be asked to carry out an ecology survey.

T4. Hockett Field.

Cllr. Frankum reported that she has spoken to Tim Culley, Olly Morris and Meri Mower about the area, in the Hockett Field where the bike track has been levelled off. The ground needs to be harrowed and levelled further before the seed is sown. It is suspected that top soil was bought in to build up the humps which would alter the underlying acidity of the soil. Cllr. Frankum will check the soil type and then talk to Charles Flowers for advice on what seed to use. WF

T5. Cemetery and Chapel.

During the working party on the 9th March, a row of overgrown graves were cleared.

There are plans to have another working party on the 6th April and have a bonfire.

There was a discussion about how the freshly cleared section of the new Cemetery should be managed; it was agreed that Cllr. Frankum would ask Carl Rivers for his advice. WF

T6. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Update on weekly inspections – Cllr. Hillerton reported that there were no new issues with the equipment or the ground. The RoSPA inspection will be carried out next month. There have been two working parties; to cut back the trees and to repair the surface under the swings.

BMX Track – A quote has been obtained for work on the BMX track to restore the track to a good state; this is expected to take several days. This quote was agreed and will be covered by the donation from an anonymous donor, which has now been paid to BPC.

Fencing – The work on the fencing has been completed and looks much better. There is still work to be completed on the self-closing gate which has been retained.

Trees – Whilst some trees have been trimmed, there is still work to be done on some of the others. Birch trees growing up in the fence between the grass area and the BMX track are causing concern. However, if BPC trim or remove the birch trees, BPC may be inadvertently taking on the management of the additional outside facilities at the

Signature

Date

Memorial Hall.

T8. Countryside.

Posts in the Pang – The posts in the river, slightly upstream of the ford, are still deterring 4x4 users from driving up the river. It was agreed that this no longer needs to be an agenda item.

Rights of Way – A very small rising bollard has been installed at the southern end of Holly Lane; questions were asked about who has done this as it is not common land. The byways on the Ridgeway are closed to all motorised traffic in the winter under a TRO. In Bucklebury, the byways have only been closed to vehicles of more than three wheels over the winter; BPC feel it would be better if the byways were closed to all motorised vehicles. Cllr. Cairns will follow this up with WBC and the Commons Advisory Committee.

HC

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting.

OJM Farm Contractors	£938.40	Cutting of Meadows hedge and replacement of gate post.
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F3. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd	£5.32	Streetlights – electricity.
S. Poole	£3.00	Delivery of Berry’s Road Oaks.
Heartstart Thatcham	£350.00	Contribution for the defibrillator management.
St. Martins Club	£250.00	Donation.
Helen Pratt	£523.79	Clerk’s February salary.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£145.77	Pension contribution.
Helen Pratt	£204.00	Expenses (1/4/2018 – 28/2/2019)

F4. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£41,197.15	
Lloyds Current Account:	£38,780.44	On 20 th February 2019.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£37,832.71	On 20 th February 2019.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,738.60	On 1 st July 2018.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,578.54	On 1 st July 2018.

F5. Donation for the BMX Track.

The Clerk reported that an anonymous donation of £5,000 has been received for the future maintenance of the BMX track. It was agreed that this money should be moved into a separate account for transparency.

HP

REPORTS

RP1. Memorial Hall.

Cllr. Brims attended the Memorial Hall meeting and reported that there had been a decline in ad hoc bookings of the hall, but up until the closure of pre-school there had been an increase in block bookings.

Booking payments can now be made via PayPal. There will be an increase in rent for block bookers and for use of the Committee Room. This year, there is expected to be a net loss of £1,100. A number of users don’t book/pay for the time it takes them to set up and then clear up afterwards; this is being considered further.

It was agreed that the work required on the fire alarm system is a capital project and therefore BPC grant money could be used for this work.

The Memorial Hall Committee will not carry out fund raising activities unless there is a specific sub-committee.

RP2. Gigaclear.

Cllr. Banks reported that Gigaclear won’t be carrying out any work in Morton’s Lane in the near future; only three residents have requested the service. Installation in Morton’s Lane would have to be commercially viable because it is already covered by BT’s

Signature

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infinity service since the cabinet serving Morton's Lane has been upgraded.

RP3. Patient Participation Group.

Cllr. Dickens reported that a survey had been carried out of the patients' views of the surgery in order to identify any areas which needed to be investigated prior to a "no notice" Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection. Several hundred surveys were completed.

RP4. Bucklebury Primary School.

It was reported that an OFSTED inspection took place last week.

RP5. Best of Bucklebury.

Cllr. Frankum reported that preparations are going well for the Best of Bucklebury weekend. A number of residents have agreed to open their gardens for the event.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Recycling.

It was reported that Sainsburys has a recycling bin for plastic which Veolia don't collect. It was suggested that having a bin in Bucklebury would enable more people to recycle more easily. HP

RT2. Wine Tasting evening – Saturday 23rd March.

There are a limited number of tickets available for the event.

RT3. Parking at Chapel Row.

The stones have now been replaced outside of the café, preventing parking on the grass immediately outside the cafe. However, there is insufficient parking for the Blade Bone and the Blackbird Café at peak times.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Date of next Planning Committee: 7.45pm Monday 25th March 2019.

Date of next BPC meeting: 7.45pm Monday 8th April 2019.

Signature

Date