

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
held via video link on Monday 8th June 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. T. Slatford;
District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

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 27th April 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 27th April 2020 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Thames Water.

Cllr. Dickens commented that there had been a major water leak in The Slade on Thursday 4th June 2020. Cllr. Cairns commented that she had reported it online to Thames Water at 3.30am. Other residents of The Slade then reported it via phone at 6.30am, 7.30am and 9.00am; each resident was told by Thames Water that they weren't aware of the leak. Work was being carried out on the pumps at the bottom of Harts Hill on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th June. The leak has now been repaired, but the road surface needs to be reinstated. A few households in The Slade had no water but the majority suffered from low pressure as a result of the leak.

Cllr. Spours commented that a number of groups of houses in Chapel Row and along the Avenue periodically suffer from low pressure. Over the weekend, Thames Water have dug up the road, outside the Blade Bone to replace the valve with a larger one which should resolve the pressure problems.

Approximately two weeks ago, there was a problem with the pumps affecting Upper Bucklebury. This was caused by a power issue with the pumps and was resolved quickly by Thames Water.

CH2. Recycling.

Cllr. Dickens enquired about the recycling of plastic bottle tops. Cllr. Cairns reported that Rubber and Plastics Collection Services had been working through the pandemic. The next batch of bottle tops/lids will be delivered in about a month's time.

CH3. Covid-19 Pandemic.

A number of parishioners continue to be supported on an as needed basis by the volunteers. The Clerk is in regular contact with all of the official volunteers, sending out the weekly updates from the WBC hub via email. Other people, who are not official volunteers are in many cases helping neighbours. Cllr. MacCallum raised concern that there may still be people who haven't been reached in the parish and another circular was considered. Cllr. Dickens agreed to contact Paul Gomm at Chapel Row Surgery and ask

BD

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for assistance to identify those who may need a little extra help and support.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Defibrillators.

It was resolved that BPC will take on ownership and management of the three defibrillators. Instructions for the guardians to carry out the regular inspections have been supplied by Heartstart Thatcham. The guardian forms for each defibrillator need to be signed by the guardians and returned to the ambulance service.

The Clerk will write to Heartstart Thatcham and confirm the transfer of ownership. HP

CL2. Dog Bin at the Memorial Hall.

The Clerk circulated details of quotes for installing a dog bin at the Memorial Hall and emptying it. The Clerk has discussed the location of the bin with Mike Scholl, Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee.

It was resolved to accept the quote for installation of a bin from Externiture Ltd for £374.50 plus VAT. The Clerk will verify whether the quote for emptying the dog bin includes disinfecting and replacement liners, with a view to accepting the quote. HP

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

- P1. 20/01166/LBC2 Hill House Farm, Hopgoods Green.
Works to replace window sills, window frames and glazing. Works to porch on south and north elevations and dormer on western elevation.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application, but will comment that the building is visible from the road (contrary to the planning application) and that all of the tile and lead window sills should be maintained where this is possible.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P2. 20/00852/HOUSE The Old Travellers Rest, Southend.
Demolition of three unsafe timber outbuildings, construction of a replacement timber car port/garage, two single storey extensions to the rear of the building, single storey extension to the side of the building and alterations including modifications and replacement of windows.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P3. 20/00058/HOUSE Corner Croft, Little Lane.
Replacement of existing wooden and wire fencing and posts with a 1.8m closed board wooden fence and posts adjacent to Little Lane, Upper Bucklebury.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P4. 19/00832/REM Land Adjacent to Summerfield, The Ridge (Adjacent Parish).
Approval of reserved matters following outline permission 16/02529/OUTD – Change of use of part of existing agricultural field to residential and the erection of 5 no/ detached dwelling houses with ancillary garages, access, parking, landscaping and associated works.
Matters seeking consent – Access, landscaping and scale.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by the Western Area Planning Committee.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. District Cllr. Pask reported that the planning department are working as normal, with officers working from home.

The household waste plants have reopened on an appointment basis. The glass recycling bins which were in a number of local supermarket carparks have been removed due to issues with the company providing them.

BBOWT has reopened Snelsmore and Greenham Commons, but there are issues with

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reopening the carpark at the Discovery Centre.

Works have started today on resurfacing work at Chapel Row, requiring the road to be completely closed. Concern was raised that the postman and various deliveries had been turned back. The Project Manager has been informed of the issue and the contractors will be asked to accommodate requests where possible, although there will inevitably be some disruption. There are also major roadworks going on at the A4/Hambridge Road junction, where a new road layout is being put in place.

Speeding traffic has recently become more of a problem throughout the area. As a result, random police checks have been requested.

Random groups of motorcycles have been seen on the Common which are probably not legal, these need to be reported to the Police.

WBC is preparing for a second spike in the number of Covid-19 cases. The support hub has left Newbury Rugby Club and is now working out of the Council Offices.

Cllr. Clarke commented that it was a pity there hadn't been more notice of the resurfacing works at Chapel Row so that some speed deterrent tarmac strips could be added to the surface.

Cllr. Brims commented that the diversion signs (for the Chapel Row closure), at the top of Pease Hill obscure the site lines.

The road closure which was planned for the road from Chapel Row through Hillfoot to Bucklebury for the SSE lines to be put underground has been delayed until at least the end of July. During the delay, the diversion (which was via Briff Lane) is being reviewed.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

The Clerk reported that Pete Cane will be cutting the meadows and the Hockett field for hay this year. Cllr. Southgate questioned whether the Hockett Field was worth cutting this year. This Clerk will discuss this with Mr. Cane.

HP

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

Approximately 200 tyres were dumped on the track to the vehicular entrance to the Cemetery off Byles Green on the night of the 3rd/4th June. These were reported to WBC and removed promptly. Cllr. Southgate suggested that it may be worth BPC considering a lockable pin/bollard be installed to prevent such easy access to the track.

The Clerk was asked whether CR Landscapes are still maintaining the Cemetery and if they are whether they are strimming the cleared woodland area in the new Cemetery; the Clerk will check with CR Landscapes.

HP

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Cllr. Southgate is trying to source wood to replace the bench in the base of the multi-play unit. Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Southgate have rubbed down and repainted the blue igloo climbing frame and the supporting column under the metal bowl. The metal panels of the youth shelter have been repainted and bolted into place (they had a tendency to pop out at the base). The remainder of the shelter would benefit from being painted.

DS

The small trees between the playpark and the BMX track have also been removed.

Roger Malloy of Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care has quoted £480 to carry out work (raise the crowns and remove dead wood) on the larger trees in the playpark. This quote was accepted and the work will be carried out on the 15th June.

Cllr. Hillerton is hoping to organise a competition for local youths to design artwork for the panels on the shelter.

The bins in the playpark and by the youth shelter are emptied by the cleaner of the Memorial Hall, and the contents are put the Memorial Hall bin. However, due to the current situation, the cleaner is not at the hall as frequently, so the bins are not being emptied so frequently. Cllr. Hillerton volunteered to collect the litter and put it in the main hall bin as required.

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T4. Environment.

Flooding around the ford – Piers Allison was consulted about the level of the Pang around Bucklebury Ford, where Brocks Lane had been under water for months as have the adjacent fields. Mr. Allison said the high-water level was caused by the amount of weed in the river between the main ford and Bucklebury village. Two working parties have been organised to remove the weed between Walnut Tree Cottages and Bucklebury Village. This work has reduced the level of the water, but it is still very high and flooding the field to the south of the river between the ford and Walnut Tree Cottages. The gradient of this stretch of river is very shallow and to carry out the necessary work, a permit from the Environment Agency is required. Gordon Munroe Ashman has had an application for a man-made Channel order refused and is pursuing the matter with the Environment Agency.

Cycling on the Common – A parishioner has raised concerns about people cycling on footpaths on the Common. Whilst out walking with her 3-year-old grandson who was ahead, fast cyclists had been observed coming towards them and subsequently a further cyclist coming from the opposite direction. Luckily the toddler was taken to the side of the path and the cyclists stopped in time, but cyclists (and horse riders) pose a risk to pedestrians. A comment was made that horse riders and cyclists must give way to pedestrians on bridleways and byways.

Fingerposts – It was reported that there is a decreasing number of fingerposts around the parish showing the routes for public rights of way. Approximately 25 years ago, a parish councillor took on the task of replacing a significant number of them, but these have now generally rotted at the base. The Clerk will contact Sallie Jennings (WBC) and find out what the best process is to get the fingerposts reinstated/replaced.

HP

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------|
| Came and Company | £888.28 | Insurance. |
| CPRE | £100 | Membership. |
| GLEAM | £15.00 | Membership. |
| West Berkshire District Council | £150.00 | Uncontested election charges. |
| Post Office | £5.44 | Streetlights electricity (2/4/2020 – 1/5/2020) |
| Helen Pratt | £523.79 | Clerk's April salary. |
| Berkshire Pension Fund | £155.19 | April 2020 pension contribution. |
| Hampshire Association of Local Councils Ltd | £508.08 | BALC and NALC membership |
| Helen Pratt | £523.79 | Clerk's May salary. |
| Berkshire Pension Fund | £155.19 | May 2020 pension contribution. |
| Bucklebury Memorial Hall | £242.01 | Grass cutting at playpark. |

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: | £60,163.02 | |
| Lloyds Current Account: | £62,962.30 | On 20 th May 2020. |
| Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows. | £36,917.39 | On 20 th May 2020. |
| Scottish Widows Reserve Account: | £37,745.21 | On 1 st April 2020. |
| Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: | £4,579.35 | On 1 st April 2020. |

REPORTS

RP1. Victory Room.

Funding for the renovation works and extension of the Victory Room has been helped by VAT relief for the project being approved, and a grant from ACRE of £35,000. This leaves a further £20,000 to be raised.

Some of the money ringfenced for the Victory Room within the BPC funds will be used

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to top up the donations made to Good Exchange to £50,000. The Good Exchange are then matching these funds.

There are currently no plans to hold a Beerfest this year; if there is one, it will be organised at the last minute.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Burnt Out Cars.

There was a car burnt out on Holly Lane. The car has been collected by WBC. There has also been a burnt-out car on the Briff Farm track where bridleway 28 crosses it. The police attended and the vehicle has been removed.

RT2. Tree Branch on BT Cables.

A branch resting on BT cables in the Slade has been reported to BBOWT.

RT3. Grit Bin.

A resident who lives in The Slade has asked if it would be possible to replace the yellow grit bin on the hill in The Slade with a green one. It was agreed that the Clerk would look at sourcing a green grit bin to replace the yellow one, which can then be used as a spare. HP

RT4. Victory Room Car Park.

Cllr. Brims reported that part of the Victory Room is being resurfaced, such that the gravel at the entrance is not dragged out into the road by vehicles. The possibility of a gate to stop anti-social behaviour is being discussed, but this would have the disadvantage that someone has to open it first thing in the morning and close it last thing at night or after any events.

RT5. Injury at Stile.

Cllr. Clarke reported that a lady had been injured at a stile on footpath BUCK 118/1. As a result, an ambulance was called which took the lady to hospital. The stile has since been removed.

RT6. Map of the Parish.

Cllr. Clarke asked if any progress had been made with a map for Bucklebury Parish, similar to that which exists for Bradfield, showing the location of houses in the parish. It was noted that the WBC online map has the level of detail required, but can't easily be printed out. The Clerk will enquire with WBC whether it might be possible to print out larger sections of the WBC map. HP

RT7. Speeding in the Parish.

Cllr. Southgate questioned when WBC will follow up the use of SID in the parish, showing that there were issues warranting Graham Markham's attention. Cllr. Clarke will contact Graham Markham and pursue the matter. LC

RT8. Conservation Area Appraisals.

Cllr. MacCallum commented that she is interested in being involved with carrying out the appraisal of the conservation area in Bucklebury Village. It was agreed that Cllr. MacCallum, Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Clarke would look at what is required for the appraisal. The Clerk will contact Debra Inston from WBC who sent out the information about Conservation Area Appraisal Toolkits. HP

The next meeting will take place on Monday 13th July 2020 at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Date