

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
held using Zoom on Monday 13th July 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. T. Slatford; Cllr. B. Unamba-
Oparah; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Ranken.

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 8th June 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 8th June 2020 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. District Parish Conference.

Cllr. Dickens reported that he had attended a virtual District Parish Conference held earlier in the evening about WBC's Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP). It was noted that the country is now in a "control and recovery" phase. This phase is expected to last for approximately 18 months.

A Covid-19 test unit has been set up at Newbury Show Ground. Results should be available within 24 hours, however there were reports of results taking up to 96 hours when they are over a weekend.

There are just over 20,000 people in the very vulnerable group in West Berkshire. These people have been supported by the Community Hub and local volunteer groups where support has been required. Issues were raised by a number of parishes about how they could identify those who would benefit from a little help, but may be reluctant to ask.

A West Berkshire residents' survey was carried out which had 3,000 responses. These responses did not identify the location where the residents were from. A second survey is due to take place in September and this will contain a question about the area respondents are from.

CH2. The Oaks.

The next edition of The Oaks will be delivered to homes in early September. The articles in this edition will be aimed towards what people have been doing during lockdown.

CH3. Parking at the junction of Roundfield and Little Lane.

Dominic Murphy (the developer of a number of properties in Roundfield) has raised questions about what could be done to improve the parking provision for the residents of the Roundfield bungalows at the junction with Little Lane. The suggestion of hedge removal and construction of parking bays has been made. Mr. Murphy (who unfortunately couldn't attend the meeting) has paid over £50,000 in CIL money to WBC and wondered whether any of this could be used to improve the situation.

BPC will receive 10% of the CIL money. There was a brief discussion about the

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Signature

Date

ownership of the land in affected.

CH4. August BPC meeting.

It was suggested that a socially distanced meeting be held in the Memorial Hall. This was generally supported and the Clerk will look to make the necessary arrangements. HP

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Defibrillators.

The Clerk has confirmed with the insurance company that the defibrillators would be covered under our current policy. A letter has been sent to Heartstart Thatcham confirming that BPC will take over ownership. Paperwork for the guardians will be completed before the end of the month. HP

CL2. Dog Bin at the Memorial Hall.

Instructions have been issued for a dog bin to be installed at the Memorial Hall. This will be emptied by Triangle Management Ltd. HP

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

P1. 20/01332/OUT Woodside, Long Grove.

Outline application to erect a single dwelling on the site with some matters reserved. Matters to be considered: Access.

This site is outside of any settlement boundary and within the AONB, as such BPC consider it to be unacceptable. BPC unanimously agreed to **object** to this application.

P2. 20/01380/HOUSE Oak Lodge, Upper Woolhampton.

New first floor to existing bungalow, two storey rear extension, alterations to existing single storey roofs and demolition of existing garage.

This proposal is smaller than the previous application for the same site. As such, it was agreed that BPC has **no objection**.

P3. 20/01480/FUL Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).

Rural diversification projection comprising demolition of existing outbuilding and polytunnels and erection of 1 no B1/B2/B8 building with associated access track and parking area.

BPC agreed to have **no objection** to this application.

P4. 20/01506/HOUSE Chapel Row Farm.

Proposed single storey conservatory to the front of the former stable block.

BPC agreed to **no objection** to this application, but commented that Chapel Row Farm is a listed building and as such would expect a listed building application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P5. 20/00700/HOUSE Autumn Cottage, Briff Lane.

Rear extension.

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

P6. 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 which has been **approved** by WBC. BPC did raise concerns about possible contamination of the site and underground fuel tanks. There is no mention of the fuel tanks explicitly in the conditions of the planning approval. District Cllr. Pask commented that there is a decontamination condition on the approval

Signature

Date

which will cover the fuel tanks in addition to any other contamination.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Highways.

The road through Chapel Row has been resurfaced and the white lines have now been painted.

As a result of the data collected using SID, Graham Markham from WBC has installed a sentinel speed detection box at Chapel Row which records vehicles and can result in letters from the Police. This has now been removed and a new hi-tech SID put up which will be there 24x7 for three weeks. After a period of further eight weeks, the hi-tech SID will be back to gather data to see if the situation has changed. It was noted that the hi-tech SIDs are only for use by WBC employees.

DC2. Bucklebury Commons Advisory.

There will be a meeting of the Advisory Committee next month, at which TROs for the coming winter will be discussed.

DC3. Cycling on the Common.

Cllr. Cairns reported issues with cyclists on the Common who are making cycle tracks.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

The Clerk has discussed cutting the hay at the Hockett with Pete Cane. It has been agreed that the Hockett field will not be cut this year because there is very little growth.

The northern meadow (behind Byles Green) has already been cut and baled. The two remaining meadow fields will be cut later in the week.

It was reported that there is ragwort growing in the Hockett; Cllr. Hillerton and the Clerk will get this removed.

There are briars growing onto the pavement at Broad Lane from the narrow entrance to the meadows (opposite Berry's Road). These need to be cut back.

It was agreed that there would be a Meadows and Hockett Field Management meeting to discuss the management and future plans for the fields. It was noted that there is approximately £38,000 in a bank account waiting to be spent, ringfenced for the meadows.

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

The area in the Cemetery cleared last year needs to be strimed soon to stop it reverting back to scrub land. The Clerk will contact C.R. Landscapes to arrange this.

The kissing gate is sticking on the concrete under it. One option is to put some wire under the gate hinge (the gate cannot easily be removed). Cllr. Southgate agreed to consider suitable options.

It was also agreed that Cllr. Southgate and the Clerk would have a site visit at the Cemetery and mark the sunken graves.

At the Christmas Cemetery Carols, the rope on the bell was broken. The Clerk will investigate whether this has been fixed.

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Update on work – During the closure of the playpark due to Covid-19, a lot of remedial work has taken place. Thanks, were extended to Cllr. Southgate, Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Hillerton for the work. The small trees growing next to the fence between the playpark and the BMX track have been removed.

Roger Malloy has carried out work on the trees in the play park and they look much better. The quote for removal of the two ash trees growing between the playpark and the BMX track, supplied by Roger Malloy was accepted.

Options for litter bins around Playpark and the BMX track.

Mike Scholl has asked that BPC consider making a contribution towards the cost of Biffa emptying the Memorial Hall bin. Biffa charge £32.63 per bin and the bin was being

Signature

Date

emptied every 4 weeks prior to lockdown. Cllr. Hillerton was emptying the bins around the playpark and BMX track and putting the rubbish into the Biffa bins (prior to Covid-19, this was carried out by the hall cleaner).

Cllr. Hillerton asked Mr. Scholl how long it was likely to be before the hall cleaner was able to empty the bins again. The cleaner is not expected to be back in the hall until September.

Cllr. Hillerton reported that the amount of litter was increasing all the time and the bins required emptying completely 2 or 3 times a week in addition to a quick tidy up each day. As a result, the bins have been covered over or removed and signs have been put up telling people to take their litter home. This has in the main been successful and only a few sweet wrappers have been left. A new sign does need to be placed on the gate to the playpark stating that there is to be no food or drinks (including water) in the playpark or BMX track.

It was agreed that with the current rules of no food or drink, the bins would remain closed.

T4. Environment.

Flooding around the ford – There was a site meeting, followed by a socially distanced meeting at New Barn Farm with the Environment Agency (EA) on the 23rd June. The outcome of the meeting was that the EA would look for funds to cut the weed for a 1m wide channel between Bucklebury ford and Walnut Tree Cottages. It was further agreed that Gordon Munroe-Ashman would apply for a permit to remove the silt for this stretch of the river to a width of 2.5m during the autumn; this work is likely to need repeating approximately every 5 years. Since the meeting, the EA have agreed to both cut the weed and remove the silt.

Litter at the ford – On sunny days, a number of families with small children visit the ford, some unfortunately leave litter. As a result, complaints have been made to WBC. It was agreed that signs would be put up asking people to take their litter home so as not to spoil the area for others. The Clerk will laminate signs for Cllr. Clarke to put up.

T5. Speed Awareness.

Comments have been returned to WBC on the WBC Speed Review Consultation. Cllr. Southgate reported that he is hoping to book SID for use in the parish again in the near future. A virtual speed watch meeting was discussed.

T6. Conservation Area Appraisals.

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. MacCallum, Helen Relf and Wynne Frankum are in the initial stages of looking at what is required for Conservation Area Appraisals. In the first instance, an appraisal is required for the conservation area in Bucklebury, but consideration is being given to the whole parish. WBC has produced a toolkit to assist with the process.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Connecting Communities in Berkshire	£35.00	Membership.
C.R. Landscapes	£3,126.79	Cemetery Maintenance and remainder of payment on the bench and clearance work from last year.
Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care	£480.00	Tree work in the playpark.
Sylvia Cornell	£40.00	Bus shelter cleaning.
David Southgate	£88.34	Expenses for the playpark and speed signs.
Helen Pratt	£189.78	SLCC membership and 2 months Zoom license.
Post Office Ltd	£11.00	SSE 1/5/2020 to 1/7/2020.
Helen Pratt	£523.79	Clerk's June salary.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£155.19	June 2020 pension contribution.

Signature

Date

- F2. To review current balances and financial position.
 Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £55,713.13
 Lloyds Current Account: £61,792.09 On 19th June 2020.
 Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows. £36,918.86 On 19th June 2020.
 Scottish Widows Reserve Account: £37,745.21 On 1st April 2020.
 Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: £4,579.35 On 1st April 2020.

- F3. Internal Audit Report.
 Erica Tipton has completed the internal audit and found no matters of concern.
 It was agreed that the Clerk would organise a bouquet of flowers to the value of £30.00.

- F4. Annual Governance Statement.
 The Statement of Governance was sent to councillors prior to the meeting. It was unanimously resolved to accept the Statement of Governance and it will be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

- F5. Statement of Accounts.
 Councillors had been sent copies of the Statement of Accounts prior to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to accept the Statement of Accounts and they will be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

REPORTS

- RP1. Victory Room.
 Cllr. Brims reported that quotes are being obtained for the structural work required at the Victory Room.
 The letting secretary is sending a questionnaire to users of the hall to find out when they plan to return to the hall. CCB ran a training session about reopening halls which contained some very useful information.
- RP1. Bucklebury Events Committee.
 There are currently no events planned.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

- RT1. Map of dwellings in Bucklebury.
 Cllr. Clarke asked if progress had been made with the map of houses in Bucklebury. The Clerk has had a conversation with Stuart Powling in WBC about possibilities. Cllr. Clarke will supply a copy of the Bradfield map to the Clerk.
- RT2. Astroturf on a grave in the Cemetery.
 Cllr. Southgate reported that a grave in the new cemetery has been covered in astroturf. The Clerk will investigate with a view to writing to the owner of the rights of burial for the grave in question.
- RT3. Shed behind the Cottage Inn.
 Cllr. Brims reported that he has spoken to Bob Dray at WBC about whether or not planning permission is required for a shed to the rear of the Cottage Inn. This was in response to a question from Gary Bush.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 10th August 2020 at 7.45pm.

Signature

Date