

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at the Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

PRESENT

Mrs. W. Frankum (Chairman); Mr. S. Beeson (Vice Chairman); Mr. B. Dickens; Mr. H. Hind;  
Mr. J. de Lara; Mrs. L. Clarke; Mr. P. Brook; Mr. T. Slatford; Mr. D. Heslop; Mr. A. Gilbert;  
Mr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

APOLOGIES

Mr. J. Brims.

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Jeremy Brooke.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by Mrs. Frankum.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising are covered elsewhere in the minutes.

TOPICS

T1. Planning update.

Mr. Pask briefly covered the history behind the Local Development Framework and referred to some defined settlements having boundaries. The only settlement boundary in Bucklebury Parish is around Upper Bucklebury. In order for settlement boundaries to be moved, everyone affected must be in support of moving the boundary. Previously, BPC have discussed tightening the settlement boundary such that rather than being along boundaries, it is within a reasonable distance of the edge of buildings. The LDF considers where the 11,000 new houses to be built within the WBC area by 2026 are to be located.

WBC members currently have two main concerns with planning:

- AONB status has recently been enhanced to be much closer to National Park status; currently planning officers don't always consider this sufficiently.
- If a planning officer recommends approval of a planning application which is then called in and refused at committee before being taken to appeal by the applicant, the same planning officer will then be arguing against the application which they have previously recommended for approval. It is felt that in some cases the planning officer is not arguing this case as robustly as would be expected.

T2. Memorial Hall Annex.

The meeting was closed for Mr. Brooke to update BPC on the new annex. Completion is expected during the next few days, prior to the official opening on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Mr. Brooke apologised to BPC that not all councillors have been invited due to the restriction in numbers, however all are most welcome on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, when the annex is open to members of the public. Mr. Brooke reported that £236,000 has been raised for the project and that there is currently expected to be a £30,000 surplus, of this £10,000 is not due to be received until 2010. With this money, it is currently planned to redecorate the existing hall and replace the doors, support the play park with £10,000, and to generally improve the area beyond the playpark. Mr. Brooke enquired whether BPC would consider bringing forwards the donation of £5,000 due in April 2010 to during the Autumn of 2009. Mr. Brooke indicated that it is for the Memorial Hall Management Committee to address these options; they have a meeting in July when they will consider all of the improvement options. Preschool are understood to be in a position to apply for a number of grants for improvements including a

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replacement shed, increasing the height of the existing fence, blinds for the windows and playground markings.

The meeting was reopened.

It was agreed that BPC would consider bringing the donation of £5,000 forwards at the July meeting.

## PLANNING

- P1. Local Development Framework – Core Strategy.  
WBC has entered a consultation phase for the Core Strategy, ending on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Mr. Beeson reported that comments which BPC have previously made have now been covered. Mr. Beeson will comment on line, on behalf of BPC. SB
- P2. Land at 44 - 46 Broad Lane.  
Planning application 08/01594/FULD which was refused on 5/11/08 by WBC for the demolition of an existing building and the development of 3 non detached dwellings and 3 terrace dwellings has been taken to appeal by written representation. BPC will write to the inspector and object to this being considered under written representation due to the level of objection and the site history, which is believed to justify public representation. It was agreed that Mr. Beeson would draft a response. SB
- P3. 46 and 47 Roundfield.  
Demolition of existing semi-detached house and outbuildings and erection of two pairs of semi-detached houses. (4 total).  
BPC **objected** to this application which was then **refused** by WBC on 17/12/08. The applicant referred the application to the planning inspectorate who has dismissed the application.
- P4. The Old Cottage, The Avenue.  
Mr. Brook reported that the pergola, which was refused retrospective planning permission, has been dismantled.
- Plans submitted for approval:
- P5. 09/00936/HOUSE 46 Broad Lane  
Conversion of integral double garage and passageway into residential accommodation and erection of a detached single storey double garage.  
Mr. de Lara proposed that BPC have **no objection** to this application but request that a condition be placed on the application restricting use of the area above the garage. This was seconded by Mr. Dickens and unanimously agreed.
- P6. 09/00725/CERTE The Old Cottage, The Avenue.  
Use of land as residential garden.  
Only facts were required on this application. The present owner has used the land as garden since living in the property.
- P7. 09/00706/HOUSE Byrons Chase, Carbinswood Lane.  
Construction of outbuilding for stables and garden equipment to replace existing facilities.  
BPC has **no objection** to this application.
- Planning applications determined:
- P8. 09/00375/FUL Smallholding Between Copse Cottage and Merryfield, Kiff Green.  
Demolish all existing buildings and construct barn.  
BPC **objected** to this application, however WBC has **approved** it.
- P9. 09/00543/HOUSE Windrush, 39 Broad Lane.  
Demolition and rebuild of hall/cloakroom with additional en-suite bathroom above.  
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.

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- P10. 09/00341/HOUSE 30 Chapel Row.  
Two storey side and rear extension, replacement roof covering, internal alterations and associated works.  
BPC had **no objection** to this application, however it has been **refused**.
- P11. 09/00541/HOUSE Aveyron, Windmill Lane.  
Two storey side and rear extension, replacement roof covering, internal alterations and associated works.  
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.
- P12. 09/00357/HOUSE Chadwell, Chapel Row.  
2 storey extension to front providing enlarged hallway and second bedroom. 2 storey extension to rear providing enlarged living area and allowing en-suite to second bedroom.  
BPC had **no objection** to this application, however it has been **refused**.
- P13. 09/00350/FULD The Cottage, Greens Old Farm.  
Change of use of barn to residential accommodation. Development of existing 1 bedroom cottage and adjoining barn into a 3 bedroom dwelling.  
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.

S1. Schools.

Mrs. Frankum commented that the new gates which have been installed are very nice.  
The Clerk reported that the Summer Fete is being held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

ROADS

- R1. Junction of Byles Green and Cemetery Road.  
Mr. Beeson reported that temporary repairs have been made, but that these do not remedy the problem reported originally. Mr. Beeson will contact Streetcare again. SB
- R2. Holly Lane between Holly Farm House and Picton Farm House.  
Mr. Heslop reported that this stretch of road is in a very poor state of repair. Mr. Dickens agreed to report this to Streetcare. BD
- R3. Overhanging branches in The Slade.  
Mrs. Frankum reported that there are a number of dead branches overhanging The Slade road which need to be cut. Mr. Dickens agreed to report these. BD
- R4. Sight lines at junction of Byles Green and the Common Road.  
Mr. Hind reported that the sight lines when turning out of Byles Green on the Common Road are badly obscured by vegetation. Mr. Dickens agreed to report this. BD

MAINTENANCE

- M1. Hockett Field.  
Mr. de Lara reported that he and Mrs Frankum had recently visited the Hockett Field and found that adjacent land owners have erected a stock proof fence on three sides of the field. The hedge is on the boundary and the fence is outside of the hedge. Mrs Frankum will talk to Dennis Gower about the management of the hedge. The BMX track is little used and only a few small humps remain. It was felt that in the interest of safety it would be advisable not to reinstate it. The possibility of grazing the land was considered. JdL  
It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Bob West and ask him to cut the Hockett Field. HP
- M2. Cemetery.  
Mrs. Frankum reported that C. R. Landscapes have asked about the position of the fencing around the well and where the seat is to be located. It was agreed that Mr. Dickens, Mr. Brims and Mrs. Frankum will meet and discuss the work. BD  
JB  
WF
- M3. Upper Bucklebury Bus Shelter.  
Mrs. Frankum reported that the metal bench seat in the bus stop needs painting. The

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- Clerk will contact Paul Hyde (WBC) to find out whether there are any funds held by WBC which we may be available and what restrictions there are on such work. HP
- M4. Cemetery Chapel.  
Mr. Beeson reported that he has met with the company who the insurance company have asked to replace the broken windows; however the representative of the company was only able to assess that scaffolding was necessary for templates to be made and boarding to be put over the broken panes.  
The Clerk reported that the police understand that the father of the teenager who caused the damage is planning to pay the excess on the insurance. This will possibly be done in two instalments.
- M5. Bucklebury Meadow - Line of Footpath.  
Mr. Beeson reported that Stewart Souden (WBC) indicated that Jon Thomas (WBC) will look into the issues. Mr. Beeson will chase this up with Mr. Souden. SB
- M6. Bucklebury Meadow – Management Plan.  
Mrs. Frankum reported that she has spoken to Sue Everett. Currently a meeting is to be planned for early July. WF

#### PUBLIC PATHS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Pp1. The Common.  
Mr. Beeson reported that a Section 59 order had been issued on a 4x4 vehicle which got stuck in the mud. Fencing preventing access to the common for vehicles just off Carbinswood has been damaged and Simon Barnett (WBC) is going to make the necessary repairs. A focus day is being planned with the police and WBC during July.
- Pp2. Byway 67 past Tomlins.  
Mrs. Frankum and Mrs. Clarke have met with Mr. Orme (the owner of Tomlins). Mr. Orme has agreed to cut a swathe of vegetation where the byway now runs. Mrs. Clarke has written up a report of the meeting. BPC are going to request reinstatement of the byway sign on Coxs Lane and request that the byway be made into a restricted byway. HP
- Pp3. TPOs on Oak Trees.  
The TPOs for the various trees have still not been received. BPC are very frustrated at the situation; TPOs having been requested and agreement reached that they would be issued well over a year ago. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to John Ashworth (WBC). HP

#### YOUTH

- Y1. Play Park.  
Veolia have agreed to grant the play park £30,000. BPC congratulate the play park committee on this achievement.

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Ga1. The Oaks.  
Since agreeing to look at The Oaks, Mrs. Clarke reported that she had received a number of positive comments about it. Therefore there was some question as to whether or not a review was required. Other Parish magazines will be reviewed to see if any improvements can be made.
- Ga2. Business Cards.  
Mr. de Lara agreed to produce some art work for the business cards which the Clerk can then print off. JdL  
HP

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## PARISH PLAN

Pp11. Mr. Brook reported that Sarah Ward will be attending the Kick Off meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June in the Committee room at the Memorial Hall. The main objective of this meeting is to form the working groups and to discuss budget (for the initial Parish Plan the total budget was £2,500 of which £850 was received as a grant from the AONB). An outline project plan is now in place, and the toolkit is being used to make progress. A consultation with parishioners is expected to take place in the early Autumn. Mr. Brook will update the action list which he has received from Mr. Beeson and forward it round to all BPC members.

## FINANCE

### F1. Approval of Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

The Clerk reported that Mrs. Tipton has audited the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March and that in her summary she states that the accounts have been kept in a meticulous manner and are well presented with all backing information. Mrs. Tipton recommends that the burial register and accounts are checked on a six monthly basis to avoid any discrepancies. Mr. Beeson proposed that the statement of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 should be accepted, this was seconded by Mr. Slatford and unanimously agreed.

### F2. Approval of Annual Governance Statement.

The annual governance statement was discussed. Mr. Hind proposed and Mr. de Lara seconded the motion that the Annual Governance Statement be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

### F3. Balances:

Lloyds Treasurers Account	£25,412.89	At 20/5/09.
Scottish Widows Call Account	£27,739.74	At 1/4/09.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Bequest Account	£4,655.04	At 1/4/09.
Scottish Widows Memorial Hall Extension Fund	£80,885.69	At 1/4/09.

### F4. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

Camp Hopson & Co. Ltd.	£817.88	Curtains for The Oak Room.
GoPak Ltd.	£2,627.90	Chairs and 2 trolley racks for The Oak Room.
BTCV	£237.88	Insurance for Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers.
AMB Consultants Ltd.	£218.50	Electrical Consultancy for The Oak Room.
Sign Here	£149.50	Honours board for The Oak Room.

### F5. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

The Alpha Xperience	£8.62	Parish Assembly photocopying.
Zurich Insurance plc.	£729.92	BPC insurance.
St. Martins Club	£204.48	Interest on Gilroy account for year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2009.
Mr. S. Beeson	£18.55	Web site and cement for meadow sign.
Mrs. H. Pratt	£324.00	May 2009 Clerks Salary.
Bucklebury Parish Council – MHE	£10,000.00	WBC bid 155 for Memorial Hall Improvements.

### F6. Reserve Account.

The Clerk reported that the three Scottish Widows savings accounts are not currently earning any interest due to the state of the economy. Lloyds TSB have been in contact, advertising interest rates between 0.75% and 3% gross for deposits between £10,000 and £1,000,000 for periods between 6 weeks and 2 years. Mr. Dickens proposed that

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BPC invest £10,000 from the call account for a 1 year period, this was seconded by Mr. de Lara and unanimously agreed. Before moving the money the Clerk was asked to check any penalty clauses on early withdrawal.

HP

#### CORRESPONDENCE

C1. Renewal of CCB Membership.

The Clerk reported that membership of CCB is £30.00 for 2009/10. Mr. Hind reported that the Memorial Hall committee understood that membership was increasing in cost to £150.00 per annum. Mr. Beeson proposed that the Clerk should liaise with Brian Mason and verify the groups which the Memorial Hall belong to and ensure that there is no duplication and then renew our membership of CCB at £30.00; this was seconded by Mr. de Lara and unanimously agreed.

HP

C2. West Berkshire Clear Streets Parking Strategy – Outlying Areas.

WBC are now considering some outlying villages as part of the Clear Streets Parking Strategy and are asking for information on any particular roads or junctions where investigation may be beneficial. It was agreed that Berry's Road, Roundfield and the section of Harts Hill Road past the Saab garage in Upper Bucklebury could all benefit from some investigation.

HP

C3. Bucklebury Guide Unit.

A new Guide Unit is being opened in The Oak Room from September. They have asked for a donation towards equipment including maps, compasses and sports equipment. Mrs. Frankum proposed a donation of £200.00; this was seconded by Mr. Brook. Nine members were in favour of this motion and one member abstained.

C4. Membership of SLCC.

The Clerk reported that her membership for the of the Society of Local Council Clerks was due for renewal, the cost being £82.00 for the year. Mr. Dickens proposed renewing the membership; this was seconded by Mrs. Clarke and unanimously agreed.

HP

C5. School Transport Policy.

A new School Transport Policy has been sent by WBC for comment. In the policy, there is an increase in prices for pupils who pay for school transport and there are changes to the nature of routes making some previously unacceptable routes acceptable, this may affect students of the parish who currently travel to Kennet School via free transport due to the nature of Harts Hill. It was agreed that Mrs. Frankum would send back comments on the policy strongly objecting to this change, unless very stringent risk assessments are carried out.

WF

C6. Play Park Sub Committee.

A letter has been received thanking BPC for the donation of £150 to cover some of the expenses involved in raising funds for the play park improvements.

C7. Readibus Annual General Meeting.

BPC members have been invited to attend the AGM of Readibus is to be held at 8pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July in the Kennet Room at the Civic Centre in Reading.

C8. PVCV Insurance.

Mr. Gower has contacted the Clerk to thank BPC for funding the insurance for the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLOWING DATES:**

**Autumn Common Clearing**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

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