

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
held using Zoom on Monday 10th August 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; Cllr. R. Ranken; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

Dr. Michael Morgan.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies of 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.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 13th July 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 13th July 2020 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Rubbish at Angel's Corner.

Cllr. Dickens reported that once again split bags of rubbish have been left at Angel's Corner. Rubbish left like this encourages others to leave their litter and needs to be discouraged. It is thought that the rubbish comes from Osgoods Gully or Foxhold and is left out for the weekly Veolia collection. When people move into Vanners, it is likely that the problem will worsen.

District Cllr. Pask commented that he has spoken to the residents at Osgoods Gully and the WBC waste officer. The waste officer was going to contact the residents of Osgoods Gully (and Foxhold) about resolving the situation.

CH2. Covid-19 Volunteer Team.

As the country entered lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Bucklebury formed a team of approximately 80 volunteers to support those requiring a little help. This need has now diminished, however, given the probability of a local lockdown occurring, it has been agreed that rather than standing down the volunteers will continue in a "stand by" capacity. Thanks, were extended to all volunteers for their services in the parish.

It was noted that during this time, BPC has become aware of some individuals needing a little extra support in normal circumstances, let alone Covid-19 lockdown. Some of these individuals may benefit from attending the coffee mornings once they are running again.

CLERK'S REPORT

CL1. Defibrillators.

The Clerk reported that the guardianship paperwork for Southern Counties Ambulance Service (SCAS) needs to be completed for each of the defibrillators. The proposed guardians are as followings: Victory Room defibrillator – Cllr. Unamba and David Carrier; The Blade Bone – Cllr. Spours and Cllr. Brims; Peaches Stores – Cllr. MacCallum and Hash Shingadia.

HP

CL2. Dog Bin at the Memorial Hall.

The Clerk has chased up the installation of the dog bin at the Memorial Hall.

CL3. Parking at the Roundfield/Little Lane junction.

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Date

The Clerk reported that parking at the junction will be on the agenda for the September meeting.

HP

CL4. Common Clearing.

It was agreed that if BPC can borrow the litter picking kit from WBC, a common clearing and litter picking event will be held on Saturday 10th October. It was requested that Veolia be asked to litter pick the main road verges in the week prior to the event so that effort can be put into clearing the off-road areas of the parish. On this occasion there are no plans to provide refreshments.

HP

CL5. Planning meeting – Monday 24th August.

Due to an increase in the number of planning applications received, it was agreed that there would be a planning meeting on Monday 24th August.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

P1. 20/01493/HOUSE Cherry Orchard Cottage, Hatch Lane.

& *Single storey side extension.*

20/01494/LBC2 This application is for a conservatory on the south east elevation of the listed cottage. The side of the conservatory will be seen from the south west elevation which is the front of the original cottage, as such, it is felt to clutter and spoil the view of the listed building. The conservatory is also considered to be overdevelopment of the already extended cottage. BPC unanimously agreed to **object** to this application.

P2. 20/01572/HOUSE Bole Cottage, Chapel Row.

Single storey side extension and porch. First floor extension within new roof space with new dormer and Velux windows. Conversion of existing garage.

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

P3. 20/01629/FUL Ivinghoe (Adjacent Parish).

Replacement dwelling and landscape enhancements.

This site is very visible from Bushnells Green Road, the various Rights of Way in the area and across the Pang Valley. It was noted that the applicant cleared the site of vegetation leaving it very exposed. The current proposal has an increase in footprint of 230%; the previously refused application had an increase of 225%. There was a view that the proposal represents overdevelopment of the site and is unsympathetic to the surrounding buildings and countryside.

It was unanimously agreed to **object** to this application.

P4. 20/01695/HOUSE Imagine, Upper Bucklebury.

Proposed enlargement of existing bathroom dormer window and addition of canopy porch to house and garage entrance.

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

Whilst looking at this application councillors became aware of a second application 20/01701/CERTP with a proposal *To erect outbuilding to rear garden area under Class E permitted development rights.*

The meeting was **closed** for Dr. Morgan to speak.

Dr. Morgan raised concerns about the potential uses of an outbuilding, containing toilet facilities.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was noted that this is an application seeking information about whether, or not the proposed outbuilding requires planning permission. If the outbuilding was to be developed under permitted development, it would only be for use ancillary to the main house; any other use would require planning permission.

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- P5. 20/01643/HOUSE 2 Berry's Road.
Conversion of integral garage incorporating a front elevation change.
 It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P6. 20/01660/HOUSE Wayside, Hatch Lane.
Proposed new build garage.
 It was noted that the proposed garage is 3.6m wide, excluding the gutter; the gap between the existing house and the boundary (a laurel hedge) is only 3.82m.
 It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P7. 20/01682/CERTE The Annexe at Hawkridge Farm.
The application is for the formation of a separate dwelling at Owl House following four years of continued use.
 It was noted that the property has been used for at least the last four years. However, it is not clear from the application, how the property is to be accessed.
 It was agreed that BPC has **no comments** to make on this application apart from the question of access.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P8. 20/01166/LBC2 Hillhouse 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.
 WBC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Speed Indicator Device Work.

District Cllr. Pask thanked Cllr. Southgate for his work utilising SID throughout the parish and for offering to carry out socially distanced SID training. This offer has been well received by Graham Markham at WBC.

The SID data previously recorded showed that there was a speeding problem through Chapel Row, as a result, a black box device was installed to record speeds of all vehicle travelling in both directions for a week. A fixed SID was then installed for a period of three weeks. These two devices are then on an eleven-week rotation.

DC2. Covid-19 Members Bids.

District Councillors have been allocated a maximum of £1,000 for the parishes they represent in order to redress the effects of Covid-19 in the community.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

Cllr. Southgate and the Clerk have visited the meadows and inspected the trees in the northern meadow (3) which are against the fence of 11 Morton's Lane. There are a number of wych elm trees which are in a very poor state of health.

A meadows meeting has been held which has stimulated ideas of how the meadows could be more effectively used for the benefit of parishioners. In Upper Bucklebury, there is a lack of outdoor socializing space. It has been suggested and agreed that a strip of the smaller, southern meadow (1) be kept cut and that a small number of benches be placed in the meadow so that parishioners can meet up and socialise in a safe, pleasant place. The entrance track from Broad Lane will be cleared and new more accessible gates installed. This work should be carried out as soon as possible, so that if the Covid-19 situation worsens during the autumn and winter, the area is available to be enjoyed. It was agreed to explore the possibility of a Covid-19 Members' Bid grant for the benches. It was further agreed that an article be placed in the September edition of The Oaks informing residents of the plans.

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Exploration is taking place into whether part of the Hockett Field could be used for wild flowers. Cllr. Clarke has arranged a meeting with Charles Flower to obtain his advice. The aim would be to make the Hockett Field somewhere that people would like to go and for it to become a destination in its own right. Strictly speaking the Hockett Field is a sports field, but in reality, for a number of reasons, it is unsuitable. Alex Cruickshank will be asked to visit and give his recommendations for a sensible management plan. There is a significant sum of money which is ringfenced for the Meadows and largely the result of a S106 payment. It was agreed that the Clerk would explore whether this money could be loaned out to either the Memorial Hall or the Victory Room for the improvement projects they have planned. Concern was raised by some councillors that this would in essence be an unsecured loan and as such what would be the situation if the organisations were unable to make repayments.

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

Cllr. Southgate reported that the following items need addressing in the Cemetery:

- The gate pins on the kissing gate are worn and as a result the gate has dropped and sticks on the concrete below. Pete Cane, the local blacksmith will be consulted.
- The large main gates only shut with considerable pressure due to movement, possibly in the concrete pillars supporting them. Such pressure, applied to cast iron may cause the gates to fracture. There is evidence on the gates of earlier repairs. A possible solution maybe to install two steel posts in front of the concrete pillars, from which to hang the gates. Pete Cane will be asked for his advice.
- There is a significant crack in the ground roller. Pete Cane may be able to repair this.
- A new padlock is required for the rear gate. The Clerk will order two (one to replace a privately owned one at the Playpark).
- The access to the new cemetery is becoming overgrown and there may be complaints from undertakers about the brambles. Maintaining the vegetation along the track could be included in the future Cemetery maintenance schedule.
- A new mound of subsoil has been deposited in the newer section of the Cemetery. There was a discussion on rules and regulations for undertakers/grave diggers.
- The area of the new section of the Cemetery cleared 18 months ago needs to be trimmed/brush cut. The Clerk will talk to CR Landscapes about a quote for this work.
- Vegetation debris has built up in the south east corner of the old cemetery against the wall.
- The rhododendrons, which were cut back and treated are growing back with vengeance.
- The sunken graves need to be filled in. It was suggested that 3 or 4 tonnes of topsoil be ordered and that it be used to fill in the graves and then be rolled and seeded during a working party.
- A number of memorials need repairs – a list and quote were obtained about eighteen months ago; the Clerk will obtain a second quote for this work.
- Work is required to clear and level the last part of the new cemetery.
- The rope on the bell was broken during Cemetery Carols; this has been repaired.
- There are cracks in the boundary wall, some of which may benefit from remedial works.

The Clerk will organise a date for the next working party. It was agreed that a skip would be beneficial.

HP

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.

Update on inspections – The playpark was refurbished during lockdown. The BMX track has had a lot of use. People are coming from far and wide to use the facility. As a result, the surface is in need of attention. Repairs are scheduled to take place on the 21st August.

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Update on litter bins around Playpark and the BMX track – With the help of Cllr. Southgate, the litter bins around the Playpark have all been removed to behind/the side of the Memorial Hall. The temporary coverings and closure notices were being abused by a few. Since removal of the bins, there has been very little litter. Cllr. Hillerton has been picking up the odd bottle and sweet wrapper. It was agreed that the strategy of expecting people to take their litter home be continued.

Contribution to the Memorial Hall for the Biffa bin – The Memorial Hall committee is currently paying £32.63 to have the Biffa bin emptied on a monthly basis. The bin is currently being used for the odd bits of litter from the playpark, the tennis club and any litter from the Memorial Hall carpark. It was agreed that BPC make a one of contribution to the Memorial Hall for bin emptying of £50.00.

T4. Environment.

Replacement /repairs to way markers on the common – At the last meeting, questions were asked about replacement of the waymarkers and fingerposts for the rights of way in the parish. The Clerk has exchanged emails with Sallie Jennings at WBC about the most productive way to proceed. WBC will get rangers/wardens to replace damaged/missing fingerposts during the autumn and winter. Information about the state of the posts needs to be sent to WBC before the end of September.

Cllr. MacCallum will work with the Clerk to identify the most productive process to gather the information such that it can succinctly be sent to WBC.

Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Clarke offered to help.

Litter at the fords – Four posters have been put up and are still in place. Currently there is very little litter at either of the fords. The situation will be monitored.

T5. Use of SID in the Parish.

BPC had the use of SID for a two-week period; it was deployed on 46 occasions for a total of 131 hours in five or six different locations. As a result of the deployment, there are five or six people who would be willing to undertake the training and assist with further deployments in the parish. Cllr. Southgate commented that it would be useful if there were more councillors trained; Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. MacCallum both volunteered. Parishioners have responded well to the presence of BPC actually visually out actively doing something to benefit parishioners

Cllr. Southgate commented that he hasn't given up on the use of a "speed gun" by parish councillors, but this needs support from WBC and Thames Valley Police.

All of the wining A3 size posters designed by Bucklebury School pupils have now been taken down and will be stored in Cllr. Clarke's garage. They will be put back up in a few months' time.

HP
FM
AH
HC
LC

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Helen Pratt	£523.79	Clerk's July salary.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£155.19	July 2020 pension contribution.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£55,584.15	
Lloyds Current Account:	£57,397.03	On 20 th July 2020.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£36,920.38	On 20 th July 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.

Cllr. Brims reported that all the funds have been raised (or promised) to match with the current estimates for the work required. An application for building regulations will be submitted to WBC over the next few weeks. The majority of the money held by BPC for

Signature

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the Victory Room will be paid to the Good Exchange who will match fund it.
Currently, the committee are looking at the possibilities of reopening the existing hall and which users might be interested in using it.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Map of Bucklebury.

The concept of the map of Bucklebury parish showing house names was further discussed. Cllr. Southgate suggested that it might be an extract of the WBC online map. It was suggested that it might be split into 3 or 4 separate maps.

RT2. The Pang.

Cllr. Unamba reported that the river has been cleared under the bridge. Piers Allison is meeting with Laura Farris MP so that she is fully aware of the flood prevention works which have taken been carried out in Bucklebury and the work of the Pang Valley Flood Forum.

RT3. Herras Fencing.

Cllr. Spours commented that there is still a panel of Herras fencing on the Avenue opposite the Beenham turning. This is a damaged piece; there are a number of other damaged pieces littering the common.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee:

Monday 24th August 2020 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Bucklebury Parish Council:

Monday 14th September 2020 at 7.45pm (tbc).

Signature

Date