

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF  
BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL held via Zoom on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Ranken.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D1. 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.

Opposition Group.

P1. It is planned to set up an Opposition Group against the Thatcham north east proposal SP17/THA20 in the Emerging Draft of the WBC Draft Local Plan to 2037. This group would ideally contain representatives of BPC, the Facebook Group and members from the wider community.

Originally, it had been planned that the Opposition Group would operate completely independently of BPC, but have representatives from BPC. However, due to time constraints for financial set up and legitimacy, being a committee or working group of BPC was seen to be a more favourable option.

The Clerk gave a summary of the legalities around committees and working groups. Committees need to have agendas and minutes, and need to be advertised so that the public can attend. Committees may contain non councillors as well as councillors, however non councillors are not allowed to vote (accept in certain circumstances).

Powers may be delegated to a committee but not to a working group. A working group does not need to maintain agendas or minutes, or invite the public to attend meetings. A working group may contain councillors and non-councillors.

Cllr. Slatford, who had been asked to Chair the Opposition Group, was in favour of a working group being formed; this was agreed.

It was noted that as the BPC policies currently stand (particularly the Communications Policy), the Working Group would be unable to function. It was agreed that the Communications Policy should be reviewed at the first available opportunity.

From a financial perspective, the Working Group is expected to need to raise in the order of £15,000 to £20,000 to fund consultants.

It is possible that all of the parish and town councils affected by the proposed development may work together on opposition and share some of the costs.

Terms of Reference for the Working Group were discussed and agreed upon.

Cllr. Slatford will write an article for The Oaks on the proposed development and the Working Group.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

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).

Signature .....

Date .....