

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held at All Saints Church Hall, Upper Bucklebury on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. J. Brims (Vice Chairman); Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. R. Ranken; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. B. Dickens, Cllr. A. Hillerton and Cllr T. Slatford

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 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the BPC meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 were a true reflection of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Brims.

CLERKS REPORT.

CL1. Councillor Vacancies.

WBC has been informed of the vacancy arising after the resignation of Cllr. MacCallum. Members of the parish have 14 working days in which to call for a by-election. If this period passes and there is no such request, BPC may co-opt an eligible person to become a councillor.

Having spoken to Cllr. Dickens, it is suggested that, if there is no call for a by-election, interested parties are invited to attend the October meeting and BPC then considers co-optation at the November meeting.

Following an unfortunate incident between Cllr. Unamba and a parishioner, it is unclear whether or not Cllr. Unamba wishes to tender his resignation.

CL2. Common Clearing – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

The Clerk has booked the litter picking equipment from WBC and the Memorial Hall for a Common Clearing and litter picking event on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

CL3. The Oaks.

The next edition of The Oaks is scheduled to be delivered to homes from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk will not be available from Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October, so anyone available and willing to deliver Oaks to different areas (particularly Byles Green and Cabinswood Lane areas) would be appreciated.

Articles must be submitted to the Clerk by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

CL4. Arrangement for the October meeting.

The Clerk will not be available for the October meeting. Cllr. Hillerton will write draft minutes of the meeting for the Clerk. This meeting will take place in All Saint's Church Hall. It is planned to hold the October Planning meeting in the Victory Room.

CL5. District Parish Conference – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

The next District Parish Conference will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. It is not clear whether this will be a face to face, Zoom or a hybrid meeting. Cllr. Southgate offered to attend if no one else is available.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered.

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- P1. 21/02107/HOUSE Hilliers Lodge, The Avenue.  
*Erection of garage and store with first floor home office.*  
 After looking at the plans, it was agreed that a site visit is required to determine BPC's views on this application. Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Spours have requested a visit to the site on Thursday and comments will be returned to WBC after this visit.
- P2. 21/02157/FUL The Cottage Inn.  
*Erection of fabric tent over part of existing rear external drinking area.*  
 It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application, subject to a request for a barrier (either canvas or trellis and planting) on the west side of the tent to reduce noise nuisance to neighbours. It was also suggested that there be a restriction to low lumen lighting due to the openness of the site within the AONB.
- P3. 21/02134/HOUSE Tiverton House, The Slade.  
*Demolition of existing conservatory roof and side walls at rear of property (existing foundations and base to remain). Build new single storey utility room on existing foundations and base of current conservatory. Utility room to consist of matching brick walls and appropriately tiled roof.*  
 It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

Planning decisions made by WBC:

- P4. 21/01615/HOUSE Brambles, Little Lane.  
*Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and internal alterations.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P5. 21/01357/HOUSE Oakbourne House, Chapel Row.  
*Single storey rear extension and outbuilding for garden storage.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P6. 21/01034/HOUSE The Old Police House.  
*Proposed car port.*  
 BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P7. 21/00809/HOUSE Nine Elms Cottage.  
*Front rear and side extensions with rooms in the roof. Single storey link and extension to the guest annexe.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- P8. 21/00731/HOUSE Nuttage House.  
*Proposed alteration and extension works to the annexe building at Nuttage House.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

Planning decisions to be considered at the Eastern Area Planning (EAP) meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September:

- P9. 21/01358/HOUSE – Thatchers.  
*Demolish existing rear extension, construct new single storey rear extension and 2 storey side/rear extension, construct new garage block with office, games room above and a single storey link to main house.*  
 BPC **objected** to this application. Cllr. Brims attended the EAP site meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, but cannot attend the EAP committee meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. No other councillors were available to attend, so it was agreed that the Clerk would attend and speak on behalf of BPC.

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*Subsequent to the meeting, District Cllr. Pask agreed to read a statement from BPC at the meeting.*

P10. 21/01390/HOUSE – The Old Travellers Rest.

*Section 73 variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of approved 20/00852/HOUSE – Demolition of three unsafe timber outbuildings, construction of a replacement timber car port/garage, two single storey extensions to the rear of the building, single storey extension to the side of the building and alterations including modifications and replacement of windows.*

BPC **objected** to this application. Cllr. Brims attended the EAP site meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September and recommended that BPC do not make further representation at the EAP committee meeting.

P11. Update from the Working Group on the Emerging Local Plan.

Cllr. Spours reported that the working group has not met since the Laura Farris meeting. At the Laura Farris meeting, she listened well to peoples' comments, but made it clear that she has little control over planning. At the meeting she heard concern from people about a lack of consultation. Questions need to be answered by WBC about how the Local Plan was funded.

In terms of the draft Local Plan, there is a lot of uncertainty. It is possible there will be a further consultation, but equally, it's possible there will be a completely new document. Laura Farris MP has questioned Robert Jenrick about "levelling up" and not concreting over the South of England. District Cllr. Pask is continually asking WBC officers to look at alternative sites.

WBC currently has a 7-year land supply. This means that planning inspectors will not be inclined to approve appeals for large developments which are contrary to the existing plan. Once there is less than a 5 year land supply, there is a real risk of planning by appeal. District Cllr. Pask thought the land supply would not drop below 5 years before 2025/26.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. WBC Staff Changes.

Nigel Lynn has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of WBC, starting in the Autumn, he was the unanimous choice of all parties. Nick Carter has retired after 23 years with WBC.

Eric Owens has taken over as Service Directory for Development and Regulation, formerly Gary Lugg's role as Head of Planning.

DC2. Waste.

Complaints have been made that green bins can only be paid for by direct debit. This is due to Veolia rather than WBC. There has been a reduction in the cost of green bins for the coming year as compensation for the cancelling of some collections due to COVID. The recycling centres now have a lane for non-WBC residents who are charged. A scheme is coming into place, whereby number plates can be registered with WBC and no permit will be required for the registered vehicle.

DC3. Highways.

The state of Harts Hill Road was raised; it is getting more and more dangerous. District Cllr. Pask reported that it is on schedule to be resurfaced, but he was unsure when.

The road from Hermitage to Chapel Row has been closed due to Thames Water working on a leak outside Brook House. There was a lack of understanding as to why the road was fully closed and traffic lights were not used.

#### TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

The four new benches were delivered to the Cottage Inn last week. Two of these have been delivered to the Hockett Field and two to the largest of the meadows. Within minutes of one being placed in the large meadow, it was sat on by two people. The

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benches have been placed away from the access points to the meadows as they are not anchored, but they are very heavy.

During the night of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September, a vehicle entered the Hockett Field through the barb wire fence in the west boundary, before breaking the gatepost, in order to move the gates, to exit the field. A vehicle was significantly damaged during the forcing of the gates/gatepost. The incident has been reported to the Police. Steve Beeson assisted in temporarily replacing the gates and screwing the sleeper gate post back together. Opening the gates for the benches was a challenge and quotes need to be obtained for replacement gateposts.

The Cottage Inn will be hosting a bonfire evening on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed to give permission for the small meadow to be used to let off fireworks. The small meadow will be closed on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> November for setup and tidying up afterwards. The Clerk will put up notices (and photograph them) in advance to warn residents.

Having determined that it is better for wildlife to cut hedges rather than to lay them, the Clerk will make arrangements for the hedges around the meadow to be cut.

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

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

On investigation, it has been discovered that the majority of the memorials on the row closest to the path in the new Cemetery are loose. A list needs to be formed and attempts made to identify owners of the memorials before a quote is obtained for repairs.

Cemetery Carols will take place this year on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. Clarke and the Clerk will organise the event. Cllr. Southgate is willing to make his sound system available for the event.

A Cemetery working party will take place in late November.

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark.

Prior to the meeting Cllr. Hillerton reported that as of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September, the bike track was in good condition, although the blue barriers were still at the bottom of the slope to the side of the track. When the grass is cut, they will be retrieved and positioned to deter the use of short cuts.

The basket swing in the playpark has been removed because it broke. It was agreed to purchase a new basket swing up to the value of a £1,000.

Signage is needed in the play park about age restrictions. The difficulty is in policing the age limit. Often parents need to climb onto the equipment to retrieve children. It was agreed to look at the wording of the signage in the Victory Room Play area. A statement about liability needs to be added to the signage.

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

Mike Scholl has not responded to the request to speak to Cllr. Southgate about CCTV at the Memorial Hall so no progress has been made.

T4. Wellbeing.

The coffee morning on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August was very successful and some old friendships were rekindled from before COVID. The next coffee morning will be on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr. Cairns will oversee the event.

There is a need by some members of the community for transport to and from Thatcham. One way of assisting this need might be to provide a weekly service to Thatcham for approximately an hour on a Friday morning, possibly picking up people from their homes using the community minibus before returning. It was agreed to put an article in The Oaks asking anyone interested in the service to contact the Clerk.

T5. Conservation Work.

Cllr. Clarke reported that there had been a useful meeting with Debra Inston (the WBC Conservation Officer). Work on the final report is ongoing.

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T6. Speeding.

A quote for the SID has been received and will be order shortly. There has been a request from parishioners for installation of permanent SIDs where speeding is a known problem. It is felt that whilst permanent SIDs are useful in the early days, they soon become ignored. It will be more effective to have a mobile SID which can be deployed in different places across the parish on a regular basis.

The Thames Valley Police Community Speedwatch Programme has not yet reached West Berkshire, let alone Bucklebury.

District Cllr. Pask commented that he has reported the SID at Chapel Row because it is no longer working.

T7. Recycling.

Cllr. Cairns reported that she currently has an awful lot of bottle tops to sort and recycle. There were reports that the clothes bank at the Memorial Hall has been emptied, which is encouraging.

Cllr. Cairns will write an article for The Oaks about the recycling initiatives going on in the parish.

## FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

Post Office Ltd	£11.12	SSE – Streetlights for July and August.
The Alpha Xperience	£176.00	“Say No” leaflets.
Volunteer Centre West Berkshire	£12.00	Social Media training.
Expenses, salaries and pension contributions	£818.87	For August 2021. This figure includes expenses covering website security and the annual Microsoft subscription.

Just under 50 donations have been received to fight the proposed NE Thatcham development plan, totalling £6,200.

F5. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£13,402.18	
Lloyds Current Account:	£15,031.82	On 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2021.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£35,447.86	On 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2021.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,748.98	On 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2021.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,579.81	On 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. Victory Room.

Work on the Victory Room is generally going well. It was hoped to be able to reopen the hall from the 1<sup>st</sup> October, but it is more likely to be mid-October. There have been issues with supply of materials; the windows were due over two weeks ago and there is no certainty that they will arrive this week. The interior of the building is plastered, the kitchen has been installed and the ceiling in the main hall has been done.

RP2. Commons Advisory.

District Cllr. Pask reported that the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) will come into effect on the majority of byways on the Common on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. A number of extra bollards will be installed. Motorbikes have not been included in the TROs. Members of the Trail Riders Fellowship are willing to carry out training on the Common, with any motorbikes abusing the byways.

The hoggin which had been placed in various places around the Common has been moved to the area damaged by 4x4s at the top of Holly Lane.

RP3. Celebratory Tea for Hash and Chan – 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillors planning to attend the Celebration Tea to celebrate the clearing of Hash and Chan’s names from the Post Office scandal were reminded that they had been asked to

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register on a list in Peaches (in order to ensure there are sufficient supplies).

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS.

RT1. Defibrillator Training.

A parishioner recently attended a first aid training course, including the use of a defibrillator and commented that there should be some more training courses in the parish. The Clerk will contact Nick Young and make some enquiries.

RT2. Bucklebury Ford.

The Clerk reported that requests had been received for signage at the ford with the postcode, to assist those who have got stuck when calling recovery services.

It was noted that the litter signs have now deteriorated and gone. More permanent combined signs will be explored.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee:

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.45pm All Saints Hall.

Bucklebury Parish Council meeting:

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.45pm All Saints Hall.

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