

Minutes of a meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council

held at the Victory Room, Bucklebury on

Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.45pm

- 1 **Present:** Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. H. Cairns; Cllr. P. Teal; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Three members of the public.
- 1.1 **Apologies.**
Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. J. Brims, Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. R. Ranken and Cllr. P. Spours.
- 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**
No issues were raised during the public session.
- 4 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th March 2022.**
The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th March 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.
- 5 **Chair's Report.**
- 5.1 **Resignation of Cllr. Unamba-Oparah.**
Cllr. Dickens reported that Cllr. Unamba-Oparah has submitted his resignation from BPC. The Clerk will initiate the process for finding a new councillor for the East Ward.
- 6 **Clerk's Report**
- 6.1 **Removal of Streetlights.**
The following quotes have been received from Enervo (formerly SSE Contracting) to disconnect and remove the streetlights:
1. Remove 5 pole mounted boxes, brackets and lanterns and dispose of: £954.20 plus VAT
2. To remove 5 overhead services from existing control boxes: £1,344.50 plus VAT
The electricity bill has increased from £5.44 for March 2021 to £45.78 for March 2022 (monthly charge). In addition to the electricity, the lights are covered by a maintenance contract costing £71 per year, excluding VAT.
Cllr. Dickens proposed that BPC respond to Enervo that the costs to remove the lights are a ridiculous amount for the limited funds of a parish council and that BPC would have no option but to go to the press.
The Clerk will also try contacting another company for a quote.
- 6.2 **Common Clearing.**
The Common Clearing session held on the 2nd April was attended by 45 volunteers and was very successful. WBC provided six "litter picking" signs which were placed at strategic places along the main road.
The next Common Clearing session will be held on Saturday 1st October.
- 6.3 **Annual Parish Assembly (Thursday 5th May, 7.45pm).**
Chris Boulton from Greenham Common Trust has agreed to be the key note speaker. Paul Gomm from Chapel Row Surgery has been invited to give a 5-minute update from the surgery.
Cllr. Hillerton will make the necessary arrangements for refreshments.
- 7 **Planning.**
- 7.1 **Planning applications which WBC have consulted BPC on:**
- 7.1.1 **22/00728/HOUSE – 14 Broad Lane.**
First floor extension, single storey, front, side and rear extensions.

Signed

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This application is for the conversion of a bungalow to a 2 storey house. The proposed house was considered to be overbearing. No design features from Bucklebury Vision have been included. It was agreed that BPC **objects** to this application.

7.1.2 **22/00764/FUL – The Bladebone.**

Kitchen extension.

It was noted that the existing plans do not accurately reflect the current building.

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

The area identified as the kitchen was originally a lean to, but is now more of an outside yard area.

There was a rearrangement of the internal layout removing the toilets next to the conservatory before the applicant took over.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was agreed that BPC **supports** this application.

7.2 To receive planning decisions received from WBC:

7.2.1 **22/00626/FUL - Marlston Farm House Barn**

Erection of private equestrian stabling for 4 horses with associated storage and fenced enclosure.

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

7.2.2 **22/00337/FULD - 83 Roundfield.**

Erection of a detached bungalow.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

7.2.3 **22/00203/HOUSE - 2 Riverside Cottages.**

Construction of 2-car detached garage.

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

7.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.

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

7.4 Emerging Local Plan.

A draft copy of the response sent by WBC to Laura Farris's letter has now been received.

Numerous things have changed since the response was written. Laura Farris is discussing the number of houses which need to be built in WBC with Michael Gove.

Iceni have been appointed by WBC to carry out work on the 30 year vision, to include major infrastructure to support the Local Plan. Cllr. Dickens has contacted Iceni about BPC's concerns with the THA20 development. A meeting has been held between Iceni and TTC, attended by Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Spours. WBC has not made any comments about Iceni; their appointment to complete the visioning work was discovered in a planning magazine.

Julian Dobbins and Cllr. Allum have energised pupils from Thatcham to use a mobile phone app to build up an evidence base of the ecology around the site and on Bucklebury Common. The app is also being used by members of the community to record their sightings.

8 **District Council Business.**

District Cllr. Pask reported that he had not been at the TTC/Iceni meeting, but understood that a factual background document would be produced before the consultation. There is still no feedback from the transport survey, although the monitors have been up for a number of months. It is possible that the monitors are in place to improve the existing traffic flows on the A4. District Cllr. Pask is continually talking to WBC about improving communications with the parishes.

The drains, which were blocked around Mount Pleasant (top of Harts Hill) have now all been flushed. Significant parts of Hart Hill will be machine patched over the next week.

The WB Community Hub has been rebranded as the Ukrainian hub and are willing to take donations.

There have been discussions at WBC full council about the levels and type of effluent reaching the river Pang and the river Lambourne. Much of the effluent is the result of building works and as a result much stricter rules are being put in place. Questions were raised about whether storm water locally goes into the sewage system.

9 **Risk Assessments.**

These have been deferred until the May meeting of the council.

Signed

Date

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10 **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.**

It is understood that there are a number of local street parties taking place for the Platinum Jubilee. Events are also understood to be being planned at the Farm Park.

11 **Parish Council Website.**

There was no update on the new website.

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 been replaced by Fox Fencing.

A quote is awaited for the proposed work at the Mortons Lane entrance to the meadows.

The West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS) have scheduled to cut the south hedge of the large meadow (against the pub field and against the small meadow) in September.

The Clerk has contacted Andrew Inwood about establishing the wild flower strip in the Hockett Field this year; unfortunately, he is unable to carry out the work this year. Various other avenues are being explored to find a contractor to complete the work.

13 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

13.1 **Bin Emptying.**

The grey bin at the Cemetery has been emptied by Veolia on both the scheduled grey bin collection days since the last meeting.

It was noted that the tree needs to be cut back which is resting on the wires in the newer part of the Cemetery.

14 **Memorial Hall surroundings**

14.1 **Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.**

Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Cairns will carry out the inspections of the playpark and BMX track over the next two weeks.

The graffiti in the youth shelter has been painted over by Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Cairns. A new spray paint has been obtained to go over any future graffiti.

On the BMX track, the cross overs have been reseeded and barriers put in place. Odin Manners who cuts the grass has been asked to only cut a strip along either side of the track and leave the areas in between the tracks to grow.

14.2 **CCTV at the Memorial Hall.**

No progress has been made with identifying suitable equipment for the Memorial Hall. If BPC is to apply for a members bid, a quotation needs to have been obtained before June 5th (the deadline for applications).

Cllr. Dickens will contact a parishioner who may be willing to help.

15 **Wellbeing Coffee mornings.**

A successful coffee morning was held in March.

The next coffee morning will be on 28th April at 10.30am. No progress has been made with using the community bus to increase the numbers. The Oak Room is currently booked until the May coffee morning. Depending on numbers at the April and May sessions, consideration may be given to booking the main hall, if it's available, for subsequent sessions.

Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Hillerton will run the April coffee morning.

16 **Environment.**

16.1 **Rerouting of footpath BUCK 154/1 (Bucklebury Farm Park)**

The proposed new route for BUCK 154/1 was supported by BPC.

16.2 **Conservation Area Appraisal.**

The draft report as now been completed and circulated to members for comment.

16.3 **Speeding.**

Cllr. Southgate reported that he is writing risk assessments for the various sites where it is planned to utilise SID, but that there is a lot of paperwork to be completed.

16.4 **Recycling.**

An additional 5Kg of bottle tops have been recycled.

The clothes bank remains at the Memorial Hall and has been emptied.

Signed

Date
2022/19

17 **Finances.**

17.1 **Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:**

West Berkshire District Council	£1,850.00	Contribution for libraries.
Bucklebury Tennis Club	£250.00	Coaching for juniors from Bucklebury Primary School.

17.2 **Summary of finances for FY21/22.**

The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation to the 31st March 2022. This showed income for the year of £42,790.62 and expenditure of £89,463.10 including grants to the Victory Room of £56,973.80.

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

West Berkshire District Council	£68.93	Emptying of meadows dog bins.
Post Office Ltd	£45.78	Streetlights 2/3/2022 – 1/4/2022.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£135.00	Grass cutting of BMX track and cutting back the trees and nettles on the boundary.
Salaries, pension contributions and expenses	£727.54	March 2022 salaries, pension contributions and buckleburyparish.org domain name.

17.4 **To review current balances and financial position on the 11th April 2022.**

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£14,027.15	
Lloyds Current Account:	£15,489.84	On 18 th March 2022.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£35,449.91	On 19 th March 2022.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£37,748.98	On 4 th April 2021.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,579.81	On 4 th April 2021.

18 **Reports from other meetings:**

18.1 **St. Martin's Club meeting – Tuesday 5th April.**

The first meeting of St. Martin's Club since the beginning of COVID has been held and a new committee has been elected. The Chairman is Helen Relf and the Vice Chairman is Wynne Frankum. Plans are in place for trips to take place over the summer (with a break in August) and talks in the Memorial Hall from October through until next summer. The meeting was well supported with approximately 55 in attendance.

19 **The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.**

Date of next meetings:

Next Planning meeting: Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

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

Next BPC meeting: Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Signed

Date
2022/20