

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
held via Zoom on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 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. P. Spours; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. T. Slatford; Cllr. R. Ranken; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

One parishioner.

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Unamba-Oparah.

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.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Travellers Rest Farm Dog Exercise Field.

The meeting was **closed** for a parishioner to speak.

A planning application has been submitted to change an agricultural field into a dog exercise field. The application states that the field is not next to any residential properties, when it is immediately adjacent to Gorselands. The field would be available for use 365 days a year during daylight hours. Concern was raised about noise and privacy levels as a result of the proposal. Cllr. Brims commented that BPC has not been consulted on this application as the land is in Bradfield Parish, but very close to the parish boundary.

The Clerk will contact the planning officer and if comments can be considered from the Planning meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the application will be considered at that meeting.

The meeting was **reopened**.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

M2. Extra Ordinary Meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of BPC which took place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Opposition Group.

Tim Slatford has been asked to take on the role of Chair of the Opposition Group. It has been suggested that Kirsty Adams co-Chairs the group with Mr. Slatford. Members of the group include Cllr. Spours, Cllr. MacCallum, Steve Beeson, John De Lara and Duncan Powell. Work is currently going on to scope the response and look for volunteers interested in specific areas which need to be addressed.

CH2. Ask Hilary; WBC Q & A Session.

Cllr. Dickens commented that the Facebook live session with District Cllr. Hilary Cole and Bryan Lyttle (WBC Planning Policy Manager) was fairly underwhelming. It was felt

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they only answered the questions they wanted to and left a lot unanswered. The answers to written questions are awaited with interest.

CH3. Bucklebury Farm Park.

It is understood that the Farm Park changed hands during the last week of February and now belongs to three individuals. It is understood that it will be opening to the public, but later than the COVID restrictions would allow.

CH4. Common Clearing.

Cllr. Dickens asked if a Common Clearing and Parish litter picking event could be held in late April. The Clerk will make enquiries and look into it.

CLERKS REPORT.

CR1. District Parish Conference – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr. Southgate will be attending the District Parish Conference which includes a presentation on Planning Enforcement. Cllr. Clarke asked if a question could be asked on annexes.

CR2. The Oaks.

An edition of The Oaks will be published for distribution in early April. Articles for inclusion need to be submitted by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

CR3. Annual Assembly – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Cllr. Cairns will invite Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, the WBC Waste Manager to speak at the virtual assembly on recycling. The Clerk will confirm that a representative of Chapel Row Surgery is present to give an update.

CR4. Signing of Committee Minutes.

The Clerk reported, that having attended a HALC training session on Committees, Sub Committees and Working Groups, minutes should be signed at the following meeting of that group and not at full council.

CR5. CiLCA Training.

The Clerk has attended the Introduction to CiLCA course run by HALC which contained useful general information about CiLCA. The first virtual session is expected to on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

CR6. BPC meetings (including planning meetings).

Under the current Government regulations, virtual meetings can no longer take place after midnight on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The May planning meeting and June BPC meeting will be held in either The Oak Room, or the Memorial Hall. Meetings after June 21<sup>st</sup> will be in the Committee Room (subject to booking and COVID regulations).

**PLANNING**

Planning applications to be considered.

P1. 21/00417/HOUSE The Wellhouse, Upper Woolhampton.

*Rebuild existing conservatory to rear elevation. Extend existing window W1 to rear elevation. New window to side elevation W2, replace existing cladding to dormer on front elevation.*

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

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P2. 21/00190/LBC2 The Dell, Byles Green.

*Detached outbuilding.*

BPC had no objection to this application which has been **withdrawn**. It should be noted that the corresponding HOUSE application is awaiting determination.

P3 Working Group on the Emerging Local Plan (the Opposition Group).

The main thrust of the opposition from BPC's perspective should be based on the impact on traffic and the environment. There is a consensus that there are sufficient local people able to comment on the environment, but not on traffic. Cllr. Clarke suggested a

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parishioner who works for Transport for London who may be able to assist.  
Cllr. Dickens proposed that seed funding of £1,000 is made available to the group as and when it is needed. This was agreed.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

##### DC1. Eastern Area Planning.

As a result of there being at least ten letters of objection to application 20/02849/FUL, for a replacement shed on land adjacent to Thatchers at Chapel Row, the application will be considered by the Eastern Area Planning Committee. BPC had no objection to this application.

##### DC2. Settlement Boundary.

WBC is now consulting on the settlement boundaries. The proposed settlement boundary around Upper Bucklebury has been amended to exclude the meadows.

##### DC3. Abuse of Byways.

Over the last month there has been more abuse of the byways. The TROs (Traffic Regulation Orders) cease on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, meaning that non restricted byways will be open to 4x4s. Over the summer, consideration will be given to including motorbikes in the order. Work is going on to try and improve the barriers and bollards which physically restrict access.

##### DC4. SID Data.

Cllr. Southgate commented that he had contacted Graham Markham and requested the data from the SID deployment at Chapel Row. To date no response has been forthcoming. District Cllr. Pask will contact Graham Markham.

##### DC5. WBC Budget meeting.

Questions were asked about what had happened at the WBC budget setting meeting. District Cllr. Pask commented that WBC was required to set a budget at that meeting and this had been achieved by the 10.30pm deadline. There will be a council tax increase of 1.99%.

#### TOPICS

##### T1. Standing Orders.

Since the last meeting, Cllr. Spours, Cllr. Hillerton and the Clerk have considered the BPC Standing Orders. A draft of the NALC Standing Orders which had been amended for Bucklebury were circulated prior to the meeting.

It was resolved to accept the standing orders based on the NALC template.

##### T2. Bucklebury Meadows.

The small meadow is being well used for socially distanced conversations. With the gradual opening up of facilities, the Cottage Inn will be opening and will need their picnic benches back. It was agreed that grant funding would be sought for the purchase of two picnic benches for the small meadow.

There was a discussion about wheelchair access along the track from Broad Lane and what may need to be done. It was agreed that contact would be made with wheel chair users to find out what they find easiest.

##### T4. Hockett Field.

The Clerk reported that creation of the wildflower strip is in hand.

Cllr. Clarke will write an article on the Hockett Field for The Oaks.

##### T5. Cemetery and Chapel.

At a Burial Board meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, the following issues were discussed: the cracks in the walls, filling in sunken graves, regrowth of rhododendrons, how best to preserve the wooden grave markers and the state of the trees. Reviews will be carried out on the Cemetery regulations (which will include a new section for undertakers and grave diggers) and on the charges.

The cuttings from the last working party have been successfully burnt. Information on a working party will be circulated as soon as a date is organised.

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Unfortunately, a plate to fix an earlier break in one of the main gates has become partially detached; this could have been the result of a car reversing into the gates. It was agreed that Cllr. Southgate would contact Pete Cane and instruct a repair for up to £200.

T6. Fred Dawson Playpark and the Bike Track.

**Update on inspections** – There are no issues with the playpark.

**Bike Track** – The barriers, loaned by WBC are having to be repositioned at least twice a day, on one occasion they had been pushed down the slope behind the track. Whilst a lot of people are helping to “police” the closure of the track, there are a number of offenders who simply ignore the signs and barriers. Work will be carried out, before the bike track is reopened, to repair the surface and turf or seed the shortcuts.

Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Southgate have discussed signage, but not reached a clear conclusion. BPC asked the three councillors to approve a sign and obtain new signage to be put up as soon as possible. The old sign needs to be replaced to include clarity that electric bikes, scooters and balance bikes are not allowed on the track (due to the damage they cause). Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Southgate were thanked for the draft signage they had each worked on.

T7. Wellbeing.

There are still a number of people in the parish who are shielding and need a little help. It is hoped to restart the monthly coffee mornings at the end of June or beginning of July subject to the COVID regulations.

T8. Conservation Areas.

All of the surveys information has now been correlated and sent to the Conservation Officer. Cllr. Clark has been invited to speak to members of Aldermaston PC about what has been involved with documenting the Conservation Area.

T8. SID in Bucklebury.

Cllr. Southgate is still to speak to Andrew House, Chairman of Bradfield PC about plans to purchase equipment. It is understood that Brimpton and Aldermaston PCs are purchasing equipment jointly.

T9. Recycling.

Cllr. Cairns reported that 74Kg of bottle tops have now been sent for recycling (approximately 37,000 tops).

Chieveley PC has contracted a company who collect clothing for recycling using a clothes bank. They pay in weight for the clothing put in the bank. Cllr. Brims will contact Chieveley PC for information.

## FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Veolia ES (UK)	£1,020.00	Victory Room match funding
Post Office Ltd	£5.32	SSE streetlights –5/1/2021 to 1/2/2021.
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	£54.00	Introduction to CiLCA training.
Helen Pratt	£132.77	Reimbursement April 2020 to March 2021.
Helen Pratt	£702.79	Clerk’s February salary.
HM Revenue & Customs	£50.02	PAYE & NI.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£155.19	February pension fund contributions.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£52,938.40	
Lloyds Current Account:	£57,724.49	On 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£36,923.50	On 19 <sup>th</sup> February 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.

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F3. Grants.

It was agreed to make the following payments as per the budget for FY20/21: Bucklebury Tennis Club - £200, Pang Valley Flood Forum - £100 and West Berkshire Countryside Society - £500. It was also agreed to make a donation of £200 (via The Good Exchange) to WB CAB.

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. BALC AGM – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The Clerk attended the BALC AGM. BALC continues to be administered by HALC (Hampshire Association of Local Councils). Using the administration of HALC has led to a saving, such that BALC has capital of approximately £70,000. As a result of this, HALC is offering a number of training courses to BALC members free of charge.

RP2. Victory Room.

Cllr. Brims reported that the drainage issues have now been resolved. All of the information to clear the planning conditions has now been compiled and submitted to WBC. Hopefully, work will be able to begin at the end of April/beginning of May.

RP3. Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr. Cairns reported that there is a new area commander. A new Community Safety Advisor has been appointed. There has been a 30% increase in domestic abuse using fire. There is a significant increase in the number of scams in operation which are being reported to Victim Support at Trading Standards.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS

RT1. CCTV at the Memorial Hall.

Cllr. Southgate commented that the PCSO has recommended upgrading the CCTV system at the Memorial Hall. This would have the advantage of enabling BPC to protect its assets and give evidence to the police of illegal activity in the carpark. Cllr. Southgate will explore the options.

RT2. Burst Water Main.

A water main in Chapel Row has burst causing much water to flow down Paradise Lane.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Future Meetings:

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

Bucklebury Parish Council: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Bucklebury Planning Committee: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

Bucklebury Annual Parish Council meeting: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6.30pm (Zoom).

Bucklebury Annual Parish Assembly: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.45pm (Zoom).

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