

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in All Saints Church Hall, Upper Bucklebury on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. R. Ranken; Cllr. P. Teal; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

OTHERS

One parishioner.

APOLOGIES

No apologies of absence were received.

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 November 2021.

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

CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

CO1. Co-Option.

Following advertisement of the resignation of Tim Slatford for a period of 14 working days, there has been no request for a by-election. WBC, acting as the Returning Officer has confirmed that BPC may now co-opt a new councillor to the position.

It was resolved that Philip Teal would be co-opted on to BPC, representing the West Ward.

Cllr. Teal signed his Declaration of Office.

CHAIRS REPORT

CH1. The Chairman had no items to raise.

CLERKS REPORT.

CL1. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

It was agreed that this item would be discussed at the January meeting.

CL2. Completion of External Audit.

PKF Littlejohn has completed their external audit of the accounts for FY20/21. No issues of concern were raised.

PLANNING

Planning applications to be considered by BPC:

P1. 21/02921/HOUSE Corner Croft, Hatch Lane.

Proposed front extension and new roof to original part of property with conversion of roofspace. Single storey side extension with new entrance, porch and associated alterations.

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

P2. 21/02585/HOUSE Hilliers Lodge, The Avenue.

Demolition of outbuilding and erection of annex. The formation of 3 no. rooflights within the existing dwelling of Hilliers Lodge; 1 no. rooflight is located upon the south elevation, and 2 no. rooflights to the north

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elevation. The three proposed rooflights will match the existing.
The proposed annexe is inline with the existing building, but separated by a gap.

The meeting was **closed** for the agent to speak.

The agent commented that it is easier and cheaper to build a standalone annexe than convert the barn.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was agreed that BPC **objects** to this application on the grounds that it is a separate new dwelling in the countryside. If WBC is minded to approve it, conditions restricting the use of the annexe were suggested.

P3. 21/03010/HOUSE
& 21/03011/LBC2

The Old Cottage, The Avenue.

Single storey rear extensions.

The meeting was **closed** for the applicant to speak.

The applicant commented that the extensions would be oak framed with a brick base. The materials will be reclaimed, or new copies of old materials.

The meeting was **reopened**.

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

Planning decisions made by WBC:

P4. 21/02639/LBC2

Copyhold Farm.

Dismantling and storing timber frame for future rebuilding.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

P5. 21/02505/HOUSE

Smithincott, The Avenue.

Proposed extension to form garden room, extension of front dormer and gable wall and erection of new garage.

An amendment was submitted which removed the garage component of the application.

BPC **objected** to the garage component of the application, but had **no objection** to the extensions to the house. WBC has **approved** the amended application.

P6. 21/02474/HOUSE

Avenue House, Hatch Lane.

Detached timber frame garage and garden machine store.

BPC **objected** to this application on the grounds of the second entrance which was included in the application. This entrance was removed in an amendment and subsequently the application was **approved** by WBC.

P7. 21/02408/FUL

Chapel Row House.

Provision of a tennis court.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

P8. 21/02148/FUL

Zin Zan Place.

Replacement garage.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

P9. 21/02398/FUL

Middlewood, Hatch Lane.

Installation of Glen Farrow GF175 Biomass Boiler and "40ft" log drying container.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

P10. 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 our kiosk.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

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- P11. 21/01390/HOUSE The Old Travellers Rest (Adjacent Parish).
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 which was **approved** by the Eastern Area Planning Committee.
- P12. 21/01358/HOUSE Thatchers, Chapel Row.
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 which was **approved** by the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

Applications being taken to appeal:

- P13. 21/00731/HOUSE Nuttage House, Pease Hill.
Proposed alteration and extension works to the annexe building at Nuttage House.
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which was **refused** by WBC.
 This decision has been taken to appeal.

- P14. Other Planning Matters.
 Cllr. Spours reported that Sovereign Housing Association had told residents who are leaving Paradise Way that they could leave any unwanted items on the land to the north east of the site. Unfortunately, the area has become a dumping site for other rubbish.

- P15. Update from the Working Group on the Emerging Local Plan.
 Cllr. Spours has received a response from Michael Gove MP about the number of new houses to be built and development on brown field sites. A letter has been written to Lynne Doherty asking her to speak at a public meeting and explain how the proposal of the NE Thatcham site fits within the Government policy.
 District Cllr. Pask continues to push for the Colthrop site.
 The Freedom of Information request submitted to WBC by Steve Beeson about how the Thatcham Strategic Growth Study was funded continues to be followed up by Brian Quinn and is reported in the Penny Post.
 A wildlife survey is being discussed, which could be carried out during this quieter period. How such a survey could be carried out, the area to be covered and what quotative data exists are to be considered by the working group. Data on species which existed on the Common from 1966 is available. Kennet School biology department is very interested in being involved in such a survey.
 It was agreed that Cllr. Allum would join the working group.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC1. West Berkshire Recycling and Waste Plants.

A new registration system has come into force requiring the pre-registration of car registration numbers for vehicles to automatically be recognised. Up to three vehicles can be registered from any address. Appointments for visits to the plants continue to be required, which must be made in advance.

DC2. Abuse of Byways on the Common.

WBC has organised for concrete blocks (as used on motorways) to be positioned on key byways to restrict access to permitted users only. These will be removed from the Common when the TROs are no longer in place.

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TOPICS

T1. Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

The dead elms and holly trunks in the boundary with 11 Mortons Lane have been removed.

An estimate to cut the hedges around the meadows has been obtained. The work will take between five and six hours work and cost approximately £300 plus VAT. BPC approved expenditure of up to £500 on the hedges.

It was agreed to ask CR Landscapes to quote for the work to level up the path at the entrance to the meadows by Morton's Lane.

T2. Cemetery and Chapel.

Cemetery Carols – Due to the increased COVID risk from the Omicron variant, it was agreed to cancel Cemetery Carols for a second year running.

Cemetery Working Party – A good effort was made, by all who attended the Cemetery to tidy up the Cemetery. Contractors need to be instructed to remove the trees leaning on the wall around the cemetery and the wires through the Cemetery.

The scrub area has been brush cut again this year.

T3. Fred Dawson Playpark.

The replacement basket swing is on order; Cllr. Southgate will install it when it arrives.

The rubber seats on the swings are beginning to crack and whilst not yet a safety issue, need to be monitored. The picnic bench needs to be replaced, potentially with one similar to those in the meadows. A replacement “no dogs” sign needs to be ordered and a “please close the gate” sign. Suggestions were also made for a disclaimer sign about the uneven surface.

The base of the side safety barrier for the swings has become exposed; it needs to be covered with soil and then turfed in the Spring. Providing the pandemic allows the second gate can be opened in the Spring. A working party is needed in the spring to do a through clean of the equipment and signs. The surfaces need to be monitored closely and any trip hazards fixed.

In the longer term, plans need to be made for the replacement of surfacing and equipment as required.

On the bike track, the chicane needs to be re-installed at the entrance. Turf needs to be laid over the illegal shortcut and a barrier erected to protect it until the turf takes.

T4. Wellbeing.

Coffee mornings – Those who attend the coffee mornings have responded positively to one taking place between Christmas and the New Year on the 30th December. Dates for coffee mornings in 2022 need to be booked.

Defibrillator at the Memorial Hall - Mike Scholl has been contacted about a defibrillator being installed at the Memorial Hall. He has responded positively to this but has requested that the defibrillators are registered on all of the publicly accessible databases of defibrillators as well as those used by the Ambulance Service and that more training sessions are held to raise awareness. The Clerk will investigate training with Nick Young and CCB

T5. Conservation Work

The final draft of the Conservation Area Appraisal has been sent to Debra Inston at WBC. It is hoped that there will be a meeting in January to finalise it.

T6. Speeding.

Templates have been obtained from Cheryl Evans at WBC for the various documentation that needs to be in place for the use of SID. It is hoped that SID will be in use in the new year.

The Community Speedwatch programme is now operating in West Berkshire.

T7. Recycling.

Cllr. Cairns reported that, to date 146 kgs of plastic bottle tops have been recycled (this does not include those with no plastic grades that cannot be recycled). There are currently

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9 kgs to be sorted.

T8. Blossom into Spring Cherry Trees.

The three cherry trees have been planted on the Recreation Ground and should look beautiful.

FINANCE

F1. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

PKF Littlejohn	£240.00	External audit.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£154.00	Rent for coffee mornings and Common clearing.
The Victory Room	£20.00	Rent for November 2021 meetings.
PCC Bucklebury	£98.00	Rent for meetings July to October 2021.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£550.00	Grass cutting and waste management.
Willis and Ainsworth Ltd	£185.64	Grit.
Post Office Ltd.	£11.00	SSE 2/10/2021 to 1/12/2021.
Expenses, salaries and pension contributions for November 2021.	£1,364.52	Includes the new basket swing (£680.00).
C.R. Landscapes Ltd	£1,991.34	Cemetery maintenance for July to December 2021, grass cutting in the small meadows and removal of elms and holly.

F2. To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£16,220.24	
Lloyds Current Account:	£20,934.27	On 19 th November 2021.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£35,448.75	On 19 th November 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.

F3. Budget for FY22/23.

The draft budget for FY22/23 will be circulated by the end of the first week in the New Year.

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

RP1. WBC Engagement with Parish and Town Councils.

Two meetings have been held between WBC and the parishes one on communications, engagement, customer services, devolution, parish plans, resources and templates, and the other on planning and highways including speed management.

They were based around what WBC could do to improve things. We may see a monthly or quarterly newsletter specifically for parish councils to receive and contribute to.

A new system is being developed for the reporting of problems, initially this will be implemented for pot holes, streetlights and drainage issues and should come online in the new year. The new system should result in you seeing a photograph of your filled pothole and not simply an email telling you that the issue with the associated log number has been closed.

RP2 WBC Climate Forum.

At the Climate Forum meeting, consumers were encouraged to shop locally, particularly for environmental or green products.

The guest speaker was Mike Mullen, an electrician and lecturer from Newbury College Renewables Centre. He spoke about air source and ground source heat pumps and solar panels. Hydrogen technology is not ready to be used in domestic heating. He suggested that heat pumps were only suitable for new builds. The life of solar panels was discussed; he felt that ten years was realistic, but this was disputed by several who suggested between twenty and twenty-five years.

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He commented that technology was moving very fast and there would be a constant stream of new systems in which people must be trained and retrained in order to maintain a workforce with the knowledge to install and maintain them.

A recently built school in Newbury is heated using an air source heat pump (as is the Victory Room). He was of the opinion that in older houses, heat pumps are not satisfactory because these houses need drafts and air circulation and for heat pumps to work effectively there must be a huge amount of insulation. In older houses he felt that the most efficient things to do were to ensure good roof insulation, double or triple glazing and the use of water butts, reusing greywater and waste water where possible, plus solar photovoltaic panels.

WBC has a policy where they are looking at the use of water butts for schools.

RP3. Patient Participation Group.

Cllr. Dickens reported that he will be taking over as Chair of the PPG from Erica Tipton. He may also be taking over Erica's responsibilities on the West Berkshire Patient Panel.

RP4. Bucklebury Events Committee.

Cllr. Ranken reported that the Bucklebury Events group had met and decided to run a "Best of Bucklebury" weekend, possibly on the 18th/19th June 2022. It has been decided not to hold anything on the Jubilee weekend, as many people are likely to be away enjoying the extended half term holiday.

RP5. The Victory Room.

The first event to take place in the new Victory Room Hall was a "Call My Bluff" wine tasting evening which 64 people enjoyed. In addition to existing hirers, two Pilates groups, the sewing club and the two Horticultural society shows will be utilising the hall. The hall will be hosting the start of Open Village Hall week, with Lord Benyon officially opening the new hall. The opening will be followed by a CCB meeting.

ROUND TABLE COMMENTS.

RT1. Parking at the top of Briff Lane.

Cllr. Teal reported that PCSO Sarah Preston has contacted those who have vehicles parked in the road between Burdens Heath and Harts Hill Road. She has asked them to park in the carpark at the top of Briff Lane rather than in the road.

The blocked gully/drain outside Greenbank has been reported to WBC.

RT2. Bench at Chapel Row.

Two ladies have raised concerns about the state of the bench at Chapel Row around the tree. The Clerk will investigate and check previous emails about ownership of benches at Chapel Row.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee: No Planning meeting in December.

Bucklebury Parish Council meeting: Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.00pm Victory Room.

Monday 10th January 2022 at 8.00pm – Zoom.

Signature

Date