

Minutes of a meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council
held at the Victory Room, Bucklebury on
Monday 13th February 2023 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. J. Brims (Vice Chairman); Cllr. J. Allum; Cllr. M. Morgan; Cllr. D. Southgate; Cllr. L. Clarke; Cllr. P. Teal; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Two member of the public including Cllr. C. Willett.

1 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. B. Dickens, Cllr. P. Spours, Cllr. A. Hillerton and District Cllr. G. Pask.

2 **Declarations of Interest.**

2.1 **Register of Interests.**

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

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

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

3 **Public Session.**

3.1 **Regulation 19 Consultation Flyers.**

Everyone involved with delivering the flyers to the Upper Bucklebury area with details on how to comment on the Regulation 19 consultation were thanked. Members felt strongly that this flyer should have been circulated to the whole parish and offered to deliver it, assuming printing could be arranged.

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

The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 9th January 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Brims.

The minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of BPC held on Monday 6th February 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Brims.

5 **Co-option of a new Councillor.**

It was unanimously agreed that Chris Willett, a long-standing parishioner of Bucklebury Village be co-opted onto BPC. Cllr. Willett signed his Declaration of Office.

6 **Chair's Report.**

The Chairman had no points he wished to raise.

7 **Clerk's Report**

7.1 **Speaker for the Annual Parish Assembly.**

Inspector Al Hawkett, the local neighbourhood inspector covering Pangbourne, Hungerford, and Downlands, has agreed to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly on Friday 19th May.

7.2 **Policing in the Parish.**

PCSO Sarah Preston has updated the Clerk on matters relating to the parish. Any intelligence on drug dealing is always welcomed.

7.3 **BPC email addresses.**

The Clerk supported several requests from councillors that councillors should have BPC specific email addresses. This prevents councillors having to give details of private (or business) email addresses and also gives BPC the ability to delete councillor email accounts (and the emails they contain) when councillors retire.

The Clerk is aiming to have something in place for the new council in May.

7.4 **May 2023 Elections.**

A number of councillors will not be standing for re-election in May. Nomination papers for all councillors need to be submitted by hand to WBC between Friday 24th March and

HP

HP

Signed

Date
2023/9

4pm on Tuesday 4th April. It was agreed that the Clerk would put a post on Facebook and the BPC website encouraging people to submit nomination forms.

7.5 Common Clearing – Saturday 25th March 2023.

The Oak Room is booked on Saturday 25th March and Saturday 30th September for the Spring and Autumn Common Clearing and litter picking event.

WBC are dropping off road signage before the event on the 25th March, but this needs to be stored in the parish and be available for other parishes to borrow. There was a discussion about possible storage locations.

8 Planning.

8.1 Planning applications which BPC has been consulted on by WBC.

8.1.1 **23/00194/HOUSE – Thatchers.**

New Shed.

The application submitted does not show the extant planning permission which is undeveloped. Whilst the shed is small, the cumulative effect of the shed and the development already approved must be considered. The hedge between the road and the proposed site of the shed is thin and the shed would intrude on the street scene.

It was unanimously agreed that BPC **objects** to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment and the impact it would have on the street scene, where all other developments are set well back.

8.2 To receive planning decisions made by WBC:

8.2.1 **22/02797/HOUSE – Tylers Lane Cottage.**

Removal of existing garage and replacement with proposed three bay oak framed garage.

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

8.3 Planning applications determined on appeal.

8.3.1 **22/00918/FULD for Ivinghoe, Stanford Dingley.**

Replacement dwelling and landscape enhancements.

BPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC and **dismissed** on appeal.

8.4 Adjacent Parish Applications.

8.4.1 **23/00064/HOUSE – Woodrow, Bucklebury Alley.**

For the construction of an attached oak extension and for the installation of a glazed link.

It was agreed that BPC has no comments to make on this application.

8.4.2 **22/03123/FULMAJ – Frilsham Lime Quarry.**

Two new residential dwellings (Use Class C3) of exceptional quality and design, garaging, access, hard and soft landscape enhancements, biodiversity improvements and associated works.

It was agreed that BPC would submit a comment to ensure that any new dwellings must be compliant with paragraph 79 (formerly known as paragraph 55).

8.4.3 **22/02265/FULD – Land adjacent to Pine Lodge, Bucklebury Alley.**

Proposed new house.

BPC made no comments on this application which has been **withdrawn**.

8.5 North East Thatcham (THA20) Working Group.

A traffic consultant has been employed on behalf of the Working Group, with an estimated cost of £3,000.

An extraordinary meeting of WBC has been called for 2nd March at which WB councillors are being asked to vote on abandoning the Regulation 19 consultation due to serious inaccuracies and omissions in the Local Plan Review.

9 District Council Business.

District Cllr. Pask was not present.

10 Parish Council Website.

The new website is now live. It is now important to keep the information on it current.

Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Southgate will be given access to update and add information to the site.

HP
JA
DS

Signed

Date

2023/10

11	<u>Bucklebury Meadows and Hockett Field.</u>	
11.1	<u>Quotes for tree works in the meadows.</u> Two quotes for tree works in the meadows were considered. It was unanimously agreed to instruct Mike Cairns to carry out the required work. The Clerk will contact the WBC tree officer about obtaining the necessary permission.	HP
11.2	<u>Hockett Field Work.</u> The WBCS has spent another morning/day working in the Hockett Field and has nearly finished cutting the hedge on the eastern boundary. All the brash resulting from their last visit (when it was too dry to safely burn anything) and this visit has been burnt. It was agreed that a noticeboard stating that the field is the Hockett Field, belongs to the Parish Council and a set of rules for use of the field should be on display.	HP
12	<u>Cemetery and Chapel.</u> A number of tell-tales had been placed on the wall around the Cemetery to monitor movement. Cllr. Teal reported that on a recent inspection, all but one of the tell-tales had gone.	
13	<u>Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.</u> Cllr. Hillerton has inspected the play area and no new concerns have been raised. Cllr. Southgate has removed the picnic bench and replaced the base of each of the legs resulting in a perfectly usable picnic bench. There was a discussion about where the repaired picnic bench could be put. The barriers on the bike track need to be moved to prevent alternative short cuts from becoming established. The possibility of signage indicating which way to go round the track was suggested. Mole hills have started appearing in the area where the barriers are installed. RoSPA will be out to carry out the annual inspection of the playpark and the bike track in April.	
14	<u>Wellbeing.</u>	
14.1	<u>Defibrillators.</u> The Peaches defibrillator is still with CU Medical who are investigating a fault.	
14.2	<u>Coffee mornings.</u> At the January coffee morning there were 22 people seen enjoying the company of others. This level of attendance did demonstrate a need for extra helpers. Whilst Cllr. Hillerton and the Clerk have been covering, the, relatively low, refreshments costs with 22 people the costs, at least of coffee, need to be covered. It was unanimously agreed that BPC would cover any necessary expenses for the coffee morning. The next coffee morning will be on the 23 rd February 2023 at 10.30am in The Oak Room.	AH HP
15	<u>Environment.</u>	
15.1	<u>Conservation Area Appraisal.</u> Cllr. Clarke reported that Debra Inston, the WBC Conservation Officer is due to review the Conservation Area Appraisal this week, any comments then need to be incorporated before a six-week consultation period, after which it should be adopted.	
15.2	<u>Highways.</u>	
15.2.1	<u>Speeding in the Parish.</u> Cllr. Southgate reported that he has trained one additional volunteer in the use of SID. Before the BPC SID can be utilised a license needs to be obtained from WBC, the application for which is awaiting action from the Clerk. Neither of the fixed speed indicator devices in the parish (Broad Lane and The Avenue) are working. The Clerk will report these to WBC.	HP HP
15.2.2	<u>Grit bins.</u> After the recent cold weather, the grit bins on Slade Green and at the Farm Park were both reported to be empty (they had been full just weeks earlier). An order for more grit was	

placed and the bins have now been filled. The Farm Park were contacted about use of grit being only for use on the public highway.

15.3 Recycling in the Parish.

15.3.1 **Clothes Bank at the Memorial Hall.**

There has been no update from the Memorial Hall Committee about the clothes bank.

15.4 New Benches in the Playpark and on the triangle at Chapel Row.

The replacement benches have been delivered to New Barn Farm. Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Munro-Ashman will install them.

16 **Finances.**

16.1 Cheques signed since the last meeting:

The cheque to cover the cost of the removal of the Burdens Heath streetlights never arrived with Enerveo. As a result, the original cheque has been stopped and a new cheque issued.

16.2 Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

The Victory Room	£38.75	Rent for Victory Room usage, October, November and December 2022.
------------------	--------	---

The Alpha Xperience	£547.00	Printing of 900 copies of The Oaks.
---------------------	---------	-------------------------------------

Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£101.09	Emptying of the Memorial Hall dog bin for January, February and March 2023.
-----------------------------	---------	---

Hugofox Limited	£287.86	Yearly subscription fee for the new website.
-----------------	---------	--

Willis and Ainsworth	£274.01	49 x 25Kg of rock salt for the grit bins.
----------------------	---------	---

Salaries and pension	£1,183.86	January 2023 salaries, pension contributions and expenses.
----------------------	-----------	--

16.3 Funds received since 10th October 2022:

Cemetery (interment of ashes of a non resident):	£320.00
--	---------

16.4 To review current balances and financial.

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: £10,833.36

Lloyds Current Account:	£16,812.98	On 20 th January 2023.
-------------------------	------------	-----------------------------------

Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£35,482.37	On 20 th January 2023.
--	------------	-----------------------------------

Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£32,752.35	On 7 th April 2022.
----------------------------------	------------	--------------------------------

Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,580.27	On 7 th April 2022.
---------------------------------	-----------	--------------------------------

17 **Correspondence.**

17.1 Croudace Homes proposal for 325 houses at Henwick Park.

It was agreed that BPC should not get involved with this proposal.

17.2 Correspondence about removal of Burdens Heath streetlights.

Several parishioners have contacted BPC about the way in which the removal of the streetlights from Burdens Heath BPC was handled. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a response which would be circulated to councillors prior to being sent.

18 **Reports.**

18.1 Bucklebury Commoners Association.

At a recent meeting of commoners, a committee of four members were elected including two members of BPC. The committee has been in contact with 123 commoners.

18.2 4x4 abuse of the Common.

A 4x4 on a byway, closed by a TRO, was reported via 999 to the Police. There was no follow up and the call handler was not familiar with TROs. The same vehicle was seen by a different councillor the following day on another closed byway.

18.3 Tree Planting on the Avenue.

JA
JMA

HP

Signed

Date
2023/12

A number of young oak trees have been planted in gaps on The Avenue. This work was carried out by a volunteer, who grows the trees in his garden before planting them across the local area.

18.4 District Parish Conference.

Cllr. Southgate reported that the Thames Valley Police Superintendent had reported that whilst the crime figures showed an increase in crime, a lot of new officers have been recruited. However, this has resulted in some Neighbourhood officers training/working with the new recruits. A number of PCSOs have also transferred to become constables. Eric Owens gave an update on planning and commented that the Local Plan is now essentially in the hands of the Planning Inspector.

19 Round Table Comments.

19.1 Traffic Survey at Mount Pleasant.

District Cllr. Pask was reminded about the traffic survey he was going to request around the triangle.

19.2 Woodside, Long Grove.

It was reported that a barn/shed measuring approximately 10m x 5m has been built on land at Woodside in addition to a significant double storey tree house. It was agreed that this would be reported to WBC Enforcement.

19.3 Memorial Hall.

The Clerk reported that the Memorial Hall Committee has questioned funds which may be available from BPC for improvements to the ladies' toilets. It was agreed that if the Memorial Hall Committee wishes to receive funding from BPC, they give a presentation on the works to BPC and share any quote details. Questions were asked about why only the ladies toilets were being considered for improvements.

20 **The meeting concluded at 9.50pm.**

Date of next meetings:

Planning meeting: Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.45pm – Victory Room.

Next BPC meeting: Monday 13th March 2023 at 7.45pm - Victory Room.

GP

HP