

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
held via Zoom on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS

Approximately 32 parishioners.

APOLOGIES

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. Register of Interests.

Councillors were reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes needed to their declarations of interest.

D2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

ADDRESS TO BPC BY LAURA FARRIS MP.

P1. Cllr. Dickens welcome Laura Farris MP to the meeting and commented that the arrangements had been made before the contents of the Local Plan were known.

Mrs. Farris MP commented that Bucklebury was “a special place” for her, having grown up on The Avenue.

Mrs. Farris MP found out about the proposed development after Christmas. The plan has come about after the proposals for the garden town at Grazeley fell through due to the increase in the DEPZ around AWE Burghfield. District Cllr. Pask had shown Mrs. Farris MP the perimeter of the proposed site. She understands the force of objection; the site is the first real countryside you reach after leaving London and the surrounding villages have maintained their character.

There are three things she will do which may help:

1. Talk to Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, to see if it is possible to reduce the housing targets for West Berkshire.
2. The Grazeley site is the subject of a judicial review. The potential Thatcham development should be put on hold until the outcome has been determined.
3. Build some houses along the A4, but not up the hill. This would have an impact on the schools/infrastructure provided because the amount of infrastructure is determined by the number of houses.

Under normal circumstances, MPs don't get involved with planning, however in this instance Mrs. Farris is very concerned about how the proposed development would change the surrounding villages.

There followed a question and answer session where the questions had been submitted in advance:

1. How is the ‘levelling up the economy’ policy going to impact on the NE Thatcham development?

The recent White Paper on planning would have increased the number of new houses to be built in West Berkshire, but this has now been pulled back. Levelling up of the economy has got to mean jobs and houses have to move to the North and Midlands. It had been anticipated that the Grazeley site was going ahead and would fulfil much of West Berkshire's long term housing supply. Development in the AONB is extremely restricted.

2. Are there plans being made to support the additional number of people who will be in desperate need of mental health support as a result of COVID?

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There have been a number of conversations with the mental health groups within West Berkshire including CAMHS, The Samaritans and Time to Talk. It is thought that the biggest mental health impact will be on young people between 14 and 25. There is concern about pupils not being adequately prepared for exams. As a result of this Nadine Dorries, Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety, is working to get a Time to Talk representative in every school. Schools are also being encouraged to have a mental health ambassador. Students at colleges and universities can be very lonely and are reporting feelings of hopelessness. Other groups of people who are expected to need extra support are those with pre-existing conditions and those likely to suffer from unemployment as a result of COVID; in West Berkshire there are an additional 1,000 people claiming universal credit.

3. What can be done to assist elderly people in fuel poverty on 'key' meters, who possibly do not have access to the internet/computers to look for 'deals'?

There is not an immediate answer to this question. There is a huge disparity between people who have access to the internet and those who don't. WBC's Winter fund is available to help with every part of daily living.

4. When will drinks manufacturers have to include the recyclable triangle and the plastic designation number on plastic bottle tops?

The fourth part of the Environment Bill deals with single use plastics and encourages suppliers to move away from single use plastic; however this bill has been paused due to COVID.

5. What is the current situation with the Boundary Commission's proposal to move Bucklebury ward into the Reading West Constituency?

There is currently a proposal to reduce the number of constituencies from 650 to 600 and at the same time to balance the number of people in each constituency to 73,000 plus or minus 5%. It is possible that there will be a new constituency on the Berkshire/Hampshire border, but there is an aim not to split local authorities over multiple constituencies.

Bucklebury is likely to stay in the Newbury Constituency; it belongs in a rural area. It would be wise to carry out some work on Bucklebury's historic links with Newbury. This, the PC agreed to do and forward to the MP.

Cllr. Dickens thanked Mrs. Farris MP for attending the meeting.

## PUBLIC SESSION

### PS1. Statement by District Cllr. Pask.

District Cllr. Pask thanked BPC and all parishioners who have submitted comments on the Local Plan. At PC meetings when planning applications are discussed, he purposely tries not to influence the Council, but remains on hand to answer any questions. This is the approach which he has adopted throughout the consultation process; to listen and answer questions. He is saddened that some people have assumed that he will support the proposed plan without seeking his views and have even made such comments. It has been suggested that he will not support the residents he has represented for the last 34 years.

District Cllr. Pask further commented that a robust Local Plan is essential for the area; otherwise, the area is open to 'planning by appeal' as had happened in Wokingham. If there is no Local Plan, it is conceivable, for example, that an application submitted for building on the gravel workings site on Harts Hill would be approved on appeal.

District Cllr. Pask commented that he will work to represent the views of parishioners on the strategic site in NE Thatcham. He lives in the community and will be affected by the traffic, environmental and all the other issues as much as anyone else.

A parishioner thanked District Cllr. Pask for his statement.

## MINUTES

### M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

M2. Bucklebury Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Brims.

M3. Extra Ordinary Meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of BPC which took place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Response to the WBC Local Plan.

A copy of BPC's response to the Local Plan and the letter from the Mike Robinson, the planning consultant, are available on the BPC website.

The charge of £625 for the planning consultant was unanimously agreed.

It was further unanimously agreed that the Clerk be paid a sum of £75 for working at short notice over weekends, in addition to overtime for the extra hours worked.

In excess of 100 responses to the Local Plan have been submitted to WBC and copied to BPC.

Going forwards, it is important that BPC and the Community Group speak with one voice. Some initial conversations have taken place between BPC and the Community Group. There is to be an Extra Ordinary meeting of BPC, to clarify thoughts on the way forwards, before meeting with the representatives of the Community Group.

CH2. Royal Berkshire Charity.

The Royal Berkshire Charity are raising funds via Amazon to support RBH staff with emotional support. The details of how this can be done have been sent to BPC by Erica Tipton, Chair of the PPG and will be put on the BPC website.

#### CLERKS REPORT.

CR1. Communication.

The Clerk suggested creating a BPC Facebook account for advising parishioners of BPC meetings, activities and reports. This could be done quickly and easily. In the longer term, it would be useful to set up an email distribution list. This would need to comply with GDPR regulations. The use of Mail Chimp or Dot Mailer was suggested.

CR2. Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) training.

CiLCA is the approved training in the world of clerking to Parish Councils. There are 3 parts to the cost of the course: The introduction, the training, and the marking/qualification itself. The total cost of the three parts is £863 plus VAT. Bradfield PC has agreed to fund half of the cost. It was unanimously agreed that BPC would fund the other half of the cost.

#### PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

P1. 20/02771/FULD 83 Roundfield.

*Erection of 2 No. semi-detached dwellings and one detached bungalow. An amendment has been received removing the detached bungalow from the proposal.*

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

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P2. 20/02840/HOUSE Beechlyn, The Slade.

*Removal of an existing corrugated iron single bay garage to be replaced with a double bay oak frame gable end garage.*

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

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- P3. 20/02830/HOUSE Brackenwood, Little Lane.  
*Extension to north elevation with relocated entrance porch and updating principle elevation.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P4. 20/02767/HOUSE Brookwood House, Hatch Lane.  
*Single storey rear extension to enlarge kitchen and create utility room.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 20/02697/HOUSE Kings Copse House, Southend.  
*The proposed works include the installation of new pedestrian and vehicle gates and piers.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 20/02735/HOUSE Hytaville, Byles Green.  
*Section 73a: Removal of Condition 4 (Tree Protection Scheme) of previously approved application (18/00213/HOUSE): Proposed extension and refurbishment of dwelling.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 20/02512/HOUSE Enborne Garth, Little Lane.  
*Enlargement of loft space, single story rear extension and front porch.*  
 BPC **objected** to this application on the grounds of the massing of the roof. An amendment was received hiping both gables and the application was **approved** by WBC.
- P8. 20/02500/HOUSE 19 Paradise Way.  
*Demolition of existing one storey side extension and erection of two storey side extension and associated works.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which was **approved** by the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

WBC Decisions taken to appeal:

- P9. 20/01815/HOUSE Greenwood, Hatch Lane.  
 Single storey side extension to provide ground floor shower room. Retrospective approval for the garage as built with flat roof, rather than pitched.  
 BPC **objected** to the extension component of this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant has taken this decision to appeal.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

##### DC1. Off Roothing.

District Cllr. Pask reported that despite the TROs, 4x4s have been out and knocked down and/or damaged the bollards and the Herras fencing which are in place to protect the byways. People were urged to call the Police if they are aware of such behaviour taking place; fines and Section 59 notices (which can lead to seizing of vehicles) have been issued.

#### TOPICS

##### T1. Bucklebury Meadows.

The kissing gate between small and large meadows has now been installed. The small meadow is extremely wet, with one part being completely submerged. Planting a clump of willows in the area where it has flooded is being considered.

##### T2. Hockett Field.

The Clerk is working with Andrew Inwood to produce a 2-3m wide strip of wild flower HP

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meadows.

T3. Cemetery and Chapel.

A virtual burial board meeting will be convened after members have had sufficient time to inspect items in the Cemetery. The Clerk will arrange the meeting.

HP

T4. Fred Dawson Playpark and the Bike Track.

**Update on inspections** – Under advice from WBC, the bike track is currently closed and the playpark is open. Unfortunately, the bike track has been damaged by someone with an electric dirt bike. The maintenance man is scheduled to come out on the 18<sup>th</sup> February to attend to the short cuts and work on the track. It has been suggested that barriers be used to deter people from using the track. District Cllr. Pask is working with WBC to see if BPC may be able to borrow some barriers. If not, it was agreed that BPC could purchase barriers to a value of £100.

The meeting was **closed**.

A parishioner commented that the signs that the playpark is closed had been removed and that there appears to be a litter problem on the slope below the bike track.

The meeting was **reopened**.

T6. Wellbeing.

Cllr. MacCallum commented that some people are very vulnerable in the cold weather. People need to be encouraged to look out for their neighbours during such times. There have been more requests for shopping than usual from the Upper Bucklebury area.

Cllr. Spours comment that he wasn't aware of any more issues in the Chapel Row area.

T7. Conservation Areas.

Cllr. Clarke commented that progress is being made and there are 3 sets of surveys being collated. A meeting was scheduled for the following week.

T8. SID in Bucklebury.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he had contacted Graham Markham at WBC and asked for the data from the smart SID, installed by WBC at Chapel Row. The WBC SID is not available for use by parishes due to COVID.

T9. Recycling.

Cllr. Cairns reported that 75Kg of plastic bottle tops have been recycled since January 2020 from the parish. Some of the bottle tops collected are single use plastic; it was suggested that these could be used for craft projects.

## FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£116.46	Half of the cost of grass cutting at the Memorial Hall.
Post Office Ltd	£5.79	SSE streetlights – 2/12/2020 – 4/1/2021.
Triangle Management Co Ltd	£64.80	Dog waste bin emptying – February and March 2021.
Fox Fencing	£816.00	Installation of small kissing gate in the meadows.
Oxford and Country Planning	£625.00	Planning consultant for response to NE Thatcham development.
Helen Pratt	£160.74	Grit bin and Zoom license for up to 500 participants.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£155.19	January pension fund contributions.
Helen Pratt	£523.79	Clerk's January salary.
Triangle Management Co Ltd	£28.80	Dog waste bin emptying – January 2021.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£54,827.49	
Lloyds Current Account:	£60,672.04	On 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2021.

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Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£36,923.21	On 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2021.
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.

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. Patient Participation Group (PPG).

A PPG meeting was held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. It was useful to get an update on progress with the vaccination programme.

RP2. Victory Room.

At the AGM, all members were re-elected back to their positions. Since the meeting there has been confirmation of raising the required funds. The original plans to join the drains with the main sewer have fallen through and an alternative plan is in the progress of being drawn up. The project is close to being in a position to being able to physically proceed.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. Local Plan.

It was agreed that the Extra Ordinary meeting of BPC to discuss how to proceed with objecting to the NE Thatcham development proposal in the Local Plan would take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am.

RT2. Handforth PC.

As a result of the recent YouTube footage of Handforth PC, Cllr. Dickens commented that he had looked at the Standing Orders of BPC, whilst they have been reviewed on an annual basis, they were fully ratified 9 years ago and are a little outdated. It was agreed that Cllr. Spours and Cllr. Hillerton would look at updating them.

RT3. Salt Bins.

Cllr. Southgate reported that he had checked all of the salt bins in the parish. The new green bin for The Slade has arrived and the yellow bin currently in The Slade will be moved to Carbinswood Lane, where the existing bin is in need of replacement. The Berry's Road grit bin has been moved about 18" and is no longer sitting on a flat surface; ideally it needs to be emptied and returned to its original position.

Cllr. Southgate asked councillors to check grit bins if they happen to be passing them.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Future Meetings:

Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 9.30am (Zoom).

Bucklebury Planning Committee: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Bucklebury Parish Council: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

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