

Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council  
held in the Victory Room, Bucklebury on  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.45pm

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

Three members of the public.

1 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. L. Clarke, Cllr. P. Spours and Cllr. C. Willett.

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 declarations of interest in any agenda items.

3 **Public Session.**

No matters were raised during the public session.

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

The minutes of the meeting of BPC held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 **Tree for Graham Pask.**

The tree purchased to mark Graham Pask's service as parish and district councillor has been collected and is now in The Slade. It is to be planted at the Recreation Ground on the west side of the playpark. It was suggested that a weekend at the end of October/early November would be the most practical. The Clerk will organise a date.

HP

6 **Clerk's Report**

6.1 **Common Clearing (Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2pm).**

The Clerk will ask two parishioners if they are able to serve the teas after Common Clearing. BBOWT have booked the skip.

Councillors were asked to provide cakes; Cllr. Southgate agreed to bake one.

The Clerk will organise for someone to come out with a trailer and collect rubbish sacks during, and after the event.

HP

6.2 **External Audit.**

PKF Littlejohn LLP have now completed their limited assurance review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. They have noted that there was a transposition error in Box 6 of the Accounting Statement in the figures for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. No other issues were raised.

6.3 **Next Edition of The Oaks.**

It is hoped to get an edition of The Oaks out in early November. The PCSO will provide a short article discouraging parents from purchasing e-scooters for children as Christmas presents.

6.4 **Bucklebury Tennis Club.**

It was agreed to make a donation of £250 to Bucklebury Tennis Club for coaching year 5 pupils from Bucklebury Primary School. This amount is matched by the PTA.

7 **Planning.**

7.1 **Planning applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:**

BPC has not been consulted on any applications since the last meeting, however the following application has been registered with WBC:

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- 7.1.1 **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.*  
 The documents in this application contain a number of references to a new dwelling, rather than a barn. It was also questioned whether the built form of the roof is correct. These concerns will be raised with the case officer.
- 7.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:
- 7.2.1 **23/01072/FUL – Mount Mist, Harts Hill Road.**  
*Demolish existing bungalow and erection of a replacement dwelling and detached garage/car port with associated alterations.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.2 **23/01205/FULMAJ – Woottens.**  
*Conversion of existing 3-bay carport to provide home gym and secure garage with store over.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.3 **23/01120/HOUSE – River Barn, Marlston.**  
*Garage with storage above including demolition of existing outbuilding.*  
*There were two amendments to this application, the second removing the gable element and reducing the height of the roof.*  
 BPC **objected** to the second amendment, although the application has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.4 **23/01460/HOUSE – White Cottage, Tylers Lane.**  
*Garage conversion, extension to front of garage and raising of roof. An amendment was received reducing the height and the amount of glazing in the front elevation.*  
 BPC **objected** to the original application and the amendment, but the application has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.5 **23/01405/HOUSE – Florence Cottage, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).**  
*Proposed rear extensions and conversion.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.2.6 **23/01601/HOUSE – Gunnells Cottage, The Avenue.**  
*Single storey side extension.*  
 BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 7.3 Adjacent Parish Applications.  
 No new applications have been registered within 200m of the parish boundary.
- 7.4 Process for calling in applications to be considered by the Eastern Area Planning (EAP) Committee.  
 The majority of applications are determined by planning officers, however where cases are considered to be controversial, they can be considered by the EAP. Applications will be considered by the EAP if there are ten letters or more of objection and the planning officer is recommending approval. Alternatively, the District Councillor can request that applications be considered by the EAP prior to them being allocated to a planning officer.
- 7.5 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).  
 NDPs are essentially in favour of development. All existing NDPs are for parishes with service villages; Bucklebury is not a service village.  
 To produce a NDP would require a questionnaire to the whole parish and a lot of work. It was agreed not to pursue a NDP.
- 8 **District Council Business.**
- 8.1 Local Plan Review.  
 The planning inspector has granted the requested extension to WBC until the end of September, to answer his preliminary questions. Meetings have been held with the NE

	Thatcham consortium and with Kennet Academy about possible options. There is still an aim not to withdraw the whole plan. Viable villages will be encouraged.	
8.2	<u>Green matters.</u> There is a soil conditioner give away at the Padworth recycling center on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> September. Free food waste caddy bags will be available through September from WBC libraries and the Council offices.	
8.3	<u>WBC Scrutiny Committee.</u> The Scrutiny Committee will be meeting with Thames Water and the Environment Agency in October to discuss sewage spills into the river Pang.	
8.4	<u>Jobs Fair.</u> Laura Farris MP has organised a jobs fair for the 28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> September. Employers from the construction industry, banking and finance, the film industry as well as the council and others will be there. Whilst the event is free, timed slots have to be booked in advance.	
8.5	<u>Education.</u> There is to be a consultation on how funds should be spent on childcare. The Badgers Hill unit at Calcot has been rebuilt and is now up and running for children not able to access mainstream school.	
9	<u><b>Bucklebury Meadows and Hockett Field.</b></u> The West Berkshire Countryside Society will be working in the Meadows tomorrow morning (Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September). The Clerk will arrange a meeting of the Meadows Committee. Concern was raised about the oak tree (protected by a tree preservation order) with the split trunk which is under the ownership of a neighbouring property. The owner has been in contact with the WBC tree officer and his own tree surgeons, but there doesn't appear to be a plan of action. The Clerk will contact the WBC tree officer again.	HP
9.1	<u>Dog Bins.</u> It was unanimously agreed to move the dog bin contract from the WBC contractor to Tactical Facilities Management from the 1 <sup>st</sup> October.	HP
10	<u><b>Cemetery and Chapel.</b></u>	
10.1	<u>Grounds Maintenance.</u> The Clerk will revise the specification for the maintenance contract for the Cemetery which needs to go out to tender in the late Autumn to feed into the budget work for the next financial year. Cllr. Allum commented that a new water butt is required.	HP
10.2	<u>Cemetery Carols (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December).</u> Cllr. Austin and Cllr. Southgate will work with the Clerk to organise Cemetery Carols. The charity to be supported by the event will be determined at the next BPC Meeting.	CA DS
11	<u><b>Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.</b></u> Cllr. Teal reported that on his inspections of the playpark and BMX track there has been minimal litter. New bearings have been installed on the nest swing. The mounting of the self-closing gate has been investigated. It grinds on the slab and needs adjusting, but the adjuster itself needs some work and replacement parts may be required. The climbing frame needs some replacement timber on some of the steps where the old wood has split. The timber is expected to cost in the region of £100. The BMX track continues to be well used.	PT DS
12	<u><b>Highways.</b></u>	
12.1	<u>The Cornerpiece.</u> It was agreed that Cllr. Dickens and the clerk would write a short report to be sent to Gareth Dowding (WBC), after being circulated around BPC, on BPCs proposals for the Cornerpiece.	BD HP

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	<p>Parking restrictions (double yellow lines) are requested at both ends of the link road, such that some vehicles can park in the middle.</p> <p>WBC is working on details for a mini round-a-bout at the junction of Harts Hill Road and Burdens Heath, however this will require purchase of land from Highlands.</p> <p>No right/no left turn restrictions can only be enforced by the Police. The south section of the triangle is used by two properties for their only vehicular access.</p> <p>It was agreed that BPC should make recommendations on the length of the parking restrictions at the beginning and end of the link road.</p> <p>Any outcome of this work is expected to take at least 18 months to come to be implemented.</p> <p>The Clerk has contacted the church office about the possibility of the businesses using the car park of All Saints church, and this is to be considered by the PCC.</p>				
12.2	<p><u>Speed Indicator Device (SID).</u></p> <p>To date speed data has been obtained on 108,000 vehicle movements in the parish. The outcome of using SID is an average speed reduction of 6mph where ever it is deployed, including Bucklebury Village.</p> <p>SID displays a message to passing motorists; those within the speed limit see “Safe journey” and those exceeding the limit “Speed Kills”. Suggestions for messages are welcomed.</p> <p>A WhatsApp group has been formed for SID operators to help facilitate the easy management of SID around the different locations in the parish.</p> <p>The use of SID is providing BPC with lots of data to prove that there is a speeding issue in the parish. Unfortunately, WBC doesn’t have the resources to assist with further actions.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about the options which can be used to potentially obtain a reduction in speed.</p>	DS			
12.3	<p><u>Thames Valley Community Speedwatch.</u></p> <p>The Thames Valley Community Speedwatch scheme which involves the Police working with volunteers should address the hard-core speeders who are seen in the parish. Vehicles caught speeding are sent a letter from the Police for the first two offences and receive a personal visit for the third. However, work is required to operate the Speedwatch in the parish which requires time. It is hoped this work will be able to take place in November.</p> <p>It was agreed that a WBC Members Bid would be submitted for Speedwatch signage and a speedgun.</p>	DS			
12.4	<p><u>Speed reduction signs.</u></p> <p>It has been suggested that another competition is held with Bucklebury Primary School, and Brockhurst and Marlston House School for designs to encourage motorists to slow down. The winning entries will be printed onto Corex board and used around the parish. There was the suggestion of having cutout wooden images of children to use around the parish to encourage speed reduction.</p>				
13	<b><u>Environment.</u></b>				
13.1	<p><u>Path parallel to Burdens Heath.</u></p> <p>A quote has been received for levelling and gravel for a section of path parallel to Burdens Heath. The extent of the path needs to be confirmed.</p> <p>It was suggested that some funding for this might be obtained from a WBC members bid and from CIL funds.</p>	HP			
14	<b><u>Finances.</u></b>				
14.1	<p><u>Payments to be authorised by Councillors:</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Triangle Management Company Ltd</td> <td>£101.09</td> <td>Memorial Hall Dog bin emptying (July, August &amp; September 2023).</td> </tr> </table>	Triangle Management Company Ltd	£101.09	Memorial Hall Dog bin emptying (July, August & September 2023).	
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	Bucklebury Memorial Hall	£112.50	Cutting of Playpark grass (July & August).	
	The Victory Room – Bucklebury	£194.55	Rent for meeting from 1/1/2023 to 31/8/2023.	
	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£252.00	External Audit – limited assurance review.	
	Expenses, Salaries, Pensions & PAYE for August 2023	£1,070.53	Includes expenses for tree for Graham Pask.	
14.2	<u>To review current balances.</u>			
	Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received:	£19,885.37		
	Lloyds Current Account:	£23,579.97	On 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2023.	
	Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:	£32,499.26	On 18 <sup>th</sup> August 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.	
15	<b><u>Correspondence.</u></b>			
15.1	<u>D-D 80 Beacons – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.</u>			
	It was agreed that Cllr. Allum would produce a drawing for a beacon which could be built by a local blacksmith. Cllr. Southgate will contact the blacksmith about fabrication.			JA
15.2	<u>WBC Consultation on Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)</u>			
	Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Clarke will review this document.			DS
15.3	<u>Sewage spills into the river Pang.</u>			
	Cllr. Dickens will ask Cllr. Willet to work with Piers Allison on a joint response.			JA
16	<b><u>Round Table Comments.</u></b>			
16.1	<u>Thames Valley Police “Have your say” event.</u>			
	There is work ongoing about drug dealing in Upper Bucklebury.			LC
16.2	<u>Contacts Details on the website.</u>			
	Cllr. Southgate raised concern that there is an absence of contact details for councillors on the website. Whilst some email addresses are awaiting the setting up of gmail addresses, telephone numbers could potentially be published.			BD
16.3	<u>Sundew Ecology Proposals for the Common.</u>			
	Concern was raised that there was no early engagement where access has been made over the common to extract timber from non-common Bucklebury Estate land. Due to the use of large vehicles, the tracks are very badly rutted.			CW
	A revised map of the proposals has been published, but there has been no accompanying communication. There are questions about how the proposed changes (particularly the increased heathland) will be maintained.			
16.4	<u>Anti-Social Behaviour in Holly Wood.</u>			
	There were reports of motor cyclists using Holly Wood without helmets. The bikes being used were full sized trial bikes.			

**The meeting concluded at 9.55pm.**

**Date of next meetings:**

**Bucklebury Planning: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room - Cancelled**

**BPC meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room**

Signed .....

Date .....

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