

Minutes of Bucklebury Parish Council Planning Committee

Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2011 at 8.00pm in The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.

PRESENT: Mr. B. Dickens; Mrs. P. W. Frankum; Mr. A. Stott; Mr. H. Hind; Mrs. L. Clarke; Mr. P. Brook; Mr. J. Brims; Mr. T. Slatford; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. de Lara; Mr. S. Beeson; Mr. G. Pask (District Councillor).

OTHERS: Kate Mills (WBAGI - West Berkshire Against Grundon Incinerator).

Appointment of Chairman.

A1. Mrs. Frankum proposed that Mr. Dickens be the Chairman of the Planning Committee, this was seconded by Mr. Brook and unanimously agreed.

Declarations of Interest.

D1. There were no declarations of interest.

Topic.

T1. West Berkshire Against Grundon Incinerator (WBAGI).

The Clerk read out a statement from Mr. Pask who wanted to emphasise that the Gundon incinerator is not WBC policy and is not in the WBC waste plan. No domestic waste from the WBC area will be disposed of there as WBC has it's own waste disposal facilities coming on stream at Padworth including food waste and composting. Mr. Pask has publically said he will support all residents against this plan.

Kate Mills addressed the members present about the implications of the Chieveley Incinerator. The WBAGI campaign group started in January after a public meeting which had over 300 attendees. Subsequently Grundon had a meeting to allay public fears but it had the opposite effect. Scoping plans have been submitted to WBC identifying some of the detail about Grundon's proposal. The proposal is for a waste incinerator that will take 350,000 tonnes of waste each day, to do this there will be three 45m high buildings and two 75m high chimneys on a 7,500m² (20 acre) site, within the AONB. The incinerator will run 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and will have a storage capacity for approximately 4 days waste. All waste will have to be transported to the site by lorry which is expected to require 400 lorry movements a day. Most sites of a similar size utilise the rail network, which is not available at this site. The plant would take 2 years to build. It would take 25 to 30 years to recover the costs.

Grundon currently lease the site, and have been quarrying it since 1997. They are currently in breach of a planning application which specified that the land had to be returned to woodland at the end of the term of quarrying. Instead a subsequent application has been submitted for quarrying on an adjacent site which only has a commercial value of 50% according to borehole information. WBAGI are urging planners to look at the applications together and not in isolation. Over 500 letters of objection have been submitted for the quarry application.

Should the incinerator application be approved, no greenfield site will be safe from industrialisation, recreational use of footpaths and bridleways in the area will be lost, there will be a huge impact on the wildlife which includes grey crested newts and skylarks, it will dominate the skyline for miles around and once the site has been lost it will never be returned to its original state.

There are no other waste incinerators situated in AONB. An incinerator at Chieveley would impact upon the desirability to live in local villages and any heath risks are unknown.

Kate concluded her talk with details about what people can do, including registering to receive updates on the web site (www.wbagi.org), signing the petition, writing letters of objection, helping to raise funds and helping to raise awareness of the campaign.

Signature.....

Date.....

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It was agreed that BPC will monitor further developments and Mr. Stott will be responsible for liaison with WBAGI.

T2. New Vodafone Base Station at Chapel Lane.

BPC has been consulted regarding a proposed Vodafone mast to be situated at Chapel Lane in Frilsham. It was felt that any improvement to the mobile phone signal in the area was in line with the Parish Plan, but no comments would be returned.

PLANNING DECISIONS.

- P1. 11/00474/HOUSE Tannen House, Burdens Heath.
Amendment to previous application.
The size of the extension has been reduced by removing the second storey element above the garage and to the eastern side of the existing house, this also removed the two/three storey high blank wall against the boundary.
Concern was raised that the amended application still shows a three storey house, which appears out of proportion in that it is very high for the width; the height of the house being increased by 1.5m.
Mr. Brook proposed that BPC continue to **object** to this application; this was seconded by Mrs. Frankum and carried with 5 members in favour and 2 members against.
- P2. 11/00578/HOUSE Birdcage Cottage, The Avenue (Adjacent Parish).
Demolition of existing conservatory at rear of house, erection of a ground floor extension to the rear of the house and new roof lights to the rear and side.
BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P3. 11/00593/HOUSE Bridle End, Westrop Green.
Section 73 – Relaxation of condition 4 of 07/01080/FUL relating to Ecohomes accreditation (replacement dwelling and car port).
BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- P4. 11/00593/HOUSE Greengates, Burdens Heath.
Double storey side and rear extensions.
Approval already exists for extensions to this property which have not been built. There was concern over the loss of light to the adjacent property to the west; Hartland. The extension represents an increase of over 100% and would take the building much closer to the boundary, resulting in loss of space around the building (Bucklebury Vision 7G3).
Mr Brims proposed that BPC **object** to this application; Mrs. Frankum seconded this proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

Any Other Business

AOB1. Indala, Burdens Heath.

Mrs. Frankum reported that she had seen the applicant of 11/00097/HOUSE which BPC understood was to be withdrawn, although it was later approved. The applicant apologised and said that WBC had said there was no point in withdrawing the application as the fee would not be returned, even if they have no intention of developing the application.

AOB2. Memorial Hall AGM.

Mr. Hind reported that the AGM of the Memorial Hall had been rearranged to be held on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, so as not to clash with this meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next Planning Committee Meeting:	Monday 27 th June at 8pm, Victory Room.
Next BPC Meeting:	Monday 13 th June at 7.45pm, Memorial Hall.

Signature.....

Date.....

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