

Minutes of the meeting of Bucklebury Parish Council  
held in the Victory Room, Bucklebury on  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 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. C. Willett; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Two members of the public (the applicants for application 23/01676/HOUSE – Little Copse House).

1 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. C. Austin and Cllr. P. Teal.

2 **Declarations of Interest.**

2.1 **Register of Interests.**

Register of Interest forms were collected from councillors.

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

Cllr. Spours declared an interest in application 23/01676/HOUSE as an immediate neighbour.

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 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Dickens.

5 **Chair's Report.**

5.1 **WBC Planning.**

District Cllr. Read has written to Laura Farris MP about the difficulties and delays in the planning department at WBC.

5.2 **SID Data.**

A large amount of data has been collected using the BPC SID unit. It provides evidence of major speeding issues on Burdens Heath and at Chapel Row.

5.3 **Tree for Graham Pask.**

The tree to mark Graham Pask's service as a councillor to the community will be planted in late October. It is hoped to plant it adjacent to the play area in the Recreation Ground in Bucklebury Village. The Clerk will consult with Cllr. Clarke who is the secretary of the Recreation Ground.

6 **Clerk's Report**

6.1 **The Cornerpiece Meeting.**

The meeting about improving safety around the Cornerpiece has been arranged for 7.30pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Gareth Dowding from WBC Highways will be in attendance at the meeting.

6.2 **Works on the Common.**

Alasdair Jones-Perrott will attend the October BPC meeting and give an update on the plans for work on the Common.

7 **Planning.**

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

7.1.1 **23/01676/HOUSE – Little Copse House, Paradise Lane.**

*Single storey side extension and conversion of Outbuilding to Gym (ancillary to main dwelling).*

It was noted that the neighbouring property has a covenant on Little Copse House and the existing conservatory is in contravention of the covenant. However, covenants are not a

HP

planning matter. There is restricted height in the roof of the outbuilding which has power, but no water.

The meeting was **closed** for the applicant to speak.

The outbuilding/garage is too narrow for vehicles. Security lighting on the outbuilding is controlled by a PIR.

The meeting was **reopened**.

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to the extension not having a second storey and the outbuilding being ancillary to Little Copse House.

7.1.2 **23/01725/HOUSE & 23/01726/LBC – Ryders, The Avenue.**

*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.*

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to these applications.

7.1.3 **23/01764/HOUSE – 9 Broad Lane.**

*A rear/side ground floor extension with internal alteration works. Creation of Juliet balcony on the first floor.*

Concern was raised that the extension extends beyond the existing side wall of the property reducing the distance to the boundary from 1m to approximately 80cm; there is no access via the other side of the property due to a shed.

It was agreed to defer a decision on this application until the planning meeting on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August so that neighbours can be consulted on the application.

7.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

7.2.1 **23/00813/FUL & 23/00814/LBC – Brockhurst School, Marlston House.**

*Remodelling of the existing class rooms (within the existing converted stables) at Brockhurst and Marlston House Schools to include the introduction of new window and doorway openings, co-join neighbouring rooms and relocate existing wc provision.*

BPC **supported** these applications which have been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.2 **23/01020/HOUSE & 23/01021/LBC – Wateroak, Midgham Green (Adjacent Parish).**

*Two storey side extension with insertion of new rooflight into existing roof and alterations to garden landscaping.*

BPC made **no comment** on these applications which have been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.3 **23/00798/OUTMAJ – Land West of Heath Lane and Nort of Bowling Green Road (Adjacent Parish).**

*Outline application (with all matters reserved except for site access to the highway) for up to 80 bed care home (Class C2), up to 200 residential dwellings (Class C3) and public open space including a country park, allotments, community orchard, trim trail and equipped play areas, together with access from Bowling Green Road and Cold Ash Hill, landscaping, sustainable drainage systems and associated works and infrastructure.*

*Matters to be considered: Access.*

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

7.2.4 **23/01287/HOUSE – 43 Broad Lane.**

*External material change to render.*

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2.5 **23/01300/HOUSE – 78 Roundfield.**

*Proposed front porch, outbuilding, demolition of existing sheds, and all associated works.*

BPC **objected** 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.

8 **District Council Business.**

8.1 The Local Plan.

Officers are working on answers to the questions asked by the Planning Inspector. The Council is looking for an alternative site for a campus for Kennet and Francis Bailey

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	Schools, freeing up the sites for the development of approximately 400 dwellings. District Cllr. Read has written to Laura Farris MP and Lee Dillion (Leader of WBC) about the lack of planning resources at WBC and insufficient funds.	
8.2	<u>Charging Points (Ubtricity).</u> The charging points provided by this project are slow charging (most vehicles would require 10 hours to charge). This would rule them out for most locations within Bucklebury parish. They are aimed at street parking in urban areas. However, they may be suitable for Bucklebury Place, or some parts of Roundfield and Paradise Way. More power is needed to provide faster charging units.	
8.3	<u>WBC Recycling Plants.</u> More appointments have been added at both the Padworth and New Town recycling centres.	
8.4	<u>Neighbourhood Development Plans.</u> A basic grant of £10,000 is available to communities developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, with an additional £8,000 available if certain criteria are met, one of which is identifying one or more sites for potential development. It was agreed that Cllr. Spours would seek advice from Andrew Black about whether Bucklebury should consider a Neighbourhood Development Plan.	PS
8.5	<u>Bus Survey and National Bus Strategy.</u> WBC is undertaking a bus survey. A link will be added to the BPC website.	HP
8.6	<u>Fly tipped Oil Canisters.</u> WBC has recommended that if new oil canisters are found, which have been fly tipped, they should be reported to the Environment Agency.	
9	<b><u>Bucklebury Meadows and Hockett Field.</u></b>	
9.1	<u>Dog Bins.</u> Emptying of dog bins has been at best erratic and more recently not at all for approximately three weeks. The lack of emptying resulted in Cllr. Morgan and a parishioner emptying one of the bins themselves and taking the waste to a site in Thatcham. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quote from an alternative contractor, to be considered at the September meeting.	HP
9.2	<u>Kissing Gate.</u> CR Landscapes have been instructed to replace the rotted off post at the kissing gate and make up the level of the surface in and immediately around the gateway.	
9.3	<u>Meadows Meeting.</u> The Clerk will organise a Meadows meeting.	HP
9.4	<u>Fire Risk Warning Signs.</u> The PCSO has asked Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service to place fire risk warning signs at the entrance to the meadows.	HP
10	<b><u>Cemetery and Chapel.</u></b>	
10.1	<u>Digitisation and mapping of the Cemetery.</u> A parishioner has entered all of the entries in the Burial Registers into a spreadsheet and is now trying to identify the plots associated with each entry. Whilst this sounds straight forwards, it is hampered by the plots having been renumbered on at least two previous occasions. In addition, there are references on headstones to names not listed in the burial register. Cllr. Dickens will write and thank the parishioner for all of his work to date.	BD

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- 11 **Fred Dawson Playpark and the BMX Track.**  
 Cllr. Dickens noted that he has observed very little litter at the play park when he has been to the tennis courts.  
 The two, new, red and blue toddler swings have been installed; surprisingly it became apparent on taking them down that the old, black, swings were originally red and blue too!  
 A large pile of sticks has been placed on the BMX track. Cllr. Southgate tried to clarify when they had been gathered from the CCTV, but it would appear that they have been moved around the site. Cllr. Teal has now removed the sticks.  
 The CCTV cameras are working well, but spider's webs are obstructing the night time images on three of the cameras. The webs reflect the infra-red rays back.
- 12 **Highways.**
- 12.1 **Speed Indicator Device (SID).**  
 Cllr. Southgate reported that 50,000 datapoints had now been gathered using SID from a number of locations across the parish. These have been shared with WBC and Thames Valley Police. On average the use of SID results in a 5mph reduction in speed. Purchase of a reporting module, so that the data is in line with what WBC use, costing £90 was approved. Cllr. Southgate has asked a parishioner to organise and manage use of SID across the parish.  
 BPC has signed up to the Thames Valley Police Community Speedwatch scheme. This requires a commercial speed gun, which is then operated by two or three trained parishioners at any one time. The speed gun records a number of data points about each speeding vehicle which are then sent to the Police who will issue a letter to the registered keeper of each speeding vehicle (or a visit if letters have previously been sent).  
 In principle, BPC agreed to the purchase of a speed gun, expected to cost in the region of £200.
- 13 **Wellbeing.**
- 13.1 **Coffee mornings.**  
 The Coffee mornings are going from strength to strength. The next one is on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- 14 **Environment.**
- 14.1 **Conservation Area Report.**  
 Cllr. Clarke reported that Debra Inston, the WBC Conservation Officer has moved into a different role. Bryan Lyttle (WBC Planning Policy) has indicated that it is unlikely that there will be a new conservation officer before Christmas.
- 15 **Finances.**
- 15.1 **Payments to be authorised by Councillors:**
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|---|-----------|--|
| Bucklebury Memorial Hall                          | £420.00   | Waste management contribution (1/1/23 to 30/6/23). |
| CR Landscapes Ltd                                 | £336.00   | Mowing of the small meadow (1/4/23 to 30/6/23).    |
| Expenses, Salaries, Pensions & PAYE for July 2023 | £1,207.93 | Including SLCC membership of £177.00.              |
- 15.2 **Funds received since 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**  
 Funds of £160 are expected for the interment of ashes of former resident of the parish.
- 15.3 **To review current balances.**
- |   |            |                                |
|---|------------|--------------------------------|
| Lloyds Current Account balance after all cheques cleared and lodgements received: | £21,616.04 |                                |
| Lloyds Current Account:   | £23,829.99 | On 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023. |
| Lloyds Business Instant Account for meadows:                                      | £32,475.24 | On 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023. |
| Scottish Widows Reserve Account:  | £32,868.17 | On 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023. |

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	Scottish Widows Gilroy Account:	£4,596.47	On 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022.	
16	<b><u>Correspondence.</u></b>			
16.1	<u>Local Nature Recovery Strategy Webinar – 20<sup>th</sup> September 11am.</u>			
16.2	<u>WBC Consultation on Validation Checklists and Nation/Local Submission Requirements for Planning Applications – Deadline 15/9/2023.</u>			
17	<b><u>Round Table Comments.</u></b>			
17.1	<u>Upper Bucklebury Settlement Boundary.</u>			
	Questions were asked about the location of the settlement boundary around Upper Bucklebury; the Clerk will circulate a map showing the boundary.			HP
17.2	<u>Website.</u>			
	Cllr. Southgate has put the Bucklebury Commoners Association material up on the website. It was noted that the BPC policies need to be uploaded.			HP

**The meeting concluded at 9.45pm.**

**Date of next meetings:**

**Bucklebury Planning: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room**

**BPC meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.45pm – The Victory Room**

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