

Minutes of a meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council

held at the Victory Room, Bucklebury on

Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.45pm

- 1 **Present:** Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. P. Spours; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. R. Ranken; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. H. Cairns; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
One member of the public.
- 1.1 **Apologies.**
Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. J. Brims.
Absent: Cllr. B. Unamba-Oparah.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest.**
- 2.1 **Register of Interests.**
Councillors were reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes needed to their declarations of interest.
- 2.2 **Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**
There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.
- 3 **Public Session**
- 3.1 **22/00203/HOUSE – 2 Riverside Cottages.**
This planning application was discussed during the public session, details are minuted under the Planning section of these minutes.
- 4 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th February 2022.**
The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th February 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.
- 5 **Chair's Report.**
- 5.1 **Motorised vehicles on the Common.**
A letter has been sent to Lord Benyon about the damage inflicted on the Common as a result of the use of motorised vehicles and what can be done to stop the damage. A response has been received that evidence of the damage and the perpetrators needs to be gathered.
The Ridgeway has a permanent Traffic Regulation Order in place for 6 months from the 1st October affecting all motorised vehicles. It is questioned why a similar TRO cannot be placed on the Bucklebury byways. Involving GLEAM was put forwards as a suggestion. District Cllr. Pask has asked Simon Barnett (BBOWT) to look at the differences between the Common and The Ridgeway. WBC has excluded motorbikes on the Bucklebury TROs on the grounds that it is not self-enforcing.
It was suggested that 4x4s and motorcyclists are most often out between Friday evening through until Sunday.
- 5.2 **Changes to the Donnington Hospital Trust Constitution.**
Donnington Trust are in the process of updating their Charity Commission scheme to reflect the ethos and spirit of the trust which has built up over 600 years. The charity's support for historic religious buildings and meeting houses will be explicitly reintroduced. The duty to conserve the natural environment and promote sustainable land management will also be added. The area benefitting from the alms-house provision will be widened from Berkshire and Oxfordshire to nationally.
- 6 **Clerk's Report**
- 6.1 **Removal of Streetlights.**
A quote has been requested from Enerevo (formerly SSE) for the removal of the streetlight brackets and lanterns for the five lights around Burdens Heath.
- 6.2 **Defibrillators.**
London Hearts is a charity supplying defibrillators with a grant of £300. Enquiries have been sent to them about possible support with funding.

Signed

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WBC Members bids are now open for applications and it was agreed that an application should be made for the defibrillator and cabinet to be installed at the Memorial Hall. Bucklebury Tennis Club will be contributing towards this defibrillator.

6.3 **Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).**

It was unanimously agreed to fund the Clerk to apply for an extension of up to 3 months to complete her CiLCA qualification at a cost of £50.

7 **Planning.**

7.1 **Planning applications which WBC have consulted BPC on:**

7.1.1 22/00384/HOUSE – Mulberry Cottage, The Slade.

Proposed first floor weatherboard cladding to main house. New external staircase, alteration to fenestration and refurbishment of existing outbuilding.

The outbuilding referred to in this application has always been used as garaging, with storage over. In this application, the garage doors are removed and the space above the garage is being converted into an art room.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application, subject to the outbuilding remaining ancillary to Mulberry Cottage.

7.1.2 22/00203/HOUSE – 2 Riverside Cottages.

Construction of 2 car detached garage.

The area above the garage is to be used as a store, accessed using a ladder.

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

The garage will be approximately 5.75m high and have a footprint of 37m² (the existing sheds on the site total 50m² and will be removed as part of the project). The building will be set back a further 2-3m from the road than the existing.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to the garage remaining ancillary to 2 Riverside Cottages.

7.2 **To receive planning decisions received from WBC:**

7.2.1 22/00022/HOUSE Marywell, Chapel Row.

Demolition of existing swimming pool and pool house. Erection of replacement pool house. Formation of replacement swimming pool. Formation of tennis court.

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

7.2.2 21/03219/HOUSE Marywell, Chapel Row.

Erection of three-bay garage with storage.

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

7.2.3 21/3162/FULD Ivinghoe (Adjacent Parish).

Demolition of existing bungalow and replacement with a new dwelling and landscape enhancements.

This application is understood to be **invalid**.

7.2.4 21/02821/HOUSE Marywell, Chapel Row.

Erection of single-storey rear extension to south elevation and erection of two-storey front infill extension.

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

7.2.5 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. The applicant took the decision to appeal and the application has been **allowed**.

7.3 **Adjacent Parish Applications.**

There are no new applications within 200m of the parish boundary.

7.4 **Emerging Local Plan.**

It is understood that Icen Projects Ltd have been taken on by WBC at a cost of £110,000 to carry out some more work to support the Local Plan Review.

Signed

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Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Spours have spoken to Mike Robinson (the planning consultant) and asked him to quote for instructing consultants once the consultation period has started. This is because the consultation period is likely to be for the minimum legal duration.

Paul Goriup is willing to carry out the biodiversity study, although he has commented that the only thing of significant value is likely to be the bat survey; there is very little value in biodiversity where planning is concerned.

It was noted that there still has been no reply from WBC in response to Laura Farris MP's letter sent in December 2021 to Cllr. Lynne Doherty, Leader of the council. *A draft of this letter has now been received and circulated to councillors.*

8 **District Council Business.**

District Cllr. Pask reported that there is a Planning Briefing update on Thursday. There is no formal date for the consultation period. District Cllr. Pask will update Cllr. Spours after the briefing. Questions were asked about the "phantom" infrastructure for Thatcham which will be needed as a result of the north east Thatcham development including schools and doctors surgeries.

There have been a lot of complaints about the potholes on Harts Hill, which have not had a temporary repair. Cllr. Teal raised the issue of the blocked gulley at Mount Pleasant which was reported to WBC in November 2021, December 2021 and February 2022; to date no obvious work has been carried out to clear the gulley.

WBC has set the budget for the coming year. There will be a 4% rise in Council tax comprising of 1% on core services and 3% on social care.

Questions were asked about what can be done to assist the Ukrainian refugees; the issue is being debated by WBC full council on Thursday.

9 **Revised Governing Documents.**

9.1 **Standing Orders.**

Standing Orders were last updated in March 2021. In this update two clauses were removed which should have been included. It was resolved to accept the amendments to the Standing Orders.

9.2 **Financial Regulations.**

The existing Financial Regulations are based on the NALC template from before 2012. A new template was issued in 2019, which BPC should consider accepting.

One significant change in the rules and regulations in this version is that a councillor other than the Chairman should witness the figures on the bank statement and should verify that they agree with the bank reconciliation on at least a quarterly basis. Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Spours will carry out the required verification.

It was resolved to accept the new Financial Regulations.

10 **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.**

It has been decided by the Events Committee that, given the number of other events going on for the Jubilee, they will not be organising anything. Plans are in place for a "Best of Bucklebury" event in 2023. It was felt to be too late to organise anything now anyway.

It is understood that there is to be no event at The Cottage Inn.

11 **Parish Council Website.**

Cllr. Ranken reported that HugoFox allow an unlimited number of users access to manage individual websites. A HugoFox website was shown to councillors as an example of what could be achieved (sambourneparish.org.uk). It was agreed that a new website will be developed using HugoFox by Cllr. Ranken, Cllr. Hillerton and the Clerk, using the silver package costing up to £240 per year.

12 **Meadows and Hockett Field.**

The gateposts between the small meadow and the large meadow, and between the large meadow and the Byles Green meadow have both rotted off. Dean from Fox Fencing will be out to replace both posts.

The West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS) have offered to cut the south hedge of the large meadow (against the pub field and against the small meadow) next winter. The height of this hedge cannot be reduced using a flail given the number of larger trees with low branches in the hedge. It was agreed to take the WBCS up on this suggestion.

Signed

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The picnic benches, which were delivered last autumn to The Cottage Inn, should be lifted over the fence into the small meadow later this week.

Plans for a community orchard have made no further progress.

The Clerk will contact Andrew Inwood about establishing the wild flower strip in the Hockett Field this year.

13 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

13.1 **Bin Emptying.**

The grey bin at the Cemetery was always emptied by Veolia prior to the new schedule of kerbside collections. Whilst there have only been one or two collections of grey bins (and there was some confusion over the new collection day), the grey bin hasn't been emptied. The situation will be monitored until the next meeting, when an alternative rubbish collection method may have to be considered.

13.2 **Cemetery Wall.**

Cllr. Allum reported that the cracks around the wall of the Victorian Cemetery were a much bigger problem than he had previously appreciated. There are cracks every six to eight meters, it has suffered from heave of the soil and from tree roots, the wall was built without any reinforcement and there are no expansion gaps. Frost will inevitably get into it. Questions were asked about the risk it poses. It was agreed to monitor the wall on an annual basis and in particular the wall against the road.

14 **Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track**

14.1 **Inspections.**

The play area and the bike track are all ready for the RoSPA inspection in April, with no known issues except signage.

14.2 **CCTV at the Memorial Hall.**

Cllr. Unamba was not present to give any update on the CCTV. *Cllr. Unamba has agreed to examine CCTV for the Memorial Hall.*

15 **Wellbeing Coffee mornings.**

A successful coffee morning was held in February.

The next coffee morning will be on 31st March at 10.30am. It was agreed that Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Spours and the Clerk would investigate using the Community minibus to transport residents from Paradise Way and Donnington Close to and from the coffee mornings.

16 **Environment.**

16.1 **Common Clearing (2nd April).**

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Cairns, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Southgate will all make cakes for Common Clearing.

Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Cairns will serve tea.

District Cllr. Pask will contact WBC about providing some road signage to warn drivers through the parish that there are people out collecting litter.

16.2 **Avenue of Oaks from Chapel Row to Bucklebury Manor.**

A couple of the oak trees on the Avenue came down in storm Eunice.

Cllr. Allum has spoken to Jo Watt at WBC about the possibility of planting the replacement Avenue from Chapel Row, past Hillfoot to the Old School and about the filling in gaps in the existing Avenues.

16.3 **Conservation Area Appraisal.**

Cllr. Clarke reported that the final bits of updating of the appraisal are currently taking place.

16.4 **Speeding.**

No progress has been made with speeding.

16.5 **Recycling.**

Cllr. Cairns reported that 163.25Kg of bottle tops have now been recycled

17 **Finances.**

17.1 **Cheques to be signed by Councillors:**

Post Office Ltd £28.94 Streetlights 2/2/2022 – 1/3/2022.

The Alpha Xperience £429.00 Printing of 900 copies of The Oaks.

Signed

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Bucklebury Memorial Hall £49.00 Rent for coffee mornings 1/1/22 to 31/3/22 and meeting on 17/8/2021.

Salaries, pension contributions and expenses £890.50 February 2022 salaries, pension contributions printing and postal expenses and legal forms.

17.2 **To review current balances and financial position.**

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £13,824.40
Lloyds Current Account: £14,568.54 On 18th February 2022.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows: £35,449.64 On 18th February 2022.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account: £37,748.98 On 4th April 2021.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account: £4,579.81 On 4th April 2021.

18 **Reports from other meetings:**

18.1 **WB Heritage Forum AGM.**

Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Southgate attended the AGM of the WB Heritage Forum. The gardens of The Dell in Windmill Lane have been locally listed (they originally formed part of the gardens of Bucklebury Place owned by the Sutton family). These gardens were the first gardens to be listed by Berkshire Gardens. There are three items of interest which are currently being considered for local listing in Bucklebury parish: Mortons Chapel (Turners Green), a stile in Marlston and the pound at Hillfoot.

A number of interesting presentations were made after the AGM including one by the Berkshire Industrial Archology Group who have photographs of Hedges Foundry in Bucklebury Village which hadn't previously been seen.

18.2 **Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting – 11th March 2022.**

A few members of BPC attended the tree planting ceremony to celebrate the Queen's Green Canopy project for the Platinum Jubilee on the Green at Chapel Row. Two oak trees were planted, one by Willie Hartley Russell and one by my pupils from Bucklebury Primary School.

18.3 **Chapel Row Patient Participation Group.**

A new clinical pharmacist has joined the team. The dispensary team has recently been hit hard by cases of covid, but is now recovering.

The reception team are being trained to triage patients.

The tiles on the Chapel Row Surgery website are one of the components of the NHS software product Footfall.

19 **Round Table Comments.**

19.1 **Ramsbury Corner Gates.**

Gates have been put up on the west side of Holly Lane, blocking the path which runs parallel to the road enabling pedestrians to avoid the dangerous part of the Ridge prior to entering Cold Ash parish. The land is not common land, but councillors were unaware of the ownership.

19.2 **The Coronation Oak.**

Sadly, the coronation oak, near Vanners succumbed to storm Eunice. Cllr. Allum, Alasdair Jones-Perrott and Dick Greenaway are working together to try and age the tree.

19.3 **Lift Sharing.**

Cllr. Cairns reported that at the WBC Climate forum, "liftshare" had been advocated. It was agreed information about the opportunity would be emailed around.

19.4 **PCSO Sarah Preston.**

The PCSO will be invited to a future meeting and will be contacted about parking around the Mount Pleasant area.

20 **The meeting concluded at 9.55pm.**

Date of next meetings:

Next Planning meeting: Monday 28th March 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Next BPC meeting: Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Annual Parish Assembly: Thursday 5th May at 7.45pm – Victory Room.

Signed

Date
2022/16