

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 9th February 2009 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Mrs. W. Frankum (Chairman); Mr. S. Beeson (Vice-Chairman); Mr. B. Dickens; Mr. H. Hind; Mr. J. de Lara; Mrs. L. Clarke; Mr. J. Brims; Mr. D. Heslop; Mr. A. Gilbert; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Mr. T. Slatford; Mr. P. Brook; Mr. G. Pask.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th January 2009 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Mrs. Frankum.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising are covered elsewhere in these minutes.

TOPICS

Draft Rural Strategy.

Mr. Heslop reported that the Draft Rural Strategy gives a long term vision for West Berkshire up to 2026 and is focused around five key themes: prosperity; accessibility; greenness; safer and healthy communities and individuals. After some discussion it was agreed that the strategy gave a framework under which policies could be developed. In principal BPC agreed with the strategy, although given the current economic climate, it was felt that maybe the draft should be reviewed with this in mind. WBC would be well positioned to actively encourage households to be more self sufficient. Mr. Dickens proposed that Mr. Heslop should return his comments; this was seconded by Mr. Beeson and unanimously agreed.

DH

PLANNING

P1. 46 and 47 Roundfield.

The applicant has taken application 08/01990/FULD for the demolition of a pair of semi-detached houses and their outbuildings, and the erection of two pairs of semi-detached houses to appeal.

Plans submitted for approval:

P2. 08/02405/FUL & Copyhold Farm, Hatch Lane.

08/02406/LBC Rebuild dangerous brickwork. Stabilise structure and provide weatherproof roof. Existing vacant barn to have storage above at first floor, access via new staircase.

BPC have **no objection** to this application.

P3. 08/02274/FUL The Cottage, Fifield Farm.

Retrospective – Alterations and extensions to cottage and change of use of car park to residential cartilage.

BPC have **no objection** to this application.

P4. 08/02187/FUL Osgood Holding, Sadgrove Lane.

Change of use to include grazing for horses. To erect a stable and hay barn consisting of three loose boxes, tack room and hay barn and food storage area.

BPC have **no objection** to this application.

Signature

Date

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- P5. 08/02372/HOUSE Bucklebury Lodge, Chapel Row.
 Minor extensions and alterations to existing house; Construction of new garage block with room over. (Existing garage and sheds to be demolished).
 BPC have **no objection** to this application.
- P6. 08/02351/FUL Bucklebury C of E Primary School.
 Removal of existing 1m high metal gates and fence panel (1 double, 1 single gate) and erection of new 1.8m high metal gate (green) double gates, single gate and fence panel.
 BPC have **no objection** to this application.

Planning decisions made:

- P7. 08/01967/HOUSE Autumn House, Byles Green.
 Two storey side extension. Two bay detached timber clad garage and store.
 BPC **objected** to this application on the changes being made to the garage, however it has been **approved**.
- P8. 08/02081/LBC Old Vicarage, Bucklebury.
 Alteration to window in East elevation.
 BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.

S1. Schools. Nothing to report.

R1. Junction of Byles Green and Cemetery Road.

The Clerk reported that WBC has put the work at this road junction on hold due to budget pressures. It will be considered again in the next financial year.

WBC

R2. Road Signs along Broad Lane.

Mr. de Lara reported that he and Mr. Slatford had met Andrew Garratt (WBC) and discussed the report which BPC produced. A speed survey will be carried out in the near future. The traffic calming as implemented cost £26,000; the original budget was £25,000. As a result of walking along Broad Lane with Mr. Garratt, a number of signs will be moved and some will be removed altogether. In some cases it is also possible to combine signs on the same street furniture. It is hoped that these improvements will be carried out during the next 8 weeks.

WBC

Over the next 3 years all school signs in West Berkshire are to be replaced with flashing signs; this includes the signs for Bucklebury School. This will be done in consultation with BPC.

R3. Pavement outside Peachs.

Mr. Garrat stated that the Broad Lane traffic calming was always planned to be phased. Accordingly WBC expected the planned improvements around Peachs to be funded by development of the Peachs Garage site. Neither of these were the understanding of BPC and both will be pursued with District Councillors.

HP
GP
QW

R4. General State of Roads within the Parish.

Mr. Dickens reported that over the last 2 weeks he has made at least 8 reports to Streetcare about the deteriorating state of the roads in the parish. Much of this damage has occurred due to the inclement weather conditions of late.

H1. Memorial Hall Annex.

The VAT Exemption Certificate for the building of the Annex has now been issued. The first stage of the work has been completed.

H2. Memorial Hall.

Mr. Hind reported that the Memorial Hall Committee will shortly be reviewing their rates.

Signature

Date

MAINTENANCE

M1. Tree roots in the Cemetery.

The Clerk reported that Roger Molloy is scheduled to grind out the roots in the Cemetery on the 5th March 2009, and seed a few weeks later.

M2. The Meadows.

Mrs. Frankum reported that she had spoken to Sue Everett and discussed writing up a plan for the wild flower seeding in the meadows, which was part of the planning permission granted to DWH. The Clerk will investigate how far this work has proceeded with Jeremy Davey (WBC) and Karen Davies (FWAG) who are likely to be providing volunteers to do the work.

HP

M3. Paths in the Cemetery.

The Clerk reported that she had received a quote from CR Landscapes which agreed with the quote specifications regarding the tidying of the path to the South of the Chapel and to construct a new path behind the chapel to join the two existing paths. A quote for this work was received from Almond Arborists last year. Acceptance of the quote from CR Landscapes was proposed by Mr. Dickens proposed, seconded by Mr. Brims and unanimously agreed.

HP

M4. Hockett Field.

Mrs. Frankum reported that hedging on the South and East boundaries of the Hockett Field is patchy and that there is no fencing. It was agreed that the Hockett Field should be discussed in more detail at the June meeting.

HP

PUBLIC PATHS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Pp1. TPO's on Oak Trees behind 9 Mortons Lane.

The Clerk reported that she has had a number of conversations with Jason Trewinnard (WBC) regarding landownership around the field in which the Oaks have been planted; owners of adjacent land need to be informed of the TPOs.

Pp2. Bucklebury Common Tree Leaflet.

The walk at which Dick Greenaway's tree leaflet will be launched is to be on Sunday 29th March. Tea will be served at the Memorial Hall afterwards.

HP

Pp3. Land Use at 9 Mortons Lane.

The strip of land at the bottom of 9 Mortons Lane where the hedge originally grew is now being used as garden. The use of the land on which the hedge grew has a covenant on it owned by the other Mortons Lane properties and the land management company.

Pp4. Mortons Lane.

The management of the landscaped areas is paid for by DWH, who are in turn paid by the residents, however they are currently withholding payments because they aren't satisfied with the work being carried out.

Jon Thomas (WBC) also needs to clearly define the line of the footpath and inform the residents if it is different to that drawn on the plans.

Pp5. Sandbags in Bucklebury Village.

WBC has proposed erecting a large container immediately behind the Victory Rooms for storage of the necessary equipment for sandbags, should they be required. Piers Allison feels that money spent on this project would be better spent on the alleviation work, particularly as there is some question over the effectiveness of sandbags. There is a meeting planned between Mr. Allison, Mrs. Clarke, WBC and an engineer later this week.

LC

Signature

Date

- Pp6. Bus Routes in the Parish.
Mr. Brims reported that bus service number 104 uses Hatch Lane to reach Chapel Row from Midgham. Hatch Lane is not felt to be suitable for buses by BPC. The 101 service is now going down Pease Hill to Bucklebury Village. This road is also felt to be unsuitable for buses. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to WBC complaining about the situation. HP
- Pp7. The Slade.
Mr. Heslop reported that Bob West had got up early and cleared The Slade of snow using a snow plough on two mornings during the week of the snow. It was agreed that the Clerk would write and thank him for his efforts. HP
- Y1. Memorial Hall Play Park.
The Memorial Hall Play Park committee have presented their proposals to the Memorial Hall Committee. The work is expected to cost £55,000 including VAT and they have asked whether BPC may be able to financially support them. To date £172 has been raised. Much of the grant funding available is match funding and to that end, the Memorial Hall Improvements Committee have agreed to donate £10,000 once the hall improvements have been completed, subject to no significant requirement for contingency. There was some discussion around ways in which BPC may be able to offer support but no decision was made. It was agreed that Mrs. Poole should be asked to come to the March meeting to present the plans, with a discussion to take place at the April meeting on ways in which BPC may be able to support the project. WF
HP

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Ga1. Annual Parish Assembly.
There was some discussion about the agenda for the Annual Parish Assembly. It was agreed that we would invite Dick Greenaway, a representative from the Playpark committee and Karen Davies from the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys Countryside Projects (FWAG). Mr. Beeson proposed that each speaker be restricted to their time slot, be limited to 3 questions each and be invited to do a display which can be discussed both before and after the meeting; this was seconded by Mr. Heslop and unanimously agreed.
It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly would be advertised in the same way as in previous years. HP
- Ga2. Parish Notice-board.
The Clerk reported that Terry Gamble had repaired the notice-board at Peaches. Mr. Beeson proposed that Mrs. Frankum should write and thank Mr. Gamble and purchase a locally produced gift; this was seconded by Mr. Dickens and unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that the Clerk will look into making the notice-board lockable. WF
HP
- Ga3. SLCC Conference.
The Clerk asked whether BPC would be willing to pay £49.00 to cover the cost of attendance at the SLCC regional conference at Binfield. Mr. Beeson proposed that BPC cover the cost of attendance, and pay for her time; this was seconded by Mr. Hind and unanimously agreed. HP
- Ga4. Posts of Responsibility.
Mrs. Frankum reported that the Clerk is drawing up a list of responsibilities (including the Burial Board, footpaths, the Commons Advisory Committee etc.) which will be discussed at the March meeting. HP

PARISH PLAN

- Ppl1. Welcome Pack.
The Clerk passed round a final draft of the cover for the Welcome Pack which was approved by all. Mr. de Lara proposed getting 50 copies printed at a cost of £25.00;

Signature

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this was seconded by Mr. Dickens and unanimously agreed. Once this has been done, the Welcome Packs will be complete.

HP

Ppl2. 4x4 on the Common.

Mr. Beeson reported that more ditches will shortly be dug to discourage 4x4s from using parts of the common. WBC contractors will shortly be removing the brick and concrete hut near the Common crossroads.

Ppl3. Review and update.

Mr. Beeson sent a list of the action items and their status on the Parish Plan to members prior to the meeting. He requested that any updates be sent to him.

SB

FINANCE

F1. Balances:

Lloyds Treasurers Account £21,011.72 On 20/1/09.

Scottish Widows Call Account £27,698.93 On 1/1/09.

Scottish Widows Gilroy Bequest
Account £4,645.35 On 1/1/09.

Scottish Widows Memorial Hall
Extension Fund £84,469.34 On 1/1/09.

F2. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Morleys of Bicester £293.25 Play mats to be donated to Bucklebury
Toddlers.

Bucklebury Construction £25,531.25 First stage payment for Memorial Hall
Annex.

F3. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

The Alpha Xperience £330.00 Printing of January '09 Oaks.

Mrs. J. Hanson £3.00 Oaks delivery – Broad Lane.

Mrs. E. Weedon £6.00 Oaks delivery – Burdens Heath &
Hopgoods Green.

Gregory Eaton £3.00 Oaks delivery - Turners Green.

Adam Waters £6.00 Oaks delivery – Roundfield.

Mrs. A. I. Banks £6.00 Oaks delivery – Long Grove & Little Ln.

West Berkshire District Council £1,126.75 Building control fees on Annex.

Mrs. H. Pratt £360.00 Clerks January '09 Salary.

Bucklebury Parish Council – MHE £12,110.89 ACRE/COMMA Grant & VAT return for
Memorial Hall Annex.

F4. Gilroy Funds.

There has been some concern about the capital decrease in real terms of the funds held in the Gilroy account. The interest on this account and in some cases a donation from BPC have annually been donated to the Bucklebury St. Martins club. The Clerk will investigate how the fund was originally bequeathed and contact the Bucklebury St. Martins club committee, such that they too are fully aware of the position.

HP

CORRESPONDENCE

C1. Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys Countryside Projects (FWAG).

Karen Davies from FWAG has contacted BPC regarding a donation to support the projects. Mr. de Lara proposed a donation of £600; this was seconded by Mr. Heslop and unanimously agreed.

HP

C2. District Parish Conference – Tuesday 17th March 2008.

It was agreed that Mrs. Frankum and the Clerk would attend the conference.

HP

C3. Support for Mobile Youth Work Provision.

WBC has contacted BPC to enquire whether there are funds available to support the provision for mobile youth work in the area. The Clerk will respond that budgets have

Signature

Date

already been set and that whilst the idea is sound there are no funds available.

HP

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

NEXT MEETING:	Monday 9th March
PLEASE NOTE THE FOLOWING DATES:	
Sunday 29th March 2pm	Walk to launch of Dick Greenaway tree leaflet.
Monday 6th April 7.45pm	April meeting of BPC.
Saturday 25th April 2pm	Commons Clearing.
Friday 8th May 8pm	Annual Parish Assembly.

Signature

Date