

Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council  
held in The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.15pm

**Present:** Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. G. Loader; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. C. Willett; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Eighteen members of the public including Alasdair Jones-Perrott, Steward of the Estate.

**Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. M. Morgan and Cllr. P. Spours.

**Declarations of Interest.**

**Register of Interests.**

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

**Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

**Public Session.**

**Bucklebury Common (Alasdair Jones-Perrott).**

Mr. Jones-Perrott commented that he has been negotiating with statutory bodies over the last nine months and wanted to have achievable and ratifiable objectives for the Common. The Common covers approximately 850 acres which, in 1900, was managed by 140 commoners. Today, life has changed and commoners no longer manage the Common, as a result there is a lot of woodland and a little bit of heathland which is not in particularly good condition.

The aim is to improve the Common. Part of improving the Common will involve cutting halos around approximately 200 veteran trees, pond creation, pollarding a number of younger trees and introducing cattle back on to the Common (utilising fenceless grazing with Belted Galloway and English White cattle).

The bracken on the Common (originally cut by commoners), will be controlled either by bruising it or by chemical control; allowances have been made for this in the funding schemes.

Concern was raised about the logging tracks which have been created across the Common to harvest wood from areas immediately adjacent to the Common. Residents are concerned that these tracks will invite 4x4 users onto these areas of Common and that the spindly trees placed across the tracks to date will not stop them. Mr. Jones-Perrott commented that work to restore the logging tracks will take place over the next week and will include good barricades.

The heathland restoration will involve increasing the areas of heathland and residents are concerned about how the Estate will consult with them on the areas to be cleared. Parishioners asked what mitigation plans were in place for the wildlife which has evolved in the areas to be cleared. Mr. Jones-Perrott commented that a lot of the areas to be cleared are essentially dead on the ground; the heathland, never recovered after the serious fire of 1979. Increasing the heathland will provide more habitat for rare birds and reptiles.

There will only be a small number of cattle (10 or 12), and these will be grazed, at different times, on both sides of the main road. They will need to be TB tested every six months and they will be strategically moved around the Common.

Questions were asked about who looks after the oak trees on The Avenue; many of them are dying and/or dangerous. WBC is responsible for the trees, but the Estate would like to manage them, but the cost has to be considered. The possibility of getting the WBC officer responsible for the trees to speak at a BPC meeting was discussed.

- 4 **Minutes of meetings of Bucklebury Parish Council.**  
The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.
- 5 **Co-option of new Councillor.**  
It was resolved to co-opt Georgina Woods to the vacant seat on the West Ward of BPC.
- 6 **Chair's Report.**
- 6.1 **Tree for Graham.**  
The date and time for the tree planting need to fit around the football training sessions which take place on the Recreation Ground.
- 6.2 **The Cornerpiece.**  
Following consultation, BPC resolved to request parking restrictions at either end of the "link road" for a distance of approximately three car lengths to allow much safer ingress and egress from the "link road". This will enable a limited number of vehicles to park, acting as a speed reduction measure.
- 6.3 **Resignation.**  
Cllr. Dickens reported that he has received and accepted the resignation of Cllr. Chris Austin due to recent changes in the demands of his career and family. When time allows, he is very keen to return to BPC.
- 6.4 **Local Plan – THA20.**  
WBC has returned their comments to the Planning Inspector. District Cllr. Read is speaking to Jeff Brooks about WBC's stance on THA20, the Colthrop Village proposals and the possibility of a land swap for Kennet School.  
The next step is for the Planning Inspector to set out the full list of Matters for Examination and a draft hearing timetable.
- 7 **Clerk's Report**
- 7.1 **Next Edition of The Oaks.**  
The deadline for articles for the next edition of The Oaks is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. It is planned that this edition will be published in early November.
- 7.2 **Email Addresses.**  
This is a high priority and it is hoped to have half of the councillors using BPC specific email addresses before Christmas, with remaining councillors following.
- 8 **Planning.**
- 8.1 **Planning applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:**
- 8.1.1 **23/02008/HOUSE – Uplands, Burdens Heath.**  
*Single storey rear extension.*  
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- 8.1.2 **23/02095/HOUSE & 23/02096/LBC – Woottens, Upper Woolhampton.**  
*Part two-storey, part single-storey replacement extension to existing dwelling. Terrace doors in existing modified window opening.*  
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to these applications, subject to a condition that the extension must remain ancillary to Woottens.
- 8.1.3 **23/02161/HOUSE & 23/02160/LBC – The Cottage, Magpie Farm (Adjacent Parish – Frilsham).**  
*Proposed kitchen door canopy, HV oil tank on plinth and fluepipe additions to rear elevation, replacement entrance door and alterations to two window openings, replacement windows, and internal works.*  
It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to these applications.
- 8.1.4 **23/01803/FUL – The Lodge, Bucklebury Farm Park.**  
*Change of use of an existing Log Cabin at Bucklebury Farm to allow a flexible use of space for farm workers dwelling, office space, meeting room, workshop and studio – class C3, E(c), E(d) and E(g).*

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to conditions that any activities taking place in The Lodge must be connected to the Farm Park and must conclude no later than 6pm.

8.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

8.2.1 **23/00878/HOUSE – Cyntra, The Slade.**

*Proposed two storey side extension and storm porch and internal alterations.*

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

8.2.2 **23/00938/FUL -Westfield Stables, Tylers Lane.**

*Conversion of redundant stable to form one dwelling, car parking, landscaping and associated works.*

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

8.2.3 **23/01668/HOUSE – Liming, Windmill Lane.**

*Detached oak framed garage with home office/storage area above.*

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

8.2.4 **23/01764/HOUSE – 9 Broad Lane.**

*A rear/side ground floor extension with internal alteration works. Creation of Juliet balcony on the first floor.*

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

8.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.

8.3.1 **23/02190/HOUSE – Connemara, Drove Lane (Cold Ash).**

*First floor roof extension to create 4 no. bedrooms and detached car port over existing parking area.*

It was agreed to consider this application at the Planning meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

8.3.2 **23/02101/HOUSE – Kiln House, Hungerford Lane (Bradfield).**

*Section 73: Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 3(Materials) and Removal of Condition 4 (Render) of previously approved application 21/03182/HOUSE: Frist floor and rear extensions, garage conversion and alterations.*

BPC agreed to make no comments on this application.

9 **District Council Business.**

At the full council meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, the WBC Delivery Plan was approved.

There are a number of consultations currently running.

The Goldwell Park pump track has now been officially opened.

The WBC Scrutiny Committee will be meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Both Thames Water and the Environment Agency will be at this meeting to answer questions about the sewage discharge into the local rivers; the meeting will be available on YouTube.

Aldermaston bridge is scheduled to be refurbished early in 2024 and will necessitate the closure of the A340 for several months.

WBC will be returning to sending letters to neighbours of planning applications on a trial basis. Only 75% of the planning department costs are covered by planning applications fees.

There are a number of questions about management of The Avenue around the grass cutting regime and management of the trees. A written report was completed approximately two years ago. It was questioned how to get this moving.

10 **Bucklebury Meadows and Hockett Field.**

The West Berkshire Countryside Society carried out a solid day's work on the 12<sup>th</sup> September including:

- Clearing the remaining charred fence posts and trees from the south west corner of the small meadows, following the fire last summer.
- Clearing vegetation around the whips planted several years ago.
- Cutting up and stacking the fallen oak branch.
- Clearing brambles and nettles in several areas.

- Removing fallen/burnt fencing.

More work remains and it is hoped this will be completed in January 2023.

It was agreed that the Cottage Inn fireworks could be let off from the large meadow, subject to their being a risk assessment in place.

C.R. Landscapes have replaced the post on both the kissing gate nearest Byles Green Farm and between the two meadows. The surface at the kissing gate between the two meadows has also been made up with scalpings. The trip hazard near the southern dog bin has also been removed. C.R. Landscapes have identified another post which needs replacing on the Byles Green Farm kissing gate and will replace it.

The tree officer at WBC has suggested that propping up the split oak tree might help. His opinion is now that the split is unlikely to callus over and it is more a question of managing the tree or removing it. The split is down the entire stem, so felling and replacing the tree is a realistic option, although hopefully the tree can be safely managed for a little longer. BPC is very concerned about the implications on members of the public should or when the tree fails.

#### Hocketts Field.

Pete Cane has made a custom single gate to replace the worn and damaged gates at the entrance to the Hocketts field. The gate contains the name of the field "Hocketts" in its construction and is a work of art. Cllr. Dickens will write and thank Pete Cane.

BD

#### 11 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

##### 11.1 Cemetery Carols (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December).

Suggestions were requested for charities to be collected for at Cemetery Carols.

#### 12 **Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.**

Cllr. Teal reported that there were no issues which he had identified in the playpark or on the BMX track.

#### 13 **D-Day 80 Beacon – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

Cllr. Southgate has spoken to Pete Cane about the possibility of constructing a basket and twelve-foot-high post for a beacon (a design was circulated with the D-Day 80 Beacon information). There was a discussion about where it might go and whether or not it would need planning permission.

It was agreed that there needs to be communication with the Bucklebury Events Committee about any event for the occasion. There was a suggestion of there being a "Best of Bucklebury" event next year. A councillor to either liaise or be on the Bucklebury Events Committee is needed.

#### 14 **Highways.**

##### 14.1 Speed Indicator Device (SID).

Three more volunteers have now been trained to use SID. To date, approximately 145,000 data points have been recorded. From the data captured, SID slows down those who are only slightly speeding. The hard-core speeders ignore SID. Cllr. Southgate has booked to attend the Community Speed Watch Seminar which has been organised up by WBC.

DS

##### 14.2 Thames Valley Police Community Speed Watch (CSW).

Cllr. Southgate will put together a WBC Members Bid application for the equipment necessary to undertake the Thames Valley Police CSW.

A parishioner is working with Brockhurst and Marlston Schools to run a competition amongst the pupils to design posters to encourage drivers to reduce their speeds. A further competition will be run with Bucklebury Primary School next term.

#### 15 **Finances.**

##### 15.1 Payments to be authorised by Councillors:

Installation of The Slade	£612.00
defibrillator	

- Expenses, Salaries, Pensions & PAYE for September 2023      £1,127.43      Includes hosting of the internet domain buckleburyparish.org.
- 15.2 Receipts.  
The second half of the precept £22,500 has been received from WBC.
- 15.3 To review current balances.  
Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:      £40,645.94  
Lloyds Current Account:      £21,952.04      On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.  
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:      £32,529.62      On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.  
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:      £32,868.17      On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.  
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:      £4,596.47      On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- 16 Correspondence.
- 16.1 Over 80's Parcel Fund.  
It was agreed not to support the "Newbury Weekly News Over 80's Parcel Fund" this year.
- 17 Reports.
- 17.1 Patient Participation Group (PPG).  
Cllr. Dickens reported that the minutes of the last PPG meeting have been published and circulated to councillors. The dispensary and the waiting room are to be swapped round.
- 17.2 Coffee Mornings.  
The coffee mornings are growing in popularity and have now filled The Oak room for several months. Thought is being given to moving the sessions into the main hall, if it is available.
- 18 Round Table Comments.
- 18.1 Defib Training.  
Questions were asked about when there will be some defib training.
- 18.2 Remembrance Service.  
Councillors were asked to attend the annual service of Remembrance in Bucklebury Church to ensure that there is representation from BPC.
- 18.3 Quiz Night.  
A quiz night has been organised in the Victory Room on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.
- 18.4 Bucklebury Beerfest.  
The Beerfest made approximately £3,500 despite the rain. A donation of £1,000 has already been made to MacMillan Cancer Support.
- 18.5 Chapel Row Fayre.  
There have been discussions about some elements of the Chapel Row Fayre moving to the Beerfest.

**The meeting concluded at 9.50pm.**

**Date of next meetings:**

**Bucklebury Planning: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room**

**BPC meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room**

Signed .....

Date .....

2023/55