

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held at All Saints Church Hall, Upper Bucklebury on Monday 9th August 2021 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. F. MacCallum; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. Unamba-Oparah; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

One member of the public: Ms. J. Hamilton.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. P. Spours, Cllr. A. Hillerton, Cllr T. Slatford and 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.

PUBLIC SESSION

PS1. Bucklebury Meadows.

A parishioner commented that she was interested in plans for the meadows and the Hockett Field.

MINUTES

M1. Bucklebury Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Monday 12th July 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 12th July 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Dickens.

CHAIRS REPORT.

CH1. Public meeting with Laura Farris MP.

Cllr. Dickens reported that Laura Farris MP is coming to the Memorial Hall for a public meeting on Tuesday 31st August 2021 at 5.30pm. Laura Farris MP has asked if Cllr. Dickens would co-chair the meeting. The Bucklebury Says No working group will determine the points for the agenda. BPC will need to publicise this meeting.

CH2. Community Conversations with WBC.

Cllr. Dickens and the Clerk attended separate meetings with WBC about community conversations and how WBC and the parishes could work together as partners. There were conversations about how services could be provided jointly. Communication about the settlement boundary consultation, the meeting in February 2020 to discuss the proposed NE Thatcham development at the Regency Hotel and with the enforcement team could all have been or be improved. Issues were also raised about communications on speeding and the use of SID.

It was noted that despite these meetings being about communication, disappointingly there has been no follow up to these meetings which took place during the week of the 12th July.

CLERKS REPORT.

CL1. Common Clearing – Saturday 24th July 2021.

There was a good turnout of people to the Common Clearing and litter picking event, despite the weather and it being the first weekend of the school summer holidays. There wasn't as much litter collected as normal, but this may have been due to the vegetation hiding it.

It was agreed that there would be a litter picking event in the Autumn in order to return to

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the normal schedule of Common Clearing and litter picking events.

CL2. Website.

Over the last weekend the website has been hacked by an automated bot. The website is to all intents and purposes still behaving normally, however there is an issue with updating it. Whilst the hosting company recommend third party software and services to protect websites and repair any damage from hacking, the third party doesn't have good reviews. Mr. Pratt has recommended installing some subscription-based software on the website, which will offer some protection and cost less than £100 per year. This was agreed.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

- P1. 21/01768/FUL Marlston Farm House Barn.
Erection of an American-style barn.
This proposal will be difficult to see from any public rights of way. It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to it being solely for personal use and ancillary to Marlston Farmhouse. It was noted that in 2001/2006 permission was granted to convert farm buildings at Marlston Farm into residential accommodation.
- P2. 21/01570/FUL Land adjacent to Thatchers.
Proposed temporary approval for storage container (6 months).
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application but temporary permission should only be granted for 3 months.
- P3. 21/01677/FUL Verge approximately 30 meters north of junction to Marlston Farm.
The proposed development works include construction of a 3m x 6m (18sqm) layby and a small set of steps (1sqm) and installing a post and rail fence around a kiosk.
It was noted that David Fleming of Brockhurst and Marlston House Schools has objected to this application on the grounds of the construction of the layby which would be in close proximity of mature trees, originally planted to screen Marlston Farm from the Schools. He has suggested that the nearby, field entrance would form a better place for the layby subject to the necessary permission being granted.
It was agreed that BPC has no objection to the steps or the shrub clearance, but **objects** to the construction of the layby.
- P4. 21/00484/COMIND Vanners.
Erection of agricultural building to support the agricultural use of a 5-acre paddock for livestock. Amendment: Justification for the size and flood/drainage information.
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application and looks to WBC to determine whether the justification is sufficient for the construction of an agricultural building.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P5. 21/01409/HOUSE Willow Lodge, Chapel Row.
Proposed gazebo/log cabin outbuilding in rear garden.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 21/01387/HOUSE 76 Roundfield.
Rear flat roof extension with render.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 21/01348/HOUSE Patchways, Harts Hill Road.
Proposed single storey rear extension.

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- P8. 21/1183/LBC2 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
Chapel Row Farm.
 Retention of unauthorized works, which include installation of 3 gable dormer windows and two doors to enclose a passageway between the main dwelling and ancillary accommodation.
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P9. 21/00693/HOUSE 31 Mortons Lane.
Single storey rear and side extensions.
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

Planning application decisions taken to appeal:

- P10. 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 was **refused** by WBC. The applicant has taken this decision to appeal, starting on the 30th July 2021.
- P11. Update from the Working Group on the Emerging Local Plan.
 Cllr. MacCallum reported that a response has been received from the AONB. The AONB did not oppose the NE Thatcham site and are not objecting to it. It is understood that Natural England will not be objecting either. Attempts are being made to set up a working lunch with Willie Hartley Russell, Henry Oliver (Director of the AONB) and Alistair Jones-Perrott (Steward for Bucklebury Estate).
 A meeting has been held with the Thatcham Town Council (TTC), Cold Ash Parish Council and Midgham Parish Council. Cllr. Pike (TTC) had some useful information and updated the group on the traffic consultant. The Freedom of Information request to WBC has been followed up with a subsequent request. Midgham Parish Council and Cold Ash Parish Council have decided not to financially support the work, but are willing to put up posters and deliver fliers.
 Paul Goriup (Ecologist acting on a pro bono basis) has suggested that working on photographic evidence with a landscape architect is a sensible way forward.
 Julian Dobbins is reducing the amount of effort he can dedicate to the project and it may be necessary for someone to work with him. Cllr. Slatford is reducing his involvement with the project. It was suggested that it might be sensible to have another member of BPC on the project.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. Verges.

A number of comments have been made about lack of cutting of roadside verges, particularly at junctions. The Avenue always causes comments when it is cut; it is scheduled to be cut in early spring (March) and late summer (September).

DC2. Work on the Common.

The piles of hoggin which were deposited on the Common just under a year ago are being moved to the top of Holly Lane, where it will be used to make good the damage caused by the 4x4s. Simon Barnett (BBOWT land manager) has apologised that it has taken so long to get this work organised.

New materials will be delivered to the south carpark where the surface will be repaired.

DC3. Green Bins.

As a result of the green bins not being collected, due to a shortage of HGV drivers, WBC has reduced the charges for emptying of green bins for 2021/22 by £4.00. It was reported that households can book appointments at the household recycling centre twice a week now rather than only once a week.

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TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

Tony MacDonald of the West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS) has looked at the hedges in the Hockett Field. He has suggested that the WBCS could spend a day on hedge management and improve the hedges significantly. He has suggested cutting them, on the basis that the hedges do not need to be stock proof. It is understood that it is better for wildlife not to lay hedges.

It was agreed to ask the WBCS to spend a day working in the Hockett Field, possibly also planting some whips in the gaps.

The meeting was **closed** for Jacquie Hamilton to speak.

Ms. Hamilton raised concerns from residents of Broad Lane about the way in which the small meadow was opened up for public use and the clearance of the entrance track from Broad Lane. A number of issues were raised which will be addressed by Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Hillerton.

The meeting was **reopened**.

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

There will be a meeting of the Burial Board during the week beginning the 20th September.

There are a number of memorials in the new cemetery which are no longer fixed to the base and are therefore at risk of tipping if pushed in the wrong direction. One was laid flat, but someone has stood it up again. It was agreed to lay the three stones in question flat and put notices on them.

Subsequent to the meeting it has been agreed to leave them standing, because the risk they pose to someone who may try to stand them up again is equal to the risk of them falling. They will be fenced off, a notice put up that they are dangerous and the process of repair has been initiated.

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark.

There was no update on inspections.

Cllr. Southgate is waiting for suitable weather conditions to fix the chicane entrance to the BMX track.

Cllr. Southgate is awaiting a conversation with Mike Scholl about either upgrading the current CCTV installation at the Memorial Hall or a completely new installation.

T4. Wellbeing.

The coffee morning on Thursday 29th July took place with a few people dropping in. The next coffee morning will be held on Thursday 26th August from 10.30am to 12noon.

T5. Conservation Work.

The conservation working group is working on the final report. There is a meeting this week with Debra Inston (the WBC conservation officer).

T6. Speeding.

It was unanimously approved that BPC will purchase the SID GEN5-PRO costing just under £2,300 excluding VAT. Half of this cost will be claimed from a successful WBC members bid.

T7. Recycling.

Cllr. Cairns reported that an additional 14.25Kg of bottle tops have recently been sent for recycling from the parish. The Memorial Hall representatives were asked to remind hall users that the bin is not a rubbish bin.

The clothes bank at the Memorial Hall is now in place; it was agreed that this needs to be advertised on Facebook.

CORRESPONDENCE.

C1. WBC- Blossom into Spring project.

WBC have initiated the "Blossom into Spring" project to remember local residents who have passed away as a result of COVID-19. There are approximately three ornamental

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cherry trees, growing to between 6 and 10m high available. After a discussion, it was agreed that three possible planting locations are the Recreation Ground in Bucklebury Village, in front of the Blackbird Café in Chapel Row and in the small meadow in Upper Bucklebury.

C2. BBOWT – West Berkshire Wild Verges Project.

Part of the “Wild Verges” project has been to distribute approximately 12m² of wild flower seed for parishes to spread. Wynne Frankum is involved in this project. Suggested places for the seed to be sown included on the triangle in Bucklebury Village, around the Victory Room and on top of the bund next to the Recreation Ground.

C3. WBC Bus Improvement Plan.

The new National Bus Strategy requires Transport Authorities (of which WBC is one) to produce a Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) by the end of October 2022. The BSIP will detail sought after improvements to the bus services and how they will be delivered. The Department for Transport will determine allocation of funding to the different Transport Authorities.

WBC has requested any suggestions from parishes relating to current bus services or potential bus services and in particular if there is anything in Parish Plans.

Cllr. MacCallum commented that the current bus service to Upper Bucklebury is a nightmare for anyone dependent upon public transport. Currently there are no buses at weekends and during the week there are only three buses a day to Thatcham and one bus to Newbury on a limited number of days. There is no bus which enables people to reach Reading. Cllr. Cairns further commented that there is no bus service in the Village or The Slade.

Cllr. MacCallum will write a response to be sent to WBC.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

CPRE	£100.00	Membership
TDP Limited	£1,139.21	2 x Picnic benches for the small meadow.
Triangle Management Company Ltd.	£100.80	Bin emptying for July, August and September 2021.
Expenses, salaries and pension contributions	£933.58	For July 2021. This figure includes expenses for the playpark.

F5. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£13,445.17	
Lloyds Current Account:	£16,964.73	On 20 th July 2021.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£35,447.56	On 20 th July 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.

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. Victory Room.

The walls of the extension to the Victory Room have been built and half of the whole roof has been completed. It is hoped that the other half will be complete by the end of the week. The contractor has been very good and the carpentry is of very good quality. Unfortunately, there was more rot in the old hall than had been thought which has cost an additional £3,000 to rectify. The underfloor heating will be installed in the new hall this week. Some of the old panelling has been kept to be installed in the new small meeting room.

RP2. Chapel Row Patient Participation Group.

The Chapel Row Surgery is now open to patients. To comply with Health and Safety measures, there is a door bell on entry. The number of face-to-face appointments is gradually increasing. Most of the adult patients registered at Chapel Row who wanted

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COVID vaccination have now had both doses. COVID boosters will be given to older patients at the same time as they receive their flu vaccination.

All appointment requests are triaged, with doctors carrying out a clinical triage in combination with receptionists.

As a result of the reorganisation of health and social care across the country the West Berkshire CCG will become part of the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) Integrated Care System responsible for medical and social care from 1st April 2022. Part of BOB involves a trial of associate physicians taking on some of the GPs' workload. Chapel Row Surgery will not be taking on an associate physician in the immediate future. Part of the move towards the new integrated care system will involve working with parish and town councils so that patients are more involved in their care.

RP3. West Berkshire Climate Forum.

WBC is running the Big Green Week from the 18th to the 25th September. The aim is that parishes will organise "green" events during this week which WBC will advertise. Other green initiatives are being organised by WBC including the "Blossom into Spring" project, and the "Queens Green Canopy". It was felt that there are a number of initiatives going on in Bucklebury which are "green" including common clearing, the coffee mornings as well as the various recycling initiatives.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS.

RT1. Bucklebury Events Committee.

There is to be a celebratory tea in the Memorial Hall on the 26th September to mark the clearing of Hash and Chan Shingadia's name after the Horizon Post Office scandal.

RT2. Flytipping.

Cllr. MacCallum reported that the flytipping on byway 56, reported to WBC before the Common Clearing event still had not been cleared.

RT3. Grit Bins.

Cllr. Southgate will shortly go round the parish and inspect all of the grit bins and arrange refilling them where necessary.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee:

Tuesday 24th August 2021 at 7.45pm All Saints Hall.

Bucklebury Parish Council meeting:

Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.45pm All Saints Hall.

Signature

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