

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
held via video link on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 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. F. MacCallum; Cllr. R. Ranken; Cllr. B. Unamba-  
Oparah; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

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.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Public Session.

It was reported that this meeting was advertised on the website and if members of the public wanted to attend, they needed to contact the clerk for access arrangements.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Covid-19 Pandemic.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, before the lockdown of movements began, councillors agreed a flyer would be sent to each house in the parish giving details of each parish councillor and the clerk, who could be contacted for shopping, collection of prescriptions, dog walking, conversation etc. In addition, anyone able to help fellow parishioners was asked to contact the Clerk who would have a master list of volunteers. The flyer was produced and delivered to the majority of houses by the time the lockdown came into effect on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

As a result of the flyer (and with the help of the Bucklebury Facebook group), a list of approximately 80 volunteers has now been compiled. There was concern that there shouldn't be a "deafening silence" to the volunteers once they had come forwards, so they have been sent updates from Cllr. Dickens, the Clerk and forwarded the updates from the WBC Community Hub (the WBC support system during the Covid-19 pandemic).

Cllr. MacCallum reported that she had mainly been supporting people from the Roundfield area who weren't considered to be vulnerable by the Government or necessarily WBC. Once the bus service was stopped, some residents had no way of getting to Thatcham for shopping or to charge electric cards. Not all of these people are on line to access support channels and services available there. In addition, many people are proud of their independence and find it hard to ask for help.

Cllr. Spours reported that Chapel Row surgery are using the flyer of contact details to advise people who can collect prescriptions for them; this system is working well. Cllr. Hillerton commented that prescriptions are delivered to Hash Shingadia at Peaches stores for collection if this is arranged with the surgery in advance.

Cllr. Southgate reported that the WhatsApp group set up in Turners Green is working well and is being used by residents to offer and ask for help. There are a number of other local WhatsApp groups operating very successfully in the hamlets throughout the parish.

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Cllr. Hillerton commented that Suzie Poole has got a good system running in Berry's Road for shopping and prescriptions. She checks everything with Cllr. Hillerton beforehand, who commented that her organisation skills are excellent.

The Clerk reported that she is collecting 150 flyers produced by WBC advertising the Community Hub on Wednesday for some areas of the parish.

Cllr. Clarke raised concerns about residents of Donnington Close. Cllr. Spours commented that from reports he has received they are perfectly content and that there were no reports of any issues. It was agreed that flyers would be delivered to Donnington Close in addition to the other areas.

Cllr. MacCallum commented that food donated locally to the foodbank all goes to Newbury and that in order to access it, people in need have to make a journey to Newbury. As a result, she has considered the possibility of setting up a local foodbank for those in need. Cllr. Spours commented that a resident of Chapel Row is heavily involved in the Newbury Soup Kitchen and can help out in cases of need (the Clerk has contact details).

The Government has been sending out food parcels to shielded residents; these have been being distributed direct. They are being delivered to all shielded residents, even if they don't want them and it is very difficult to stop them being delivered and to remain on the supermarket priority list for shopping delivery slots. As a result, Government food parcels are being collected and redistributed locally in a number of cases.

## CLERK'S REPORT

### CL1. Annual Meeting of BPC.

At the Annual meeting of BPC, the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected. By law, this meeting normally has to take place before the end of May. Given the Covid-19 situation, councils can defer the Annual meeting until May 2021 if they wish.

Both Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Brims are happy to remain in post and it was therefore agreed that the next Annual meeting will be held in May 2021.

### CL2. Insurance.

BPC is under a three year contract with Came & Company Local Council Insurance. This will be the last year of the contract. The renewal premium is £888.28.

### CL3. Ownership of Defibrillators.

Local guardians are now in place for each of the defibrillators. The Clerk has contacted Nick Young from Heartstart Thatcham. He has suggested a video with explanations until a meeting can be organised. The guardians present at the meeting were happy to start carrying out the checks on the defibrillators once instructions have been received.

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### CL4. Dog Bin at the Memorial Hall.

Once there is more freedom of movement, quotes will be obtained for installation and emptying of a dog bin at the Memorial Hall.

### CL5. Annual Assembly (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May).

In view of the Covid-19 situation, it has been agreed to postpone the Annual Parish Assembly until there is more freedom of movement.

### CL6. Notification of additional Role.

The Clerk advised BPC that she has taken on the role of Clerk to Bradfield Parish Council.

## PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

P1. 20/00849/HOUSE Nine Elms Cottage, The Avenue.

*Two storey extension.*

Cllr. Brims presented this application and gave a summary of the extensive planning history of the site. This application has a smaller footprint than application 19/01216/HOUSE which has previously been approved. Parts of earlier planning approval (in particular the

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conservatory and the annexe) have been developed, but aren't shown on the existing plans. This application uses flat roof dormer windows in order to gain head space on the first floor.

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application, providing it is developed instead of application 19/01216/HOUSE.

- P2. 20/00852/HOUSE The Old Travellers Rest, Southend (Bradfield Parish Council).  
*Demolition of three unsafe timber outbuildings, construction of a replacement timber car port/garage, single storey extension to the rear of the building single storey extension to the side of the building and alterations including modifications and replacement of the windows.*  
This application includes the proposal to render the existing building and extension, and to install replacement green PVC windows. Whilst there is no objection to the change in the access or to the building, BPC **objects** to the change in the character this application will bring to the building.
- P3. 20/00707/HOUSE Autumn Cottage, Briff Lane.  
*Rear extension.*  
BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P4. 20/00603/HOUSE Orchard Gate, Little Lane.  
*Replacement pool building.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application.
- P5. 20/00610/FUL Peaches Garage, Long Grove.  
*Conversion of ground floor of existing building to provide 4 no. residential units and associated development including parking, outdoor amenity space, landscaping and external alterations. Removal of existing canopy, signage and glazed shopfront.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P6. 20/00407/HOUSE 18 Berry's Road.  
*Single storey extension to create extended sitting area, study and utility room.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 20/00261/FUL Middlewood, Hatch Lane.  
*Section 73a: Variation/Removal of Condition 1 – Temporary Consent of previously approved application 16/03176/FUL: Change of use of land to residential for the positioning of a temporary mobile home as a forestry worker's dwelling (application for 3 years).*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P8. 20/00170/FUL Bucklebury Village Hall, Bucklebury (The Victory Room).  
*Demolition/removal of existing toilets and storage area. Construction of a new extension to accommodate a new hall. The existing hall will be converted to accommodate a small hall/meeting room, storage, ladies, gents and disabled toilets and a new kitchen.*  
BPC **supported** this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P9. 20/00264/HOUSE Ramblers, Little Lane.  
*Retrospective approval of electric gates. Removal of unlawful fence and set back 1.5m. Plant mixed native hedge.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P10. 19/03101/CERTE Foxhold.  
*Extension of curtilage to include boundary of whole property.*  
BPC had **no comments** to make on this application which has been

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refused by WBC.

- P11. 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.*  
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P12. 19/00832/REM – Land Adjacent to Summerfield, The Ridge (Cold Ash Parish).  
Cllr. MacCallum reported that she had attended the Western Area Planning Committee site meeting for this application, but that the associated Planning Meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown. At the site meeting there was large turnout of local people who were bad tempered at WBC's handling of the application and these people needed to have their voices heard at a public meeting. District Cllr. Pask commented that the principle of access to the site had already been approved. Details of how area planning meetings will be conducted during the Covid-19 situation are still being determined.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- DC1. District Cllr. Pask reported that there is a meeting on Wednesday to determine how video meetings with a large number of people and potentially public participation will be conducted by WBC.  
Planning officers are working remotely from home and no longer making site visits. Orange notices are being posted to applicants, who are then requested to put them up and take photographs of the advertising notices.  
WBC is losing between £750,000 and £1,000,000 a month in income from parking etc during the lockdown, but there is alternative money coming in from Central Government. A number of people are asking why the Household Waste Centres (tips) are closed. WBC has prioritised kerbside collection of waste and both the grey bin and recycling services at the kerbside have been maintained (this is not the case in the Reading or Bracknell areas). Veolia are themselves short staffed due to the Covid-19 situation, and journeys to the Waste Centres are not considered to be essential.  
It was however noted that WBC is collecting fly tipping once it has been reported.

#### TOPICS

- T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.  
Cutting the hay on the meadows and the Hockett Field may pose problems this year if the lockdown continues.
- T2. Cemetery and Chapel.  
The Cemetery working party was cancelled (as was the Spring Common Clearing session). The Clerk reported that the maintenance contractor has been in and cut the grass.
- T3. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.  
Cllr. Hillerton reported that the litter bin had caught fire due to the disposal of a hot BBQ. This has been discussed with PCSO Sarah Preston. Her view was that BPC is doing the right thing with the Playpark and BMX track. She will try and ensure Police patrols cover the rear of the Memorial Hall when passing. DS  
The recent RoSPA inspection has raised no new issues. Cllr. Hillerton commented that a lot of the equipment is becoming old and tired and consideration should be given to some replacement equipment at some stage in the near future.  
It was also reported that young people are meeting on the mounds on the Common; contrary to the Covid-19 social isolation rules.

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It was agreed that everyone would keep a discrete eye on these things.

## FINANCE

- F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:
- |   |         |  |
|---|---------|--|
| Post Office Ltd                         | £5.32   | Electricity for streetlights (4/2/2020 to 2/3/2020). |
| West Berkshire District Council         | £67.50  | Emptying of dog bins.                                |
| The Alpha Xperience                     | £76.50  | Printing of Covid-19 flyers.                         |
| Playsafety Ltd                          | £168.60 | RoSPA inspection of playpark and bike track.         |
| Hampshire Association of Local Councils | £12.00  | Training update.                                     |
| Helen Pratt                             | £523.79 | Clerk's March salary.                                |
| Berkshire Pension Fund                  | £155.19 | March 2020 pension contribution.                     |
| Post Office Ltd                         | £5.44   | Electricity for streetlights (3/3/2020 to 1/4/2020). |
- F2. To review current balances and financial position.
- Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £49,072.60
- Lloyds Current Account: £50,064.12 On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows. £36,915.77 On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Scottish Widows Reserve Account: £37,745.21 On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.
- Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: £4,579.35 On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.
- F3. Internal Audit.
- Erica Tipton has kindly agreed, once again, to carry out the internal audit of BPC, before PKF Littlejohn carry out the external auditor.

## ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

### RT1. GLEAM.

It was confirmed that BPC would be paying annual membership of GLEAM of £15.00 for the coming year.

### RT2. Flooding of Brocks Lane between the two fords.

Cllr. Ranken reported that both Gordon Munroe Ashman and Andreas Hempell had raised concern to him about the fact that Brocks Lane between the two fords has been flooded since the middle of March. It was suggested that this was because the Pang had not been cleared out between the fords because permission for this work would be required from the Environment Agency. Cllr. Brims commented that he had seen a reference to Piers Allison (the Bucklebury flood warden) saying it was due to trees blocking the river between the main ford and Bucklebury Village. It was agreed that Cllr. Ranken would contact Piers Allison directly to clarify the situation.

RR

### RT3. Speeding Posters.

Cllr. Southgate commented that the speeding posters were still up. There was a suggestion that they should be taken down, but on the grounds that whilst the volume of traffic has decreased, the speed of it has increased it was agreed that they would remain in situ. It was felt that once the lockdown restrictions are lifted there is likely to be greater need for the Speed Working Group.

### RT4. WhatsApp Group for BPC.

It was agreed that a WhatsApp group for BPC would be useful. The Clerk will set this up.

HP

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45pm.  
The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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