

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

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

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 9th December 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Tim Banks.

Cllr. Dickens reported that he had reluctantly accepted Tim Banks's resignation from BPC. Tim has now sold his house and is in the process of moving out of the area. He has been a councillor for 7½ years and has worked on the Communications Policy and on IT; he's always been willing to help and get jobs done.

CH2. Grit Bins.

Cllr. Southgate and the Clerk were thanked for their work with the grit bins. Cllr. Southgate has laid paving slabs under the new grit bin at the junction of Briff Lane and Turners Green and under the replacement bins on Pease Hill and at the junction of Sadgrove Lane and Briff Lane.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Defibrillators.

Once two guardians have been found for each of the three defibrillators, the Clerk will organise with Heartstart Thatcham for someone to come out and run a session on how to check the defibrillators and what the guardians need to do.

Cllr. Spours and Cllr. Brims have agreed to be the guardians for the Chapel Row defibrillator.

PS
JB

Cllr. Unamba and Cllr. Clarke have agreed to be the guardians for the Bucklebury Village defibrillator.

BU
LC

It has been suggested that Hash Shingadia and/or Keith Arnold might be interested in being a guardian of the Peaches defibrillator. This might be a role for the new parish councillor.

CL2. Annual Assembly – Friday 15th May 2020.

The Clerk reported that the Victory Room is booked for Friday 15th May from 7.30 to 10pm. The assembly will start at 7.45pm.

Cllr. Cairns will contact Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, the WBC waste manager and invite him to speak on waste in West Berkshire and the circular economy.

HC

The Clerk will contact Chapel Row surgery and invite Mr. Gomm and/or Dr. Lennox to give a 10 to 15-minute update on the surgery.

HP

CL3. Grit Bins.

Three new grit bins (two replacement and one new) were delivered to Cllr. Southgate,

Signature

Date

who has stencilled them and put them in position with three bags of grit in each. The bin near Byrons Chase on Carbinswood Lane has been moved to the farmpark (courtesy of Rupert Hartley Russell). This means a bin can be kept at the farm park and used by the tractor to spread grit on Pease Hill, as well as there being a bin on Pease Hill.

The Clerk has enquired with Rivar about filling grit bins, but they are not insured to fill grit bins and their grit is more expensive than Willis and Ainsworth. The Clerk will be contacting Willis and Ainsworth over the next few days to order grit to be delivered to either Bucklebury Farm Park or Cllr. Southgate's home, from where it can be delivered to the grit bins. Cllr. Southgate, with help from other councillors, is willing to distribute the grit to the bins.

HP

DS

CL4. New Councillor.

WBC has been informed of the vacancy on BPC and notices have been placed on the noticeboards in the West Ward giving parishioners the opportunity, should they so wish to request a by-election. They have 14 working days to make the request. If no such request is made to WBC, BPC will be free to co-opt a new councillor.

CL5. Bank Mandate.

The Clerk reported that Lloyds Bank have not yet processed the bank mandate, sent to them in October 2019 to add Cllr. Ranken, Cllr. Spours and Cllr. Unamba as signatories to the bank account. The bank said there was an issue with a signature so the Clerk requested that the form be returned in order for it to be resigned. No correspondence has been received from the bank since the mandate was sent.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

P1. 19/03051/HOUSE Shady Oak, Little Lane.

Replacement of flat roof over single storey bedroom with pitched, hipped roof.

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

P2. 19/03158/MINMAJ Harts Hill Copse, Burdens Heath.

Section 73: Variation of condition 1 – temporary permission 3 – approved plans and 28 – final levels of approved application

17/03493/MINMAJ: Section 73: Variation of condition 1 (time period of operations) of the appeal decision APP/U0300/A/88/93423 for extraction of hoggin from Land adjoining Harts Hill Road, to enable a satisfactory restoration scheme to be agreed, implemented and completed.

This application is for a 6 month extension to the existing permission from 31/12/2020 to 30/6/2021. It is proposed to extend the restoration scheme in line with the extension to 12 months after the final working.

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

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P4. 19/02636/FULD Site of Former Abbey View.

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

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

P5. 19/02300/MDOPO The Lodge, Donnington Close.

Modification of the obligation of the third schedule of planning permission 147230 varied under 03/02480/RELAX.

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

Signature

Date

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. District Cllr. Pask reported that he has been trying to obtain an update from Thames Water on the new pumping station at the bottom of Harts Hill. However, Huw Thomas has been on leave and Mathew People has been promoted so is no longer involved. Generally, since the relining of the pipe, the supply has been good, but there have been a number of reports of lower pressure between Christmas and the New Year. Cllr. Dickens commented that he was unimpressed with the way in which a pot hole report was handled by WBC. WBC took a very defensive attitude. District Cllr. Pask has spoken to Jon Winstanley, Head of Highways who commented that WBC was good at being reactive to pothole reports. At the last full council meeting of WBC, it was agreed that there would be no change to the current plastic recycling policy of WBC. It was reported that a number of other councils who recycle more types of plastics than WBC are putting them into landfill or incinerating them as there isn't a viable market for them. New rules will be introduced by the Government in 2023. It was agreed that the best action people can take is to demand that companies make packaging genuinely recyclable.

TOPICS

T1. Recycling in the Parish.

Cllr. Cairns reported that with the help of Cllr. Hillerton she had delivered 3.75Kg of bottle tops to RPCS (Rubber and Plastic Collection Services Ltd). However, it has transpired that RPCS can only take type 2 plastics. It was asked where the remaining plastics could go. It was agreed that, providing Cllr. Cairns was happy, collection of all plastic lids would continue, in order to keep the message simple. District Cllr. Pask applauded Cllr. Cairns for the work she has done and suggested that she contact Jana Little in Thatcham, who is willing to share the information she has on trying to get the message through to manufacturers. It was agreed that Cllr. Cairns would write to some of the companies and ask why their lids aren't recyclable. It was also agreed to ask Laura Farris MP and District Cllr. Pask to chivvy and demand that manufacturers change to using recyclable packaging. HC

At the Memorial Hall, there will be internal recycling bins, for hall users only. This material will be recycled using the Grundon bin; however, glass cannot be recycled using this service.

T2. Speeding in the Parish.

Cllr. Clarke commented that the speeding working group are very sorry to have lost Tim Banks as chairman of the group, however Cllr. Southgate has offered to take on the role. The poster competition in Bucklebury Primary School was launched by District Cllr. Pask and Alison Butcher. It is hoped that there will be four or five winning posters which can be reproduced and displayed around the parish.

The next meeting is to take place on Monday 21st January. Action is waiting on WBC to set up the sentinel cameras on Burdens Heath and at Chapel Row.

T3. Combating Loneliness.

The Oak Room has been booked for Thursday 27th February, 26th March, 30th April, 28th May, 25th June and 30th July. An article will go in The Oaks. Fliers will also be distributed to Peaches Stores and posters will be put on noticeboards.

It was suggested that contact is made with Erica Tipton, who is involved with the Chapel Row Community Group; they may be able to help support this venture. Cllr. Spours reported that a new Rector has been appointed to Donnington Close and he may be a good contact. HP

T4. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

The Clerk will be in contact with someone who lives in Thatcham and is listed on the Hedge Laying Society's website. Alex Cruickshank will also be contacted for more advice.

Signature

Date

Cllr. Hillerton commented that the Hockett Field does not look as healthy as the surrounding fields. It was questioned whether Alex Cruickshank could be asked about possibly carrying out a survey. HP

T5. Cemetery and Chapel.

Donations at Cemetery Carols resulted in £257.24 being split between the Bucklebury Community Bus, and Young People and Children First (via The Good Exchange), once the cost of the mulled wine was deducted. Cllr. Cairns reported that 106 paper cups were used, which indicates that approximately 100 people attended.

It was agreed that a working party would be held in the Cemetery to clear some more of the overgrown graves and cut back rhododendrons. This will be organised for February or March. BD

T6. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Update on weekly inspections – No new issues were reported.

Cllr. Hillerton commented that the igloo needs to be painted before the annual RoSPA inspection in April. The painting needs to be done in dry weather. The rust on the big bowl also needs to be brushed off prior to the inspection. AH

T7. Countryside

Rights of Way – No issues have been identified with any Rights of Way. It was suggested that something should go into The Oaks about the different classifications of Rights of Way and their meanings. The Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) can only stay in effect for six months, so if they come into effect earlier in the Autumn, they have to finish earlier in the Spring. Questions were asked about whether motorcycles can be included under the TTROs.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd	£11.12	SSE 2/11/19 – 2/1/2020.
Willis and Ainsworth	£374.96	3 x grit bins and 10 bags of grit.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£86.99	Rent for BPC business and coffee mornings.
David Southgate	£43.95	Stencilling and disposal of grit bins.
Bucklebury Community Bus	£628.62	BPC donation and donation from Cemetery Carols.
The Good Exchange Ltd	£128.62	Young People and Children First donation from Cemetery Carols.
The Victory Room	£17.50	Rent for Annual Assembly on 15/5/2020.
Helen Pratt	£523.79	Clerk's December salary and website subscription.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£155.19	December 2019 pension contribution.
West Berkshire Countryside Society	£500.00	Donation
St. Martins Club	£250.00	Donation
NWN Over 80's Parcel Fund	£100.00	Donation
Pang Valley Flood Forum	£100.00	Donation

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£52,145.95	
Lloyds Current Account:	£54,886.82	On 20 th December 2019.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£36,909.59	On 20 th December 2019.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,741.43	On 1 st April 2019.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,578.89	On 1 st April 2019.

F3. Budget for FY20/21.

It was resolved to accept the draft budget. This was proposed by Cllr. Cairns, seconded by Cllr. Brims and unanimously agreed.

F4. Precept for FY20/21.

There was a discussion about increasing the precept from £25,500 to £26,000. Cllr.

Signature

Date

Southgate proposed that the precept be increased to £26,000, this was seconded by Cllr. Spours and unanimously agreed.

REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

RT1. Memorial Hall.

Cllr. Brims reported that at the last meeting of the Memorial Hall committee, it was agreed to increase rent by 50p per hour for block bookers and by 5% for casual users. At the end of the financial year, it is predicted that the finances will break even or be at a slight loss,

Mike Scholl has agreed to get new quotes for the work required on the toilets.

RT2. Victory Room.

The Planning application for the extension and refurbishment of the hall is now ready to submit to WBC. The new hall will be located in the extension, the toilets in the north side of the existing hall and the meeting room on the south side of the existing hall which is also where the main entrance will be. This has the benefit that there will be less windows on the north side, possibly overlooking the Old Police House.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Dog Bin.

It has been suggested that a dog bin is placed just inside the entrance to the Memorial Hall carpark. The Clerk will contact Mike Scholl about the suggestion and get quotes for installation of a bin and emptying.

HP

RT2. Benches.

Cllr. Southgate commented that whilst using SID on the triangle at Chapel Row, he noticed two benches: one stand-alone (which is partially rotted through) and one round a tree which is not in the best of condition. These benches do not belong to BPC, but it was agreed that the ownership should be clarified. The Clerk will contact the Bucklebury Estate office to inquire.

HP

RT3. Pocketsights.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he has created an online tour of the grit bins using the "Pocketsights" app. This could be used to create one or more historic walking tours of the parish for visitors. It was agreed that Cllr. Southgate would send a link to the grit bin tour and look at setting up a group to discuss historic tours in Bucklebury.

DS

RT4. Burns Night Supper.

Cllr. Brims reported that tickets are still available for the Burns Night supper on Saturday 25th January.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Date of next Planning meeting: 7.45pm Monday 27th January 2020.

Date of next BPC meeting: 7.45pm Monday 10th February 2020.

Common Clearing: Saturday 28th March 2020.

Signature

Date