

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. A. Hillerton;  
Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. T. Banks; Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. R. Ranken; Cllr. B. Unamba-Oparah;  
District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

Fiona MacCallum

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received and approved from Cllr. T. Slatford.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Updates to Register of Interests.

There were no updates to the register of interests.

D2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

Cllr. Spours declared an interest in planning application 19/02636/FULD for the site of the former Abbey View.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Brims.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Bucklebury Planning Committee meeting which took place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. December Meeting.

The December meeting will start at the earlier time of 7.30pm, so that seasonal refreshments can be enjoyed after the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Hillerton would provide glasses and mulled wine, and Cllr. Ranken would provide mince pies.

HC  
AH  
RR

CH2. Thatcham Town Council.

At a recent event Cllr. Dickens reported that he had met Mike Cole, Mayor of Thatcham who is keen to build closer relations with neighbouring parishes. As a result, Cllr. Dickens will be meeting Cllr. Cole on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Defibrillators.

Heartstart Thatcham are in the process of handing over ownership and management of the defibrillators they own to parish councils and community groups. The management includes insurance, checking them on a regular basis and replacing the pads and batteries as necessary. At least two guardians need to be identified for each defibrillator to carry out the necessary checks and to act as a liaison with the ambulance service in the case of the defibrillator being used.

In Bucklebury Parish we have three defibrillators situated at the Blade Bone, Peaches Stores and the Victory Room.

Cllr. Spours volunteered to be a guardian for the defibrillator at the Blade Bone and Cllr. Unamba for the one at the Victory Room.

It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire from Nick Young, the Heartstart Thatcham Scheme co-ordinator who the current guardians. This item would be on the agenda for

HP

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future meetings.

CL2. West Berkshire Brewery.

The tour of West Berkshire Brewery will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Places have been offered and accepted from current and past parish councillors and their partners.

Cllr. Hillerton will organise the community minibus to transport the majority of the party to and from the brewery.

AH

CL3. Tennis Club Contact.

The Clerk reported that Mike James has written to BPC in appreciation of the grant for tennis coaching of Bucklebury School pupils. He has now stood down as Chairman of Bucklebury Tennis Club and Robin London has taken over.

## PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

P1. 19/02631/HOUSE Ramblers, Little Lane.

*Retrospective electric gates and fence.*

It was suggested that the new fence and gates are very imposing.

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application but suggests that planting would soften the impact of the fence.

P2. 19/02636/FULD Site of Former Abbey View.

*Two storey detached 3 bedroom dwelling with car port, parking and garden.*

This application is for a house which is larger than the approved application for the same site. The glazing overlooking High Barrow has been reduced from previous applications.

The meeting was **closed** for Mr. Spours to speak.

Mr. Spours commented that he and his wife are not objecting to the current application but have requested that a number of conditions are put on any permission granted.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application but that any planning approval should be subject to a condition to remove permitted development rights.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P4. 19/02097/FUL St. Crispins Farm, Chapel Row.

*Section 73: Variation of condition 2 'approved plans' and 3 'materials' of previously approved application 18/02034/FUL: Section 73: Variation of condition 2 'approved plans' and 3 'materials' of previously approved application 17/01905/FUL: Demolition of the existing house and replacement with a simplified form with double pitched roof.*

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

P5. 19/02129/HOUSE Hartlands, Burdens Heath.

*Single storey and first floor extensions and new roof over garage for domestic storage.*

This application was amended such that the garage component of the application was removed.

BPC **objected** to this application on the grounds of the garage and the first-floor extension; however, the amended application has been **approved**.

P6. Bucklebury Vision.

The revised version of Bucklebury Vision was considered for an individual portfolio member's decision on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Subject to it not being "called in" by 7<sup>th</sup> November, it has been approved.

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Damage caused by 4x4s.

Notices and heras fencing are now in place to restrict use of the byways which are covered by Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). District Cllr. Pask reported that he shared the frustration of councillors that this was not done by the 31<sup>st</sup> October when the TROs came into effect. It was suggested that the TROs should start earlier in the year and come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

WBC has allocated extra resources to the project and Gerry Hammersley has been assigned to look at the damage caused by 4x4s in the parish and what can be done to improve the situation. District Cllr. Pask reported that he had met with Mr. Hammersley and Simon Barnett (BBOWT) and visited the worst affected areas: Ramsbury Corner, Holly Lane byway, the fishponds and the byway from Pease Hill west towards Vanners. At the fishponds, vehicles are actually driving on the bridleway, across the bund between the ponds. The possibility of additional removable posts was mentioned. Downgrading byways has also been considered, but this is a lengthy process and very expensive. The Police have been called on a number of occasions, but the vehicles need to be caught by the Police. District Cllr. Pask has raised the issue with the Area Commander Nick Johns and it is hoped that there will be a police operation. Anyone who sees vehicles on the Common was asked to report it to the Police on 101. PCSO Sarah Preston is sending letters to registered keepers of vehicles which look like they may have been on the Common, advising them that such action is illegal.

DC2. Local Plan.

The revised local plan sites will be going out for review in the New Year. The Local Plan is a priority as WBC must continue to be a Plan led authority (where there is a current Local Plan).

TOPICS

T1. Recycling in the Parish.

Cllr. Cairns reported that 2.5Kg of bottle tops (approximately 1,250) have been collected to date.

Concerns have been raised about the bin in the kitchen at the Memorial Hall because they encourage members of the public, rather than hall users, to enter the hall and the kitchen which causes a potential security issue. It was agreed that a bin would be placed outside both the Memorial Hall and the Victory Room for the collection of the bottle tops to prevent this problem. Cllr. Cairns will purchase two bins for £9.00 per bin.

Posters will be put on the noticeboards advising parishioners of the collection and an article put on the website.

HC  
HP

T2. Speeding in the Parish.

Cllr. Banks reported that a productive meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. District Cllr. Pask has met with Area Inspector Nick Young who is sympathetic to the Speed Watch Campaign.

Cllr. Clarke is collecting the Speed Indicator Device (SID) from WBC and it will be used in the parish for the next week to collect data from a number of locations around the parish. The data collected will determine the next steps.

LC

Letters have been sent to Brockhurst and Marlston House Schools and Elstree School to try and determine what could be done to reduce both the volume and speed of traffic. A meeting with Bucklebury School has been organised at which it is hoped that a poster competition to educate parents will be discussed. Support from BPC with prizes of book tokens totalling £50.00 was requested; this was approved. Marking community entrances with planting gives a sense of place and it was agreed that this would be explored further. Road markings are also being considered.

The next meeting of the working group will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

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- T3. Combating Loneliness.  
 It was agreed that a coffee morning be introduced to help combat loneliness in the parish. Suggestions included that it run from both the Memorial Hall and the Victory Room, and that the Community minibus could be used. AH  
 Cllr. Hillerton, the Clerk and Fiona MacCullum will produce a proposal for the December meeting, with a view to the first coffee morning being held in February. HP  
 FM
- T4. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.  
 It was noted that suitable vegetation is covering the area in the Hockett Field where the BMX track was cleared.
- T5. Cemetery and Chapel.  
 The Clerk reported that CR Landscapes have installed the bench in the new Cemetery. **Cemetery Carols (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December)** – It was agreed that the Chapel would be decorated at 10am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December and tidied up after the event at 10am on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.  
 Cllr. Brims offered to collect the thermos urn from Graham Plank and deliver it to the Beesons prior to the event.  
 Cllr. Cairns will purchase recyclable paper cups for mulled wine and night lights for the jam jars.
- T6. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.  
**Update on weekly inspections** – Cllr. Hillerton reported that no new issues had arisen during weekly inspections of the playpark.  
**Refurbishment of the igloo climbing frame** – The igloo climbing frame has been rubbed down and is ready for painting when there are suitable weather conditions.
- T7. Countryside  
**Path between Briff Lane and Roundfield** - This path has been cleared.  
**Damage by the ford** – Vehicles are entering the river, and then driving out over the bank. It was agreed that either a log needs to be placed on the bank, or three posts placed in the river immediately adjacent to the ford, both of which have been granted permission by the Environment Agency. It was agreed that up to £250 could be spent on work to deter vehicles from this action. RR  
 LC

#### FINANCE

- F1. Cheques signed since the last meeting:  
 The Alpha Xperience £397.00 Replacement cheque.
- F2. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:  
 Bucklebury Memorial Hall £90.80 Rent for meetings 1/8/19 to 31/12/19.  
 Post Office Ltd. £5.56 SSE, power for streetlights 2/10/19 to 1/11/19.  
 Hilary Cairns £25.00 Five caddies for recycling bottle tops.  
 Helen Pratt £523.79 Clerk's October salary.  
 Berkshire Pension Fund £155.19 October pension contribution.
- F3. To review current balances and financial position.  
 Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £55,123.09  
 Lloyds Current Account: £57,012.98 On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
 Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows. £36,904.98 On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.  
 Scottish Widows Reserve Account: £37,741.43 On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.  
 Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: £4,578.89 On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

#### REPORTS

- RP1. District Parish Conference.  
 The District Parish Conference was about Community Resilience and included information about Emergency Plans. Several projects were shared which showed how engagement with the local community could be achieved and ways to go about it.

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RP2. Victory Room.

The Victory Room AGM will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. New proposals for an extension and recladding will be presented. The new proposals will require a new planning application. Subject to the new proposals being well received at the AGM it is hoped that BPC would be willing to be the applicant of the planning application.

RP3. Chapel Row Patient Participation Group (PPG).

Cllr. Dickens reported that Chapel Row Surgery has joined with other rural surgeries, enabling them to buy in a greater range of expertise for patients. There is now a new stroke support service based in Tilehurst.

RP4. WBC Climate Change Conference.

Cllr. Cairns attended the WBC Climate Change Conference. There was an interesting talk from Sarah Perry who manages the WBC contact with Veolia. It was suggested that waste and recycling would be a good subject for the talk at the Annual Assembly.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Bucklebury Community Bus.

Cllr. Hillerton reported that Bucklebury Community Bus is now registered with Amazon Smile and encouraged everyone to sign up to it. A small percentage of each purchase is donated to your selected charity at no extra cost.

RT2. Museum of English Rural Life (MERL).

Cllr. Southgate reported that MERL had contacted him and asked if it would be possible to write up the restoration of the cast iron grave markers in the Cemetery. In order to do this, use was made of the catalogue of information MERL holds. This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

**Date of next Planning Committee:**

**7.45pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

**Date of Next BPC meeting:**

**7.45pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

Signature .....

Date .....