

Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council  
held in The Victory Room, Bucklebury on  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 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).

Four members of the public.

1 **Apologies.**

No apologies of absence were received.

2 **Declarations of Interest.**

2.1 **Register of Interests.**

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

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

There were no other declarations of interest in any agenda items.

3 **Public Session.**

3.1 **Adrian Abbs.**

Adrian Abbs, an independent, prospective parliamentary candidate for the new Reading and Mid Berkshire Constituency introduced himself to the council and gave a brief summary of his background, including Greenham PC and a Liberal Democrat WB District Councillor for four years until October 2023, when he became independent.

He is hoping to be able to use his career experiences in politics, giving the people of the constituency the opportunity to try an independent MP.

He has had experience of opposing local development with the "Say no to Sandleford" group and therefore understands some of the nuances of NE Thatcham.

3.2 **Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.**

Parishioners raised concerns about the way in which trees are being felled on private land belonging to Bucklebury Estate (not common land). Trees are being pushed over and then cut into sections, and piles of brash are being left. Damage to the public footpath and the permitted path by large vehicles was noted. Bucklebury Estate have previously made assurances that the paths would be restored. Cllr. Dickens will follow this up with Alistair Jones-Perrott.

In addition, concern was raised about the large number of tractor and trailer loads of wood being imported to the Middle Wood timber yard throughout the day, and the danger these cause to users of Hatch Lane.

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

The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

5 **Vacant Councillor Position.**

The Clerk has contacted WBC about whether a formal notice advertising the vacancy is required, following the resignation of Sarah Lewington before she had signed her declaration of acceptance of office. WBC has suggested advice is sought from BALC and a response is currently awaited.

6 **Chair's Report.**

6.1 **Litter at Angel's Corner (garbage from Foxhold).**

Garbage has been strewn around the Angel's Corner area after animals broke into black sacks which had been put out for the refuse collection.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the offending property and remind them of their responsibilities and copy WBC.

BD

HP

HP

Signed .....

Date .....

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6.2	<p><u>Tim Culley.</u> Cllr. Dickens has written to Tim Culley, a stalwart of Bucklebury for at least the last 25 years who is approaching a significant birthday. He has saved and led work to restore sections of heathland on the Common in conjunction with FWAG and WBCS, and been a long-term trustee of the Victory Room. It was agreed that a card and flowers up to the value of £30 should be sent to him to celebrate.</p>	HP
6.3	<p><u>Annual Assembly – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45pm in the Victory Room.</u> The Victory Room has been booked. A contact made at the last West Berkshire Heritage Forum will be invited to speak at the Assembly.</p>	DS
7	<b><u>Clerk’s Report.</u></b>	
7.1	<p><u>Bucklebury Meadows.</u> The West Berkshire Countryside Society spent one day in mid January working in the meadows and did a lot tidying up. Cllr. Dickens will write to them expressing the gratitude of BPC for the work they’ve done.</p>	BD
7.2	<p><u>Peaches Noticeboard.</u> The Clerk has spoken to Hash Shingadia and he has said the noticeboard can be reinstalled as soon as convenient. A quote of £275 from Walcot to fabricate and galvanise a frame to support the noticeboard was approved. Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Teal will determine how to complete the installation.</p>	JA PT
7.3	<p><u>Email addresses.</u> Cllr. Loader and the Clerk have worked together such that five councillors now have buckleburyparish.org email addresses with Microsoft. (GL, DS, GW, JA, CW). It was agreed that all other councillors would be given addresses of the same format which would then be included on an updated contact list and the website</p>	HP GL
7.4	<p><u>Hugofox Website.</u> The website went offline for between 12 and 24 hours due to the end of our contract. Interestingly, whilst there was a banner at the top of the website, no invoice was sent out in advance. But, once contacted, even on a Friday evening, the website was back up within minutes. The Clerk is still awaiting a revised invoice with a discounted charge on the basis that BPC is a returning customer.</p>	HP
7.5	<p><u>Hybrid Meetings.</u> It has been confirmed by WBC that BPC could hold hybrid meetings, although those taking part in the meeting must all be physically at the meeting. In order to hold hybrid meetings, good equipment is required and the ability to manage it. BPC does not believe there is a need for its meetings to be hybrid.</p>	
7.6	<p><u>Common Clearing – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.</u> Cllr. Dickens, Cllr Southgate and Cllr. Woods agreed to make cakes for Common Clearing, although all will be away for Common Clearing itself.</p>	
8	<b><u>Planning.</u></b>	
8.1	<u>Planning applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:</u>	
8.1.1	<p><b>24/00146/HOUSE – Connemara, Drove Lane (Adjacent Parish).</b> <i>Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (Approved Plans) of approved application 23/022190/HOUSE -First floor roof extension to create 4 no bedrooms and detached car port over existing parking area.</i> It was agreed that BPC has <b>no comment</b> to make on this application because it doesn’t affect any Bucklebury parishioners.</p>	
8.1.2	<p><b>23/02973/HOUSE – Cherry Cottage, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).</b> <i>Two storey side and rear extension to the existing residential dwelling and the construction of an outbuilding following the demolition of the existing outbuilding.</i></p>	

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It was agreed that BPC has **no comment** to make on this application because it doesn't affect any Bucklebury parishioners.

8.1.3 **24/00175/FUL – Western and Eastern Car Parks, Broad Lane.**

*Proposed extension and resurfacing of car parks.*

It was agreed that BPC **supports** this application. It was suggested that the height restriction on the entry and exit remain.

8.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC and on appeal:

8.2.1 **23/02835/HOUSE – 7 Mortons Lane.**

*Proposed single storey rear extension.*

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

8.2.2 **23/02760/CERTE – Red Hill House.**

*Continued use of land as garden land.*

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

8.2.3 **23/02773/HOUSE – Glencoe, Chapel Row.**

*Erection of single storey rear extension and external alterations to existing dwelling.*

*Erection of single storey detached garage.*

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

8.2.4 **23/02316/HOUSE – 1 Paradise Way.**

*Garden room replacement.*

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

8.2.5 **23/02243/HOUSE – Tree Tops, Hatch Lane.**

*Proposed ground floor rear extension, floor plan redesign and all associated works.*

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

8.2.6 **23/02259/FUL – Well Cottage, Long Grove.**

*Ancillary accommodation to the existing first-floor space above a detached carport.*

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

8.2.7 **23/02190/HOUSE – Connemara, Drove Lane (Adjacent Parish).**

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

BPC had **no comment** on this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

8.2.8 **23/02161/HOUSE & 23/02160/LBC – The Cottage, Magpie Farm (Adjacent Parish).**

*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.*

BPC had **no objection** to these applications which have been **approved** by WBC.

8.2.9 **23/02095/HOUSE & 23/02096/LBC – Woottens, Woolhampton.**

*Part two-storey, part single storey replacement extension to existing dwelling. Terrace doors in existing modified window openings.*

BPC had **no objection** to these applications which have been **approved** by WBC.

8.2.10 **23/02000/COND – Vanners.**

*Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 8 (SuDs) and 9 (Lighting strategy) of planning permission 21/00484/COMIND – Erection of agricultural building to support the agricultural use of a 5 acre paddock for livestock.*

BPC made **comment** on this application because it referred to the “new dwelling”, this has been corrected and the application **approved** by WBC.

8.2.11 **22/01442/FULD – Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.**

*Erection of a dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.*

BPC had **no objection** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant took the decision of WBC to appeal, and the application has been **dismissed**.

8.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.

There are no new planning applications within 200m of the parish boundary.

8.4 Update on the Local Plan.

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Approximately 70 people attended the public meeting on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February in the Memorial Hall to hear the latest on the Local Plan. Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February is the deadline for matters 1, 2 and 3. The next set of responses need to be submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The inspection is expected to take place between mid-May and mid-June, after which the inspector will deliberate and make his recommendations.

It was agreed that a summary of the meeting will be made available after Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

9 **District Council Business.**

District Cllr. Read relayed information about how to call WBC in the case of emergency. The next WBC meeting will be the budget meeting to be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February. The consultation on the budget has resulted in the current service levels for gulleys, emptying litter and dog waste bins to continue, weed spraying remaining unchanged, funding to community transport services continuing and an alternative provider being sought for all three of the WBC owned care homes.

Concern was raised about road safety in the parish:

- The Vehicle Activated Signs were reported as not working over two years ago, they have been inspected, but nothing has happened.
- The white lines on The Avenue have almost completely worn away. Only recently the lack of road lines in Kent resulted in a death.
- There are currently 13 reported pot holes in Bucklebury. WBC has received £600,000 from Central Government to repair the roads, so why are they not being filled?

District Cllr. Read commented that the safety of parishioners is paramount and that between May and November, 1,800 pot holes had been repaired.

10 **Finances.**

10.1.1 **Payments to be authorised by Councillors:**

Triangle Management Company	£101.09	Weekly emptying of 1 dog bins (January, February and March).
Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	£40.80	Weekly emptying of 2 dog bins for January 2024.
Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£420.00	Contribution to waste management 1/7/23 to 31/12/23.
The Alpha Xperience	£73.50	Printing of 500 "Say no" flyers.
Hugofox Ltd	£244.68	Website hosting (1/2/2024 – 31/1/2025).
Expenses, salaries, pensions, PAYE	£1,308.64	Expenses including CCTV signage, Zoom license and stump killer for the Cemetery.

10.2 **To review current balances.**

Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£26,178.17	
Lloyds Current Account:	£32,755.96	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£32,666.38	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Scottish Widows Reserve Account:	£32,868.17	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,596.47	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023

11 **Cemetery and Chapel.**

11.1 **Cemetery Working Party.**

A doodle poll for a working party has been sent out for a selection of Saturdays through until mid-March. To date only 4 councillors have responded with the best dates being the 24<sup>th</sup> February and the 16<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed the working party would take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Signed .....

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12	<p><b><u>D-Day Anniversary.</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that BPC will be organising the lighting of a beacon on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15pm in the Hockett Field.</p> <p>A gas beacon has been offered from The Cottage Inn which Cllr. Dickens will look at. Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Southgate will work together and identify the best option for a traditional style beacon.</p> <p>Cllr. Dickens agreed to organise the event (<i>Cllr. Woods offered to help Cllr. Dickens after the meeting</i>).</p>	BD JA DS BD GW
13	<p><b><u>Fred Dawson Play area and BMX Track.</u></b></p> <p>The RoSPA inspection will take place in April.</p> <p>All of the fixings on the fence have now been replaced. New CCTV warning signs will be put up this week.</p>	DS PT
14	<p><b><u>Highways.</u></b></p>	
14.1	<p><b><u>Speed Competition Posters.</u></b></p> <p>There have been some technical issues with the A3 posters. Cllr. Allum will be scanning them and providing the pdf files to Cllr. Southgate who will organise the printing.</p>	JA DS
14.2	<p><b><u>Use of SID in the Parish.</u></b></p> <p>SID continues to be well utilised in the parish.</p> <p>Last year the speeds of over 250,000 vehicles were recorded in the parish. This information will assist with where to deploy the Thames Valley Community Speedwatch most effectively.</p>	DS
14.3	<p><b><u>Thames Valley Police Community Speed Watch (CSW).</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. Southgate needs to agree the location of the CSW signage with Graham Malkham (WBC).</p> <p>Volunteers need to undertake the CSW training, so that it can actively be deployed. Three volunteers are needed for the duration of the CSW deployment; it cannot be a single person, or left unattended.</p>	DS
15	<p><b><u>Environment.</u></b></p>	
15.1	<p><b><u>Works on the Common.</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. Allum Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Southgate and the Clerk met with Alasdair Jones-Perrott at the Fanny's Lane carpark and inspected the clearance of the gorse and birch scrub. An additional fourteen days funding was received to complete the work, which whilst the results now look bare, it will recover. It is hoped to harvest heather seed from this year's flowers and sow it next spring in any areas where it remains bare.</p> <p>Mr. Jones-Perrott continues to work with grant making bodies to fund the project.</p>	
15.2	<p><b><u>Councillor to represent BPC on the Bucklebury Common Interest Group.</u></b></p> <p>The Bucklebury Common Interest Group, which replaces the Commons Advisory Committee has representatives from groups with an interest in the Common, including BBOWT and the Local Access Forum. Cllr. Allum is the Bucklebury Commoners Association representative on this group. It was agreed that Cllr. Spours would be the BPC representative.</p>	
15.3	<p><b><u>Path parallel to Burdens Heath.</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. Morgan has met with David Wildish (WBC Project Engineer) to discuss the possibilities of a path parallel to Burdens Heath. The envisaged path would be a stone base with a granite binding. On inspecting the site, the following issues were raised: the access from the path to Fanny's Lane and Briff Lane, the curves past the trees, and how the path would be accessed, particularly by the elderly and those with buggies/pushchairs from Burdens Heath.</p> <p>The project was considered more complex than initially thought, but Mr. Wildish is hoping to provide an initial costing to be used as a guide.</p>	

- 16 **Correspondence.**
- 16.1 **Assessing the Parishes Affordable Rural Housing Need.**  
 Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) has received funding to assist with Affordable Rural Housing need. As a result, they are running a session on assessing the need communities have for affordable housing.  
 BPC under took a housing need survey some years ago, at the same time as the Parish Plan.
- 17 **Reports.**
- 17.1 **Bucklebury Events Committee.**  
 Cllr. Woods reported that the Bucklebury Events Committee are organising the “Best of Bucklebury” to take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June with a number of events taking place around the parish including an art and needlework show in the Victory Room (from 10.30am to 4.30pm) where refreshments will be available, a cake making competition with classes for all parishioners, open gardens, and stalls, games and music at The Cottage Inn from 4pm. It is hoped to have a flower show in St. Mary’s Church with displays from each of the different community groups, and a peal of bells at 2pm.
- 17.2 **District Parish Conference.**  
 Cllr. Dickens reported that this was the first District Parish Conference for a year. It was a hybrid event, also virtually attended by Cllr. Southgate, but there were problems with the technology. An overview was given of the flooding situation across the area, including information about the ground water levels, what is normal and the levels during the last year, which have resulted in flooding in some cases.
- 17.3 **BALC/HALC Officer’s Update.**  
 HALC uses the legal services of Hampshire County Council (HCC), which employs 90 lawyers and has a wealth of legal knowledge. HALC/BALC members benefit from 1 hour of legal advice per query, before costs are chargeable. The head of the HCC legal department gave a presentation on the types of work they undertake.  
 Part of BALC membership costs cover training courses, which are provided to clerks/councillors without additional charge, unless there is non-attendance in which case the full cost is chargeable.
- 17.4 **Chapel Row Patient Participation Group (PPG).**  
 Cllr. Dickens reported that the swap of the Chapel Row dispensary with the waiting room has been completed. Some privacy issues for people talking at reception are being addressed.  
 The objective of BoB (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire) Integrated Care Board is for patients to see the most appropriate person at the most appropriate time. The PPG members are all over 60 and it is keen to widen its demographic.  
 The Clerk will invite Paul Gomm and Dr. Lennox to attend the Annual Parish Assembly and give a short update on the surgery. HP
- 18 **Round Table Comments.**
- 18.1 **Defib Training.**  
 Requests have been received for defibrillator training. The Clerk will look into organising something. HP
- 18.2 **20mph Zones.**  
 There is an experimental 20mph zone in Theale. Once this has completed, interested parishes will be consulted. This is expected to be in 2025.

**The meeting concluded at 10pm.**

**Date of next meetings:**

**BPC meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room.**

**Common Clearing: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2pm at the Memorial Hall**

Signed .....

Date .....

2024/11