

Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council  
held in The Victory Room, Bucklebury on  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.45pm

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

No members of the public were present.

**Apologies.**

No apologies of absence were received.

**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.**

There were no matters raised during the public session.

**Minutes of meetings of Bucklebury Parish Council.**

The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

**Chair's Report.**

**Email.**

The Clerk has enlisted the help of Cllr. Loader to explore the option of Microsoft email accounts using their not-for-profit package. If this is not available to parish councils, either Microsoft or gmail accounts will be explored further.

**New Councillor.**

The Clerk will advise WBC and advertise the vacancy on BPC.

**D-Day Beacon.**

Cllr. Southgate will talk to the local blacksmith about an estimate for the cost of fabricating a beacon basket and pole. There was a discussion about the location for such a structure and how easy it might be to move.

**Bucklebury Events Committee.**

The Events Committee is planning a "Best of Bucklebury" event over the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> June (the weekend nearest the D-Day anniversary). Cllr. Woods agreed to liaise with the Events Committee.

**Tree overhanging The Meadows.**

There has been correspondence between WBC countryside officers and District Cllr. Read about the split oak tree, growing in Orchard Gate and overhanging the meadow. The Clerk will replace the warning notices, stakes and tape to discourage people from accessing the area under the tree.

**Clerk's Report**

**Cemetery Matters – Looking to the future training.**

The Clerk attended a Cemetery training seminar on looking to the future for Cemeteries. The training discussed trends in cemeteries including the dramatic increase in the number of direct burials, eco-friendly grave memorialisation, review of burial law for disposing of the dead and environmentally friendly burials and emerging trends.

**Cemetery Headstone/Mapping work.**

Five rows of graves in the old Cemetery have now been mapped. The number of people buried in the Cemetery, but not entered in the Burial Register is growing, particularly from the 1970s. There also appear to be several empty plots, however burials were not carried out in sequential plots.

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6.3	<u>Dates for Common Clearing in 2024.</u> It was agreed that the Clerk will organise Common Clearing for Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March and Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> October, subject to the equipment and the hall being available.	HP
6.4	<u>Arrangements for December meeting.</u> The December meeting will start at 7.30pm in order that there is sufficient time for seasonal refreshments after the meeting. Cllr. Woods agreed to bring mince pies and Cllr. Morgan will bring mulled wine and apple juice. The glasses from the Victory Room will be used.	
6.5	<u>Chapel Row Defibrillator.</u> The Chapel Row defibrillator is not currently available because it needs a new battery. This is expected to cost in the region of £200.	HP
7	<b><u>Planning.</u></b>	
7.1	<u>Planning applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:</u>	
7.1.1	<b>23/02316/HOUSE – 1 Paradise Way.</b> <i>Garden room replacement.</i> It was agreed that BPC has <b>no objection</b> to this application.	
7.2	<u>Planning Decisions made by WBC:</u>	
7.2.1	<b>23/00280/HOUSE – Red Hill House, Briff Lane.</b> <i>Proposed new extension, door surround and dormer windows.</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to this application which has been <b>approved</b> by WBC.	
7.2.2	<b>23/00966/FUL – Hunts Cottage, Midgham Green (Adjacent Parish).</b> <i>Creation of manege and erection of equestrian store.</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to this application which has been <b>approved</b> by WBC.	
7.2.3	<b>23/01184/FUL – 49 Roundfield.</b> <i>Proposed new build detached bungalow, including basement level, and additional parking space (renewal of approval ref: 17/02279/FULD).</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to this application which has been <b>approved</b> by WBC.	
7.2.4	<b>23/01615/HOUSE – Little Copse House, Paradise Lane.</b> <i>Single storey side extension and conversion of Outbuilding to Gym (ancillary to main dwelling).</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to this application which has been <b>approved</b> by WBC.	
7.2.5	<b>23/01725/HOUSE &amp; 23/01726/LBC – Ryders, The Avenue.</b> <i>Removal of existing conservatory and erection of replacement single storey extension; insertion of timber stud walls in rear range and first floor bedroom; alterations to existing and creation of new openings.</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to these applications which have been <b>approved</b> by WBC.	
7.3	<u>Adjacent Parish Applications.</u>	
7.3.1	There are no new applications within 200m of the parish boundary in neighbouring parishes.	
8	<b><u>District Council Business.</u></b> District Cllr. Read has contacted Paul Hendry (head of Countryside) about the condition of the oaks on The Avenue and their management. District Cllr. Read has contacted the planning department about whether or not planning permission might be required for a beacon. Thatcham Town Council and District Councillors are pushing for a clear plan of action on the Local Plan. WBC needs a programme manager to push the Local Plan along. The current plan runs out in 2026 and the land supply just before. It has been suggested that WBC contact Andrew Black about leading or project managing the Local Plan on behalf of WBC given that both Bryan Lyttle and Eric Owens have resigned.	
9	<b><u>Cemetery and Chapel.</u></b>	
9.1	<u>Cemetery Carols (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December).</u>	

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	Newbury Soup kitchen and the EduCafe were both considered as the charity for Cemetery Carols, but no firm decision was made. It was agreed at the meeting that a cleaner would be asked to clean the Chapel. <i>After the meeting, the Guide leaders have offered to clean the Chapel (on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December) in lieu of using the Chapel to store some of their equipment (which will be removed for the Carols).</i>	LC BD GW
10	Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Woods will make mince pies. Cllr. Clarke will ask previous long standing mince pie makers to assist. <b><u>Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.</u></b> Cllr. Teal reported that the play area and BMX track are all looking good. There is very little litter at the moment. There is an issue with the fixings on the parallel bars which is being explored. Some of the plastic fixings on the fence have been broken. Cllr. Southgate is in the process of sourcing replacements. A user of the BMX track has enquired about wheelchair access to the BMX track area (for viewing). This could be achieved if the second gate to the playpark was opened; it has been padlocked since COVID. The CCTV sign has come off the play area fence and needs replacing.	PT DS
11	<b><u>Highways.</u></b>	
11.1	<b><u>Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the Parish.</u></b> Approximately 195,000 data points have now been recorded. The new data supports the previous trends. Approximately 15% of drivers are doing more than 40mph and don't slow down. Volunteers setting up the equipment have been warned about deploying the equipment safely, particularly in bad weather and/or limited light.	
11.2	<b><u>Thames Valley Police (TVP) Community Speed Watch (CSW).</u></b> TVP will now loan the CSW speed gun to registered community groups providing the equipment is used. However, there has to be clear signage in areas where CSW is in operation. A WBC Members bid has been submitted for the CSW signage for the three communities in Bucklebury including temporary signage for Bucklebury Village. Cllr. Southgate is in the process of completing the necessary paperwork for the TVP CSW. Three CSW volunteers are needed for any individual deployment, and all need to be trained on CSW which is different to the SID training.	DS
11.3	<b><u>Poster Competition.</u></b> The poster competition has now completed and the winning entries were shown. The posters were completed on A3 paper and there was a discussion on where these could be scanned in order to be printed on Correx board.	DS
11.4	<b><u>Thames Water in Chapel Row.</u></b> Questions have been asked about how much longer Thames Water will be working in Chapel Row and have traffic lights there. District Cllr. Read is investigating.	CR
12	<b><u>Environment.</u></b>	
12.1	<b><u>Proposed Path Parallel to Burdens Heath.</u></b> It is hoped to upgrade the path on the Common, parallel to Burdens Heath to something similar to the new part of the Winchcombe Way. It is possible that this might be included in some of the works to improve the Common. An enquiry with WBC about the path led to a discussion about a footway on one side or the other of Burdens Heath, which in turn also raised the question of the possibility of entrance gates on the verge at the main entry points to Upper Bucklebury.	
12.2	<b><u>Communication between Bucklebury Estate and Parishioners.</u></b> It was agreed that work being done on the Common would be a standing item on each BPC meeting agenda. There has been a meeting between Alasdair Jones-Perrott, Cllr. Dickens and Cllr. Allum about what's happening on the Common and the perceived lack of communication.	HP

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Alasdair Jones-Perrott doesn't communicate about projects until he has secured funding, at which stage the projects may start within just a few weeks.

Concern continues to be raised about the restoration of the forestry tracks, created between Bucklethwaite and Chapel Row, for the extraction of timber on land adjacent to the Common.

Cllr. Spours raised concerns about the mess left on the borders of Middle Wood (which is not part of the Common).

Whilst the seasonal TROs have come into effect, they do not include motorcycles which cause a lot of damage to the byways. Wooden posts have been put in along the edge of byway 56 where there has been 4x4 damage, some of these have been pulled out and subsequently replaced.

### 13 **Finances.**

#### 13.1 **Payments to be authorised by Councillors:**

Bucklebury Tennis Club	£250.00	Grant for coaching Bucklebury Primary School pupils.
Triangle Management Company Ltd.	£101.09	Emptying of the Memorial Hall dog bin for October, November and December 2023.
Tactical Facilities Management Ltd.	£40.80	Emptying of the Meadows dog bins for October 2023.
Growing Designs Limited	£300.00	Installation of power for The Slade defibrillator.
MJ Sly Memorials Ltd	£30.00	Repayment of payment made in error.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£218.20	Grass cutting and rent for 1/9/23 to 31/12/23.
The Alpha Xperience	£435.00	The November edition of The Oaks.
Expenses, Salaries, Pensions & PAYE for October 2023	£1,066.93	This includes the SLCC Training (The future of Cemeteries).
The cheque for £612 for installation of the power for The Slade defibrillator has been cancelled and a replacement cheque issued for the correct amount.		

#### 13.2 **Receipts.**

Since the last meeting, £30 has been received in error from MJ Sly stone masons and a total of £300 has been received for two separate memorials.

#### 13.3 **To review current balances.**

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£39,145.92	
Lloyds Current Account:	£42,269.21	On 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£32,559.57	On 20 <sup>th</sup> October 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.

#### 13.4 **Budget for 2024/25.**

The Clerk requested one or two councillors to assist with the budget. Cllr. Dickens (*and Cllr. Willet subsequent to the meeting*) agreed to consider the draft budget with the Clerk and Mr. Brims.

### 14 **Correspondence.**

#### 14.1 **Community Champion Nominations (by 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023).**

If any councillor has any thoughts on nominations, it was suggested they discuss the nominee with Cllr. Dickens or the Clerk.

#### 14.2 **Request for Change of use of Byway 67 (not covered by seasonal TRO).**

It was agreed that BPC would try and add byway 67 to the list of byways covered by the seasonal TRO. Any change would only come into effect from October/November 2024.

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14.3	<u>Request for £500 from Bucklebury Community Bus.</u> This request was deferred until the December BPC meeting.	
15	<b><u>Round Table Comments.</u></b>	
15.1	<u>Permitted path from Upper Bucklebury to Thatcham.</u> This path is completed overgrown. Cllr. Loader will contact Wasing Estate.	GL
15.2	<u>Allotments.</u> Cllr. Teal asked who runs the allotments; they are managed by Bucklebury Estate.	
15.3	<u>Memorial Hall Boiler.</u> The boiler in the Memorial Hall has broken. Electric fan heaters have been temporarily set up (three in the main hall and one in the Oak Room). One quote for £6,000, to replace the boiler, has been received and another two quotes are awaited. BPC does have funds ring fenced for the Memorial Hall. It was agreed this would be put on the agenda for the December BPC meeting.	

**The meeting concluded at 10.10pm.**

**Date of next meetings:**

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

**BPC meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm – The Victory Room**

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