

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council

held at the Victory Room, Bucklebury on

Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. B. Dickens; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. A. Hillerton; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. J. Brims, Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. R. Ranken; Cllr. P. Spours; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

One member of the public.

1 **Election of Chairman.**

Cllr. Ranken proposed that Cllr. Dickens be Chairman of BPC for the coming year; this was seconded by Cllr. Clarke and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Dickens signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2 **Election of Vice Chairman.**

Cllr. Dickens proposed that Cllr. Brims be the Vice Chairman of BPC for the coming year; this was seconded by Cllr. Clarke and unanimously agreed.

3 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. H. Cairns and Cllr. D. Southgate.

4 **Declarations of Interest.**

4.1 **Register of Interests.**

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

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

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

5 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

6 **Appointment to BPC Advisory Committees.**

The following memberships of BPC Advisory Committees was agreed:

Bucklebury Planning Committee: All members of BPC.

Bucklebury Burial Board: Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Brims, Cllr. Southgate and Cllr. Allum.

Bucklebury Meadows and Hockett Field: Cllr. Dickens, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Teal.

7 **Appointments to External Bodies.**

The following representation on external bodies was agreed:

Bucklebury Memorial Hall: Cllr. Spours (trustee of the Memorial Hall) and Cllr. Brims.

Commons Advisory Committee: Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Cairns.

Victory Room Committee: Cllr. Brims, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Ranken.

Recreation Ground Committee: Cllr. Clarke.

West Berkshire Heritage Forum: Cllr. Southgate, Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Clarke.

Chapel Row Patient Participation Group: Cllr. Dickens.

8 **Positions of Responsibility on BPC.**

The following positions of responsibility were agreed:

Opposition to NE Thatcham: Cllr. Spours and Cllr. Dickens.

Fred Dawson Playarea and BMX track: Cllr. Hillerton, Cllr. Cairns and Cllr. Southgate.

Defibrillators: Peaches: Cllr. Teal, Victory Room: Cllr. Brims, Blade Bone: Cllr. Spours.

Public Rights of Way: Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Allum.

Grit Bins: Cllr. Southgate.

Coffee mornings/Wellbeing: Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Cairns.

Financial Verifier: Cllr. Spours.

The Oaks: Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Ranken, Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Dickens.

9 **Review of the Asset Register.**

The Asset register was reviewed and approved.

Signed

Date

2022/21

10 **Insurance Arrangements.**

The insurance is arranged under a three-year fixed term agreement through Came and Company (now Gallagher), which concludes in May 2023.

Questions were asked about what constitutes a “deliberate act” when considering liability issues. It was also noted that the insurance value of the Chapel should be reviewed and increased; the Clerk will obtain a valuation for insurance purposes.

11 **Dates of meetings for the coming year.**

Meetings for the coming year were agreed as remaining on the 2nd Monday of the month for full council and the 4th Monday of the month for the Planning Committee, with the exception of meetings in April 2023, when there will only be full council on Monday 17th April. There will be no planning meeting in December 2022.

12 **Chair’s Report.**

12.1 **Ukrainian Refugees.**

Following a discussion before the meeting with parishioners awaiting the arrival of refugees, Cllr. Dickens commented that the key issues are likely to be communication and transport. Some of the communication can be covered using Facebook and some of the transport issues may be resolved by use of the Community Bus.

It was agreed that BPC would consider making a donation to the Community Bus to cover the fuel used to provide transport. There was a discussion about potential drivers for the bus, who must have a D1 classification on their license.

13 **Clerk’s Report**

13.1 **An Update on the Vacancy in the East Ward.**

WBC were notified of the vacancy on the 25th April 2022. Fourteen working days must elapse after which the council may co-opt a new member providing parishioners have not called for a by-election. Co-option may therefore take place on or after 16th May.

14 **Planning.**

14.1 **There have been no new planning applications to be considered.**

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

14.2.1 **22/00633/HOUSE – Barfield House, Chapel Row.**

Section 73: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of previously approved application 21/01045/HOUSE: Consists of internal alterations to existing house layout to include minor alterations to doors and window positions. In addition conversion of existing garage and part car port to games room with shower room. Extension to the existing car port to provide additional car port and log store. Replacement garden machinery store.

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

14.2.2 **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.

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

14.3 **Adjacent Parish Applications.**

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

14.4 **Emerging Local Plan.**

Ministers have curtailed the powers of large developers in the Levelling-up and Regeneration bill. If areas have a well evidenced plan, areas constrained by greenbelt or AONB no longer have to reach housing targets.

Iceni have been tasked to produce a vision, but there is uncertainty about what for. Iceni were not aware of the traffic issues associated with the level crossing or all of the site options. When it became apparent Iceni had been briefed by WBC to only consider the NE Thatcham development BPC withdrew its offer of a public meeting with Iceni.

The appeal for Sandleford Park has been approved, giving planning for 1,000 dwellings. How this will affect the numbers was questioned. Sandleford Park was a strategic site in the last Local Plan being developed by two developers who didn’t appear able to work together.

WBC objected to both the Sandleford Park development and a scheme in Basingstoke and Deane which bordered on West Berkshire.

Once the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill has come out and there's been time for its content to be considered, a meeting with Viv Evans (WBC) will be pursued.

15 **District Council Business.**

District Cllr. Pask reported that Basingstoke and Dean District Council do not have a Local Plan and have therefore been subject to "planning by appeal". As such no green field is entirely safe. WBC objected to the proposed scheme adjacent to the West Berkshire boundary because it had no infrastructure and because of its proximity to the boundary with West Berkshire. It should be noted that this was a planning application and not a site being considered for a Local Plan.

District Cllr. Pask reminded people supporting Ukrainian refugees of the WBC Ukraine hub (formerly the Community Hub) and the WBC website which contains information specific to supporting these people.

16 **Risk Assessments.**

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

17 **Street lights.**

The Clerk has contacted Enveron about possible options. They have quoted to replace the old lights with ASD Lighting Micro Highway Diamond LED lanterns with warm white LEDs for £3,212.88, plus a disconnection and reconnection charge of £2,137.65. This totals £5,340.53 plus VAT. The quote to totally remove the lights was £2,298.70.

It is believed that if the lighting is "turned off" permanently the network operator will insist that the lights be disconnected and removed because they will no longer be subject to routine maintenance or have any inspections, meaning that BPC could be liable.

The Clerk has contacted SSE about turning off the power and awaits information from the person responsible for Streetlighting. It was agreed that if the lights can be turned off permanently, they should be.

It was also suggested that BPC should ask for proof that it owns the lights.

18 **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.**

For the Jubilee, the Farm Park will be holding four days of special events which are advertised on their website. There will also be a number of street parties taking place across the parish.

19 **Parish Council Website.**

Cllr. Hillerton and Cllr. Ranken will be meeting with the Clerk on Tuesday 17th May to progress work on the new website.

20 **Meadows and Hockett Field.**

Cllr. Teal has contacted Carl from CR Landscapes about a site visit for improving the access from Mortons Lane to the meadows. He will pursue the matter of a reply from Carl.

At the Annual Assembly, there was a request for a grass area for children to play. It was unanimously agreed that a strip of grass on the north side of the smallest meadow would be cut for children to play; no equipment will be placed on this ground (apart from picnic benches).

There has been no progress with the wild flower strip at the Hockett Field. Concern was raised about the blackthorn which is encroaching onto the field on the north boundary; Cllr. Allum agreed to inspect the situation. Cllr. Hillerton will contact Fox Fencing about replacing the gatepost.

21 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

A grave in the 1970s Cemetery has had turf removed, edging placed around and filled with limestone chips. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the grave owner and request that the grave be returned to its original turf or BPC will carry out the work and forward them the invoice for payment.

22 **Memorial Hall surroundings**

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

The RoSPA inspections have been completed on the playpark and the BMX track. The BMX track inspection report is good. The playpark inspection has raised some issues, none of which are particularly major.

22.2 **CCTV at the Memorial Hall.**

Signed

Date
2022/23

Cllr. Dickens has sought advice on CCTV provision at the Memorial Hall and an installation of three cameras and an eight-channel recorder has been recommended. The proposal has been discussed with Mike Scholl who is in support of the proposal and the need to upgrade the current installation. Cllr. Dickens has arranged to meet with Mike Scholl and an electrician about a quote for installation.

It was agreed that BPC would submit an application for a WBC Members Bid to cover half of the cost of the upgraded installation.

23 **Wellbeing Coffee mornings.**

A successful coffee morning was held in April. The next coffee morning will be on 26th May at 10.30am.

24 **Environment.**

24.1 **Conservation Area Appraisal.**

Cllr. Clarke reported that comments are awaited from WBC on the Bucklebury Conservation Area Appraisal document.

24.2 **Bucklebury Nature Watch.**

Cllr. Allum reported that the nature survey is going well with a number of contributors. An appointment has been made to visit Bucklebury Primary School and engage with the pupils about local nature.

Bat boxes have been installed and acoustic recorders to record any bat activity are being put up. Information about the use of the owl box in the Hockett Field would be useful.

25 **Finances.**

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

AJGIBL GBP CLIENT NST ACCOUNT	£1,066.59	BPC Insurance
The Victory Room - Bucklebury	£63.50	Rent for meetings 1/1/22 – 31/3/22.
Manscape Garden Service	£391.80	BMX track repairs.
Playsafety Limited	£172.20	RoSPA inspection of play area.
Fox Fencing	£636.00	Two replacement gate posts in meadows
CPRE	£100.00	Membership.
Hampshire Association of Local Councils Limited	£504.96	BALC membership.
SLCC	£50.00	CiLCA 3 months extension.
Salaries, pension contributions and expenses	£854.32	April 2022 salaries, pension contributions, playpark expenses and three sets of defibrillator pads.

25.2 **To review current balances and financial position on the 9th May 2022.**

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£21,837.78	
Lloyds Current Account:	£12,605.88	On 20 th April 2022.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£35,450.23	On 20 th April 2022.
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£32,752.35	On 7 th April 2022.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,580.27	On 7 th April 2022.

25.3 **Donation to Bucklebury Guides.**

A grant to Bucklebury Guides of £250 to go towards a new gazebo and promotional materials was unanimously agreed.

26 **Round Table Comments.**

27 **The meeting concluded at 9.10pm.**

Date of next meetings:

Next Planning meeting: Monday 23rd May 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Next BPC meeting: Monday 13th June 2022 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

Signed

Date
2022/24