

1 **Present:**

Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Brims; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. B. Unamba-Oparah; Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. R. Ranken; Cllr. P. Teal; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Six members of the public.

2 **Apologies.**

There were no apologies of absence.

3 **Declarations of Interest.**

3.1 **Register of Interests.**

Councillors were reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes needed to their declarations of interest.

3.2 **Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

4 **Public Session.**

4.1 The planning applications for Middlewood (21/03222/FUL) and Ivinghoe (21/03162/FULD) are minuted under the planning section of these minutes.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 **Bucklebury Priest in Charge.**

It was reported that the Rev. J. Gadsby and his family will be leaving the parish on the 20th March. He will be taking up a new role with The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

5.2 **Jubilee Events.**

There was no update from the Events Committee.

The Queen's Green Canopy initiative is all about planting trees and there was a brief discussion about whether Cllr. Allum's suggestion of re planting the avenue of Oaks from Chapel Row to Bucklebury Manor might be an option. Cllr. Allum agreed to look at the feasibility of the project and report back at the next meeting.

6 **Clerk's Report.**

6.1 **Common Clearing.**

Commons Clearing dates of Saturday 2nd April and Saturday 1st October were agreed. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

6.2 **Annual Parish Meeting.**

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in The Victory Room on Thursday 5th May or possibly Thursday 19th May. Chris Boulton, the Director of Greenham Trust will be invited to speak at the meeting.

6.3 **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).**

The Clerk reported that to comply with the GDPR, the council should adopt a GDPR statement for publication. It was resolved to approve the draft statement presented by the Clerk. A spreadsheet has been created listing all data held by BPC, why it is held and how it is handled.

As a data controller, BPC should be registered with ICO; the Clerk will complete the registration.

6.4 **The Oaks.**

The Clerk will produce a copy of The Oaks for distribution around the 19th/20th February.

7 **Planning.**

7.1 **Planning applications to be considered by BPC:**

7.1.1 21/03056/HOUSE Glebe Cottage, Bucklebury.

Detached greenhouse.

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

7.1.2 21/03222/FUL Middlewood, Hatch Lane.

Installation of Glen Farrow GF175 Biomass Boiler and “40ft” log drying container. Section 73 application to remove conditions 5 (nil import of lumber) and 6 (benzo [a]pyrene) of approved application 21/02398/FUL).

The condition around ash has been resolved, leaving only the condition on lumber to be considered.

The condition states that there is to be no import of lumber for processing or drying. There have been eleven previous applications for this site, with no such condition, even though WBC was aware that lumber was being imported. The biomass boiler, the subject of the main application, is required as a result of new regulations requiring firewood to be kiln dried. Approximately 700 bags of firewood are sold each year, with 60% being produced from wood from Middlewood. At this level of production there is a ten year supply from the site. The business employs one full time and two part time staff. Vehicles entering the site over the last year have been recorded by local residents and include:

- Traffic movements on 47 days during 2021
- Large articulated lorries on 3 days
- A number of tractor deliveries on 9 days with one or two deliveries a day
- A number of construction vehicles.

It is understood that most of the imported wood is coming from Blacklands Copse, Bucklebury Estate and Yattendon Estate. The condition for no import of lumber will result in the loss of 40% of the business, which has had no restrictions over the past 13 years. BPC wish to see the business prosper, but not to the detriment of local residents.

The meeting was **closed**.

The applicant commented that he didn't understand why WBC had imposed the condition, there not having been one previously. He has recently taken on a part time employee with a view to training him up to become full time.

An objector from Hatch Lane, commented that concerns were raised to WBC about the increase in traffic and tractors with double trailers using Hatch Lane. Hatch Lane has no pavements and high banks, and is used by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

Whilst working from home due to the COVID restrictions, the objector had witnessed the increased use of the entrance to Middlewood and this had given them material with which to object to WBC on this application. The peaceful area which she moved to 35 years ago now feels like an industrial area.

The meeting was **reopened**.

Cllr. Brims commented that the blanket restriction of no import of lumber must be withdrawn and that WBC Highways needs to make a recommendation based on an assessment of Hatch Lane. It was agreed that BPC would not make a conclusive decision, but submit a narrative on the situation which would be approved at the Planning meeting on 24th January 2022.

Signature

Date

- 7.1.3 21/03174/FULD Garages adjacent to 9 Donnington Close.
Conversion of two garages/stores to a one bedroom flat including external alterations.
 It was unanimously agreed that BPC **supports** this application for an addition almes house.
- 7.1.4 21/03182/HOUSE Kiln Lodge, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).
First floor and rear extensions, garage conversion and alterations.
 It was unanimously agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- 7.1.5 21/03162/FULD Ivinghoe, Stanford Dingley (Adjacent Parish).
Demolition of existing bungalow and replacement with a new dwelling and landscape enhancements.
 This application is very similar to the application submitted for the site in 2020. The orientation has been changed such that the dwelling is less prominent within the landscape when viewed from the east and west, but more prominent from the south and north. The proposal is not subservient to the existing bungalow and has an increase in size of 240%. Planning policy states that replacement dwellings in the countryside must be proportionate in size and scale to the existing dwelling and not have an adverse impact. This proposal will have significant impact, particularly when viewed from the road (south elevation). Landscaping will take time to reach maturity and can easily be removed or changed.
 The meeting was **closed**.
 The applicant commented that the orientation had been changed in response to the Landscape Visualisation Assessment in order to reduce the views of the building from the east and west. The massing to the south and north are quite heavily screened.
 The bungalow which was derelict serves no visual amenity and is incongruous in the landscape.
 The bungalow doesn't provide sufficient size for modern living standards.
 The meeting was **reopened**.
 It was unanimously agreed that BPC **objects** to this application.

7.2 Planning decisions made by WBC:

- 7.2.1 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 elevation. The three proposed rooflights will match the existing.
 BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.2 21/02448/HOUSE Baydon, Little Lane.
Demolition of part ground floor and erection of new first floor extension and oak porch.
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

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

There is a meeting of the Working Group on Tuesday 11th January.

8 Website.

The existing website was developed on a pro bono basis some years ago. As such it is not the highest priority and ideally a new website needs to be developed which is more accessible. How the website is managed needs to be considered.

Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Ranken agreed to look at possible ways forward.

Signature

Date

9 District Councillors Report.

9.1 North East Thatcham.

District Cllr. Pask reported that he has a meeting with Laura Farris MP and the leader of WBC, Cllr. Lynne Doherty on Friday afternoon.

9.2 COVID.

As a result of people isolating due to COVID cases, green garden bins will not be emptied for the next week.

9.3 Paradise Way.

This application needs to comply with Planning Policy and negotiations are taking place with Sovereign Housing for the site to be made a rural exception site.

The situation with rubbish being dumped at the east end of the houses to be demolished has got worse. District Cllr. Pask agreed to speak to Sovereign Housing about the situation.

The access track from Paradise Way to the Thames Water pumping station has been surfaced with compacted concrete.

10 Bucklebury Meadows and the Hockett Field.

There were no updates on the meadows.

11 Cemetery and Chapel.

There was no updates from the Cemetery.

12 Fred Dawson Playpark.

There was nothing to report from the playpark or the bike track.

13 Wellbeing.

The coffee morning scheduled for the 30th December was cancelled due to the increase in numbers of those suffering from the omicron variant of COVID.

The next coffee morning will be held on Thursday 27th January.

14 Conservation Work.

There is a meeting scheduled for the 26th January with Debra Inston, when hopefully the final draft of the Conservation Appraisal can be agreed.

15 Speeding.

Pete Cane, the blacksmith has made a support stand for the BPC SID. Cllr. Southgate has now accessed the software and has the SID up and operational in a test environment. The risk assessments for all of the sites need to be written and approval needs to be granted for its use by WBC. Training needs to be sorted out for the operators with the supplier.

The BPC SID gives the opportunity for there to be a message (with a limited number of characters) at the bottom of the display, any suggestions are welcome.

Cllr. Southgate has registered with the Community Speedwatch which allows members of the public to go out with a speed gun and the resulting data to be used by the Police.

Cllr. Southgate was thanked for all his work on speeding.

16 Grit Bins.

Cllr. Southgate has inspected and refilled all of the parish grit bins for which he was thanked.

17 Recycling.

There was nothing to report.

18 Finance.

18.1 Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

PCC Bucklebury	£20.00	Rent for meeting December 2021 meeting.
TPF Cane	£95.00	Frame to hold SID.
Funeral Services Ltd	£202.00	Return of monies transferred in error.
Salaries, expenses and pension contributions including one month's		
Zoom license.	£698.91	

Signature

Date

West Berkshire Countryside Society	£500.00	Membership and donation
Berkshire County Blind Society	£50.00	Donation
Pang Valley Flood Forum	£100.00	Membership.
WB CAB	£100.00	Donation (cheque subsequently cancelled and made out to Greenham Trust for match funding).
Bucklebury Community Bus	£500.00	Donation.
St. Martins Club	£250.00	Donation.

18.2 To review current balances and financial position.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£14,206.33	
Lloyds Current Account:	£20,499.74	On 20 th December 2021.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows.	£35,449.04	On 20 th December 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.

19 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.

19.1 **Opening of ACRE National Village Halls Week at the Victory Room.**

Village Halls Week will be opened by Lord Benyon at the Victory Room on Monday 24th January from 10.30am to 12noon. Anyone interested in attending should register by Wednesday 19th January.

20 ROUND TABLE COMMENTS.

20.1 **Bucklebury Community Bus.**

The community minibus was stolen on the 19th December, immediately after the end of term from The Cottage Inn carpark.

A condition of one of the main grant funders was that funds had to be saved for a new bus in the future, so there was a small fund set aside. With the fund set aside and the insurance money, a replacement bus has been purchased, and fitted with a tracker and steering lock.

20.2 **Gulley outside Greenbanks, Harts Hill Road.**

The gully was still block on 29th December and the road was completely flooded.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Future Meetings:

Bucklebury Planning Committee: Monday 24th January 2022 at 7.45pm Zoom.

Bucklebury Parish Council meeting: Monday 14th February 2022 at 7.45pm Victory Room.

Signature

Date