

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
held via Zoom on Monday 12th April 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; Cllr. Unamba-Oparah; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies of absence.

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.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 8th March 2021.

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

M2. Extra Ordinary Meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council – Friday 19th March 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of BPC which took place on Friday 19th March 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CH1. Thatcham NE Development.

When Laura Farris MP attended the February meeting of BPC, she was going to have a meeting with Robert Jenrick (Secretary of State for Housing) about the housing requirement for West Berkshire. Cllr. Dickens has asked for any feedback.

It was noted that planning application 21/00237/FUL, for the dog exercise field at the Travellers Rest, has been refused on the grounds of CS13 and not being in a sustainable location. Yet WBC is proposing the Thatcham NE development, which will generate 100s of extra car journeys, is a sustainable location. District Cllr. Pask commented that the planning inspector had determined that the Siege Cross Fam application site was in a sustainable location.

CLERKS REPORT.

CR1. Bucklebury Playing Field Charity and Bucklebury Recreation Ground Charity.

BPC councillors are the trustees of both the Bucklebury Playing Field Charity and Bucklebury Recreation Ground Charity. Bucklebury Playing Field Charity is the Hockett Field and Bucklebury Recreation Ground Charity is the Recreation Ground in the Village, owned by WBC and managed by the Recreation Ground Committee.

Questions have been asked in the past about whether councillors should be the trustees of the Recreation Ground Charity or whether it should be the Recreation Ground Committee. As a result of this confusion, updates to both of the charities ceased. After Cllr. Brims had a phone call from the Charity Commission, the annual accounts of both charities have been updated. This took a number of hours because there were problems with the Charity Commission's IT systems. The trustees now need to be updated. Once this is done, consideration needs to be given to who the trustees for the Recreation Ground Charity should be.

CR2. The Oaks.

The most recent edition of The Oaks has been distributed across the parish. A link will be

Signature

Date

sent to all those who were invited to contribute to it as a number live outside the parish.

CR3. Meetings during May and June.

After 6th May, virtual meetings are currently no longer legal. This is being challenged by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the hearing is due to take place on the 21st April. *Subsequent to the meeting, the challenge was unsuccessful and parish council meetings after the 6th May 2021 must be in person.*

The Annual meeting of BPC has been bought forwards to 6.30pm on Thursday 6th May (before the Annual Parish Assembly), such that it can be a virtual meeting. The Oak Room and the Memorial Hall are unavailable on Monday evenings, so the hall at All Saint's Church has been booked for the Planning meeting on 24th May and the BPC meeting on 14th June. WBC are holding a meeting for Clerks about holding face to face meetings on the 16th April. Venues for meetings after 21st June have not yet been decided.

CR4. Commons Clearing.

WBC has confirmed that litter picking events can be held, subject to the limit of groups of no more than six. However, WBC is not currently loaning out its litter picking kits. Given the levels of interest, the turnout could be quite large and the WBC litter picking kits would be needed to ensure that everyone has some kit. The 'Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean' is running from the 28th May to the 13th June and it is hoped that kits will be available by then.

Sue Tarn (at WBC) has agreed to let the Clerk know when the kit is going to be loaned out a Common Clearing/litter picking session will be arranged as soon as is practical.

CR5. Annual Assembly – Thursday 6th May.

Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, the WBC Waste Manager has confirmed that he will speak at the Annual Assembly. Dr. Lennox will give an update from the Chapel Row Surgery.

CR6. Memorial Hall Planning Application.

BPC submitted a cheque with the Memorial Hall planning application in December 2020. WBC returned the cheque because they no longer accept cheques for planning applications. The Memorial Hall Committee paid for the application. The application has still not been registered because of various issues with the application form which have now, hopefully, been resolved.

CR7. Communications Policy.

At the meeting to determine the Terms of Reference for the Opposition Working Group, it became clear that the Communications Policy needs to be updated. It was agreed that Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Spours and Cllr. Unamba would review the policy.

PS
AH
BU

CR8. Bus Shelter Cleaning.

For many years, Mrs. Cornell cleaned the Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury bus shelters. Sadly, Mrs. Cornell died earlier this year. The Clerk has spoken to Mr. Cornell and he doesn't want to take on the task.

Triangle Management (who empty the Memorial Hall dog bin) have been approached about taking on the task and cleaning the shelters on a monthly basis.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

- P1. 21/00643/CERTE The Barn, Manor View.
Self-contained first floor flat ('Barn Flat') with associated amenity and parking areas.
This application appears to be identical to 20/02600/CERTE which was refused by WBC.
It was unanimously agreed that BPC **objects** to this application.
- P2. 21/00641/FUL Bucklebury Chase (formerly Little Roselands).
Demolition of the existing dwelling, annexe, garage and outbuildings and the erection of a replacement 5 bedroom dwelling with associated parking

Signature

Date

and access arrangements. Section 73 application to vary condition2 (approved drawings) of previously approved application 17/02266/FUL). It was reported that the footprint of the proposed dwelling has been reduced to 646m² (from 802m²). Concern was raised that the proposal is incompatible with Bucklebury Vision, however on the grounds that WBC has approved the previous applications, it was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application with the comment that whilst there were reservations about the design, the site is at the end of a track and hidden.

- P3. 21/00760/AGRIC Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.
Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Wood store for drying wood.
It was reported that there are currently two barns on site plus a rather ancient barn in bad repair. It was reported that the third barn had not been built.
It was agreed that this application should be **allowed** on the basis that they give up the right to develop the third barn shown on the plans.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P4. 21/00237/FUL Travellers Rest Farm
Application for change of use of field currently used for horse grazing to be used as a secure dog exercise field.
BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.
- P5. 21/00281/LBC2 Wallins, Westrop Green.
Removal of poorly executed (non original) existing painted porch structure over front entrance door, comprising Oak posts and 4x2 studwork; replacement with traditional Oak Frame structure of similar size and proportions, plus reinstatement of clay tiled roof.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 21/00189/HOUSE The Dell, Byles Green.
Detached outbuilding.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

Planning decisions made on appeal:

- P7. 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 application has been **allowed** on appeal.
- P8. WBC settlement boundary consultation.
It was agreed that the proposed changes to the settlement boundary around Upper Bucklebury are supported by BPC.
BPC objects to the changes to the settlement boundary around the Thatcham NE development on the basis of reduction in the strategic gap, the increase in traffic, the impact on the AONB and the lack of consultation (parishes were only consulted on settlement boundaries in their own parishes). BPC's objections are set out in full on the BPC website.
- P9. Update from the Working Group on the Local Plan.
The article written for The Oaks has now been published on the website and on Facebook. Links to it have been shared on Twitter and Instagram.
A meeting is to be held with Thatcham Town Council and surrounding parishes to consider working together. Representatives of the Working Group are meeting with the developer putting forwards the Colthrop Village proposal.

Signature

Date

A number of parishioners are assisting with work including Julian Dobbins (Environment) and Jason Allum (Flooding). Areas being researched include crematoria and pollution. Traffic is still being considered; questions were asked about whether there could be access to the WB traffic modelling information. It has also been identified that the CIL benefits from the Colthrop Village development are far higher than from the NE Thatcham development.

Discussions are ongoing with Mike Robinson, the Planning Consultant.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Members Bid.

District Cllr. Pask reported that there is Member's Bid money, of up to £5,000 across the Bucklebury Ward, available to match fund any capital projects. This might include benches, CCTV or possibly wild flower meadow creation. Applications need to be submitted by the 23rd June. Any funds awarded must be spent within a year (there may be the possibility of a six-month extension).

DC2. COVID.

The local levels of COVID are currently low. Lateral flow tests are available free of charge and can be collected locally.

DC3. Recycling.

A trial initiative is in place to recycle all clean plastics (accept black meat trays) at either the Padworth recycling plant or in the Thatcham Waitrose carpark. This is in addition to the kerbside collection of plastic bottles.

The current regulations about needing to book a time to visit the tip are likely to remain in place, as it has been very successful, however, it is likely that more bookings will be available for each time slot.

DC4. Speed Data from SID.

Cllr. Southgate asked if Graham Markham could be reminded about the figures from the SID installation at Chapel Row. It was also questioned whether SID is available to borrow again.

TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows.

The picnic benches, from The Cottage Inn have now been returned. It was agreed that Cllr. Hillerton would find out where they came from so BPC can explore obtaining some for the meadows permanently.

Cllr. Hillerton has met with the manager of the care home on Broad Lane and discussed wheelchair access to the meadows. The manager is of the opinion that the easiest access would be from Mortons Lane, if the hollow could be filled in. The kissing gate can be negotiated as it is. Cllr. Southgate has looked at the surface around the kissing gate and identified that there is a drain pipe which needs more exploration before the hollow is filled.

Mr. Beeson has offered to cut down the dead elm trees just off the footpath adjacent to the pub field to the rear of 32 Broad Lane, but confirmation of the ownership of the land needs to be confirmed.

Official notices need to be made to go at the two access points to the small meadows to remind users to keep dogs on leads, to pick up any dog mess and to take litter home. It was agreed that Cllr. Hillerton would organise these signs.

It was agreed that two benches should be considered for the large meadow.

T2. Hockett Field.

The Clerk and Cllr. Hillerton met with Andrew Inwood to discuss establishing a wildflower meadow on a strip of ground in the Hockett Field. Mr. Inwood suggested including the SW corner of the field as well as the SE corner because the prevailing wind would blow seeds across the rest of the field. A quote for the first year of establishing this area is for between £960 and £1,060, plus potentially the cost of spraying (dependent

Signature

Date

upon the weather).

Cllr. Clarke commented that BPC has always been talking about making the Hockett Field a more attractive place to visit, which would benefit wildlife, and the mental health of those who visit.

Concern was raised by councillors about spending this sum of money on establishing a wildflower meadow, when it could be put towards opposing NE Thatcham. It was agreed to submit an application for a member's bid towards the wildflower meadow but for work to be deferred until the spring of 2022.

It was agreed that 2 benches be purchased for the Hockett field, hopefully with assistance from a member's bid.

T3. Cemetery and Chapel.

It was agreed that a Cemetery working party would be organised once a date has been set for Commons Clearing and a parish litter pick.

T4. Fred Dawson Playpark and the Bike Track.

Update on inspections – No issues have been raised as a result of the weekly inspections. **Bike Track** – Cllr. Hillerton apologised to all members of BPC; she wrote a question and answers document explaining the new signage at the bike park for Facebook explaining the reasons for the rules, but this produced a massive back lash. Cllr. Dickens thanked Cllr. Hillerton for all her efforts with the BMX track and the bike track. The new signage was installed with clear rules which included no scooters or balance bikes; this is the result of feet breaking down the edge of the track where it is proud of the surrounding ground (top of the humps). Scooters and balance bikes are better suited to the tarmac behind the Memorial Hall. As a result of the Facebook post, an email was received from a parent which was also sent to District Cllr. Pask and Laura Farris MP. The Clerk has responded to the email. The BMX track was installed for the teenagers of the parish. Several years ago, a survey was carried out about the preferred surface for the track. The teenagers preferred the existing surface, whilst parents of toddlers were in favour of tarmac. It was noted that the playpark is explicitly for younger children.

Litter situation – Generally the litter situation has been a lot better. Cllr. Hillerton reported that she has consciously not picked up any litter for six days and as a result the area was now a bit of mess. The Memorial Hall is due to reopen on the 12th April, after which the cleaner should be back. It was agreed that the Clerk would check with Mr. Scholl when the cleaner was returning and remind him of the litter agreement.

Improved CCTV – Cllr. Southgate reported that he had a constructive conversation with the PCSO who would welcome registration numbers of suspect vehicles entering the Memorial Hall carpark. Areas to cover include the entrance, the tennis courts, the BMX track and the playpark. Cllr. Southgate will carry out some more research. It was noted that the Recreation Ground Committee are also looking at CCTV.

T5. Wellbeing.

The Oak Room has provisionally been booked for Thursday 24th June for the first coffee morning, subject to COVID regulations. If the Oak Room is unavailable, it was agreed that field at the Cottage Inn would be considered.

T6. Conservation Areas.

Debra Inston at WBC now has all of the data collected to date. More work needs to be carried out on the history and the archaeology of the conservation area.

T7. SID in Bucklebury.

Cllr. Southgate reported that Thames Valley Police have decided that speedwatch is something which the community can help facilitate and will provide insurance cover, training and devices. They will also offer support and analyse data captured. The scheme is being rolled out across the Thames Valley. The community speedwatch scheme would result in letters being sent to speeding offenders. In the meantime, it was questioned whether BPC should continue to consider purchasing a SID or utilise the WBC SID. It was noted that the scheme needs to be setup and run by the community; not the

Signature

Date

district or parish council. It was agreed that Cllr. Southgate would pursue setting up a community-based group.

T8. Recycling.

Kofi Adu-Gyamfi (WBC Waste manager) will be speaking at the virtual Annual Parish Assembly to be held on Thursday 6th May.

Clothes Bank – Cllr. Brims has spoken to Chieveley Village hall who host a clothes bank. The clothes bank is owned and operated by the Clothing Warehouse, who pay £0.30 per kilo for the clothing to a charity.

Cllr. Brims has spoken to John Cole, the owner of the Clothing Warehouse and he is interested in putting a clothes bank in Bucklebury. The location needs to be accessible and have good footfall. It was agreed that the obvious location is the Memorial Hall; Cllr. Brims will have a conversation with Mike Scholl.

T9. Public Rights of Way not on the Definitive Footpath Map.

After 2026, it will not be possible to add new Rights of Way to the definitive footpath map. It is therefore important that any routes that are being treated as public rights of way are on the definitive map. The footpath which goes north from the west side of Osgoods Holding is not shown on the definitive map, although it is sign posted. Councillors were asked to consider whether there may be other routes which are not on the definitive map. Cllr. Cairns noted that the footpath sign on Fanny's Lane at Hillhouse Farm is missing.

T10. Local Climate Action Information Evening – Tuesday 20th April.

Cllr. Cairns and Julian Dobbins will attend this information evening.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting and before 31st March 2021:

SLCC Enterprises Ltd	£18.00	Committees & Working Group training.
The Good Exchange	£200.00	Donation for WB CAB.
Bucklebury Tennis Club	£200.00	Coaching of Bucklebury School pupils.
West Berkshire Countryside Society	£500.00	Membership and donation.
Pang Valley Flood Forum	£100.00	Donation.
West Berkshire District Council	£68.53	Emptying of meadows dog bins.
Anne Hillerton	£26.68	New bike track signage.

F2. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

The Alpha Xperience	£416.50	April edition of The Oaks.
Post Office Ltd	£10.88	Street light electricity 2/2/21 to 1/4/21.
Adrian Cornell	£40.00	Bus shelter cleaning Jan, Feb & March '21.
Manscape Garden Service	£1,488.81	BMX track repairs.
Helen Pratt	£523.79	Clerk's March '21 salary.
Berkshire Pension Fund	£155.19	Pension contribution for March '21.

F3. Victory Room.

Cllr. Brims reported that the Victory Room Committee will soon need their grant money of just under £52,000.

F4. Transfer of Funds.

The Clerk reported that £1,477.41 had been transferred from the Meadows Account to the Treasurers Account before the end of the last financial year to cover the cost of works on the meadow throughout the year.

F5. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£50,761.71	
Lloyds Current Account:	£56,858.47	On 19 th March 2021.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£36,923.78	On 19 th March 2021.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,748.98	On 4 th April 2021.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,579.81	On 4 th April 2021.

Signature

Date

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. District Parish Conference – 11th March 2021.

Cllr. Southgate reported that Matt Pearce(WBC Service Directory for Communities and Wellbeing) gave an overview of local COVID levels, actions WBC has taken as a result of COVID and what is still being done. There are a number of grants available to assist with recovery including Member's bids specific to recover and £200,000 for recovery schemes.

There was a summary of WBC's Local Climate Action Plan, including asking local communities to apply to the Greening Campaign.

There was a presentation on planning enforcement; it was noted that the applicant has an escape chance at each step of the enforcement process. A new enforcement officer is to be appointed to the team. Parishes were asked to report possible breaches where they have occurred.

Paul Hendry (WBC Countryside Manager) gave an overview of public rights of way, the powers parish councils have over them, the impending closure of the definitive map of Rights of Way and the WBC Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation.

RP2. Parish Online Training – 30th March 2021.

Parish Online is a digital mapping tool to help local councils manage their assets and data in their parishes. It is run as a subscription service with a month's free trial available. The cost to BPC would be £104.00 plus VAT per year. The Clerk will explore the free months subscription.

RP3. Victory Room.

The Victory Room Committee are now waiting for WBC to sign off the conditions of the planning application.

RP4. Memorial Hall AGM.

The Memorial Hall is to hold it's AGM on Tuesday 18th May.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Future Meetings:

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

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

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

Signature

Date