

Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council  
held in the Victory Room, Bucklebury on  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.45pm

**Present:** Cllr. B. Dickens (Chairman); Cllr. M. Morgan; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. P. Teal; Cllr. C. Willett; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).  
Four members of the public including Chris Austin and Graham Loader.

**Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. J. Allum, Cllr. L. Clarke and Cllr. P. Spours.

**Declarations of Interest.**

**Register of Interests.**

Register of Interest forms were collected from councillors.

**Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

**Public Session.**

**The Cornerpiece, Upper Bucklebury.**

BPC requested that a WBC traffic officer review the Cornerpiece, and view the issues which arise. This happened and the possibility of yellow lines was put forwards, however if this approach is to be taken, there needs to be consultation with parishioners. An article was printed in The Oaks putting forwards different ideas, and opinions were sought.

If there are double yellow lines along the length of the link road, nearby residents are very concerned about the potential increase in vehicle speeds and the increased danger to pedestrians. This option would also remove any parking for the two businesses in the link road.

BPC strongly believe that something needs to be done, but a balance needs to be found whereby safety can be improved and the small businesses can be supported. It was noted that often, it is delivery vehicles that block the road.

A parishioner commented that BPC should be supporting small businesses; he allows the body shop to park vehicles on his drive. He suggested that the link road needs sleeping policeman and that Burdens Heath should have traffic chicanes.

Concern was raised that if parking restrictions are implemented, it will simply cause parking elsewhere, potentially in more dangerous locations. This would be further exacerbated if Bucklebury Estate were to close the Briff Lane carpark.

Concern was raised about the “no right turn” at the end of Burdens Heath on the basis that drivers wishing to turn right might reverse back to the cross roads, which would be an even more dangerous manoeuvre.

Visibility along the Broad Lane side of the Cornerpiece from either Burdens Heath or the link road is particularly poor, partially due to the concave line of Broad Lane, which is further exacerbated by vegetation.

The Clerk will organise a dedicated meeting about this item with a representative from WBC Highways.

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

The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

**Vacancies on BPC and possible co-options.**

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Chris Austin and Graham Loader on to Bucklebury Parish Council representing the West Ward. One vacancy remains on the West Ward. Cllr. Austin and Cllr. Loader completed their Acceptance of Office paperwork.

HP

Signed .....

Date .....

6	<b><u>Chair's Report.</u></b>	
6.1	<u>Planting of tree to mark Graham Pask's retirement.</u> The Clerk will arrange an informal meeting of Cllr. Allum, Cllr. Dickens and Mr. Pask to determine where the tree is to be planted. The tree will be planted in the late Autumn. Early evening about 6.30/7pm has been suggested in order to enable as many councillors as possible to attend.	HP
6.2	<u>Delays in the WBC Planning System.</u> Cllr. Dickens highlighted an article in the Newbury Weekly News that WBC has 814 live planning applications, 610 of which are pending and 204 do not yet have a case officer assigned to them. Orange notices are generally not being displayed until the parish council consultation period is over. District Cllr. Read commented that there is a shortage of planning officers, with some having left WBC.	
7	<b><u>Clerk's Report</u></b>	
7.1	<u>BPC Email Addresses.</u> The Clerk is in the process of generating gmail accounts for councillors.	HP
8	<b><u>Planning.</u></b>	
8.1	<u>Planning applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:</u>	
8.1.1	<b>23/01120/HOUSE – River Barn.</b> <i>Garage with storage above including demolition of existing outbuilding. To consider the amendment.</i> It was agreed that BPC has <b>no objection</b> to the amendment to this application subject to conditions that it be incidental to the main dwelling, that the 1960s outbuilding be completely demolished and that a lighting plan is submitted for the garage building.	
8.1.2	<b>23/01460/HOUSE – White Cottage, Tylers Lane.</b> <i>Garage conversion, extension to front of garage and raising of roof.</i> BPC agreed to <b>object</b> to this application on the grounds of excessive glazing to the east elevation, the ridge height of the converted garage being higher than the ridge of the existing house, the increase in massing, the impact on the street scene and the rear windows of the garage conversion overlooking Tylers Lane Cottage. Concern was also raised about dispersal of smoke from the chimney which is between the garage and the house.	
8.1.3	<b>23/01405/HOUSE – Florence Cottage, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).</b> <i>Proposed rear extensions and conversion.</i> It was agreed that BPC has <b>no objection</b> to this application as it has minimal impact on Bucklebury Parish.	
8.1.4	<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> It was agreed that BPC has <b>no objection</b> to this application subject to a condition about working hours during construction.	
8.2	<u>Planning Decisions made by WBC:</u>	
8.2.1	<b>23/00656/HOUSE &amp; 23/00657/LBC – The Old Cottage, The Avenue.</b> <i>Single storey side and two storey rear extension.</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to these applications which have been <b>refused</b> by WBC.	
8.2.2	<b>23/00981/HOUSE – 30 Berry's Road.</b> <i>Single storey front extension and pitched roof to existing dormer.</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to this application which has been <b>approved</b> by WBC.	
8.2.3	<b>23/01052/HOUSE – 32 Berry's Road.</b> <i>Pitched roof to existing dormer.</i> BPC had <b>no objection</b> to this application which has been <b>approved</b> by WBC.	

8.3	<u>Adjacent Parish Applications.</u>	
	No new applications have been registered within 200m of the parish boundary.	
9	<b><u>District Council Business.</u></b>	
9.1	<u>Local Plan.</u>	
	The Planning Inspector has allowed the pause in the Local Plan process until early in 2024. The WBC full council meeting will debate the various options to change/replace THA20 in the draft Local Plan on 20 <sup>th</sup> July. <i>After meeting note: this will now take place at a full council meeting in September.</i> It is not yet clear whether the process will go back to the Regulation 18 or the Regulation 19 consultations which could raise the risk of a period where there is no Local Plan. Equally, it is possible that any changes to the Local Plan are vetoed and that the plan is pushed through as is. Cllr. Dickens will speak to Cllr. Spours about the possibility of getting Laura Farris MP involved again at an appropriate point.	BD PS
9.2	<u>Green matters.</u>	
	WBC is working to get more electric car charging points across the area and asking for location suggestions. Questions were asked about the cost model and District Cllr. Read will obtain the prospectus. It was also suggested that Cllr. Abbs may be able to give a presentation. Cllr. Loader will look into possible locations in the parish. A group buy-back scheme for solar power has been set up which includes the purchase of battery storage. Information about this will be put on the BPC website.	GL CR HP
9.3	<u>Members Bids.</u>	
	A new round of Members bids will be opening shortly. The closing date for applications is the 31 <sup>st</sup> August.	
9.4	<u>Other matters.</u>	
	<b>Rural verge cuts:</b> verges are supposed to be cut twice yearly. Other matters raised included: road sign cleaning (WBC is not obliged to do this), fly tipping, the Chapel Row bus shelter, dumping of oil cannisters, the fixed SIDs in Broad Lane and at Chapel Row which haven't been working for a very long time and white lines not being repainted.	
10	<b><u>Bucklebury Meadows and Hockett Field.</u></b>	
	The quote of £500 plus VAT for the replacement of the rotted off post at the kissing gate between the meadows and increases to the ground level at the same point was approved. The Clerk will chase up responses following the concerns about the oak tree belonging to Orchard Gate.	HP HP
11	<b><u>Cemetery and Chapel.</u></b>	
	The Clerk will organise a working party for the Cemetery.	HP
12	<b><u>Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.</u></b>	
	Two new toddler swings and two replacement swing hangers have been ordered. It was noted that a lot of people use the play area and some of them are not local. Cllr. Southgate reported that the picnic bench which was removed due to the feet rotting has been refurbished and needs to be installed. Berkshire Fire and Rescue has put up a sign at the Playpark warning about the dangers of playing with fire. Additional signs have been requested, via PCSO Sarah Preston, for the meadows.	
13	<b><u>Highways.</u></b>	
13.1	<u>Speed Indicator Device (SID).</u>	
	The BPC owned SID has been deployed in the parish, on most days for the last two weeks. On average, people slow down by 5mph after seeing the sign. It has become apparent that there is no obvious pattern for speeders. The SID has been used on Burdens Heath, Broad Lane, Bucklebury Village, Chapel Row Green, Chapel Row and Harts Hill Road. Generally, the speeding situation is at the same level as November 2019 (before the COVID pandemic) and much worse than in October 2020.	

SID displays a short message to drivers; suggestions of possible wording are very welcome.

The data captured will be submitted to WBC and it is hoped that this will result in deployment of the Sentinel camera which results in Police letters being sent to the registered keepers of vehicles travelling above ACPO. The data is available on the BPC website.

A module is available for the Bucklebury SID which will measure the speed of vehicles passing in both directions, in essence doubling the amount of data which is captured from any single deployment. Obviously, there is no “smiley face” for vehicles travelling away from the SID. This module costs £150. It was unanimously agreed to purchase this module.

Cllr. Southgate was thanked for all the work he has put in to researching, setting up the kit, training people and organising SID in the parish.

13.2 Grit Bins.

Cllr. Southgate reported that there is enough grit to fill all of the bins for the beginning of the Winter. About five of the bins need emptying, the ground being levelled, paving slabs being put down to form a base, before the bins are replaced and refilled.

14 Wellbeing.

14.1 Defibrillators.

The Clerk will arrange with Peach’s stores the reinstallation of the defibrillator and cabinet.

14.2 Coffee mornings.

The Coffee mornings are going from strength to strength. The next one is on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

15 Environment.

15.1 Dog Bins.

After a period of the dog bins in Bucklebury Meadow not being emptied, things have now settled down back into a routine.

As a result of the issues (which were seen across WBC), a different bin contractor was used by WBC to sort out the situation, who offers a number of services at rates very similar to those of the contractor used by WBC. This may be an option if the service deteriorates again, however, we have to be mindful that we now pay in advance, not in arrears.

15.2 Work on the Common.

It was agreed that the Clerk invite Alastair Jones-Perrott (Bucklebury Estate) to a BPC meeting, preferably in October, to give an update on the plans for the Common.

16 Finances.

16.1 Payments authorised since the last meeting:

The Alpha Xperience	£435.00	900 copies of The Oaks.
---------------------	---------	-------------------------

16.2 Payments to be authorised by Councillors:

West Berkshire District Council	£117.04	Emptying of meadows dog bins for Q2.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£75.00	Grass cutting.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£79.28	Rent for meetings 1/4/23 – 31/8/23.
Greenham Trust Ltd	£401.97	West Berks Foodbank donation.
Greenham Trust Ltd	£100.00	WB CAB donation.
Crescent Signs	£733.20	Plaque and oak sign for G. Pask tree.
Expenses, Salaries, Pensions & PAYE for June 2023	£1,495.73	Including flowers for internal auditor and two new toddler swings.

HP

HP

- 16.3 Funds received since 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.  
Cash donations of £130 for the tree for Graham Pask and £30 for a memorial inscription have been received since the last meeting.
- 16.4 To review current balances.  
Lloyds Current Account balance after all  
cheques cleared and lodgements received: £23419.97  
Lloyds Current Account: £30,310.96 On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023.  
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows: £32,453.19 On 20<sup>th</sup> June 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.
- 17 **Correspondence.**
- 17.1 WBC Winter Service Plan 2023/24 Consultation.  
Comments on the Winter Service Plan need to be returned to WBC by the 15<sup>th</sup> August.  
The Clerk will submit updates for Bucklebury grit bins listed in Appendix G.
- 18 **Round Table Comments.**
- 18.1 Victory Room lights.  
The external lights of the Victory Room have been on at 10.30pm in the evening when the hall is empty.
- 18.2 Remembrance Day Service.  
BPC has been asked to include the Remembrance Day Service in the next edition of The Oaks.
- 18.3 Drains outside Greenbanks.  
Cllr. Teal reported that the drains outside Greenbanks have been jetted and should now all work effectively.
- 18.4 Repairs to the link road at the Cornerpiece.  
Cllr. Teal reported that only part of the damage/potholes in the link road have been marked up for repairs. District Cllr. Read agreed to follow this up.
- 18.5 Broken BT box.  
It was reported that there is a broken BT cover at the junction of Berry's Road and Broad Lane.
- 18.6 Harts Hill Road.  
Cllr. Loader questioned why the newly painted lines on Harts Hill Road were not double white lines. He also commented that a new footpath is needed from Mount Pleasant to the permitted path down Harts Hill Road.

HP

CR

**The meeting concluded at 10pm.**

**Date of next meetings:**

**Bucklebury Planning: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room**

**BPC meeting: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room**

Signed .....

Date .....  
2023/40