

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUCKLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Held at the Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday 11th January 2010

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Mr. A. Gilbert; Mrs. L. Clarke.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th December 2009 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Mrs. Frankum.

TOPICS

T1. Standing Orders.

The updated BPC Standing Orders, required for the Planning Committee, had been considered by all members prior to the meeting. Ratification of these Standing Orders was proposed by Mr. Heslop, seconded by Mr. Beeson and unanimously agreed.

T2. Precept.

A precept of £24,000 for the financial year 2010/11 (which remains the same as 2009/10) was proposed by Mr. de Lara, seconded by Mr. Dickens and unanimously agreed. It was agreed that Mrs. Frankum will put this information in the Chairman's report in the April edition of The Oaks.

PLANNING

Plans submitted for approval:

- P1. 09/02304/FUL Chapel Row Surgery, The Avenue.
Extension of existing car park.
BPC **supports** this application.
- P2. 09/02401/FUL Hopgoods Farm, Hopgoods Green.
Remove existing single storey dwelling and adjacent outbuildings and erect a 2 storey replacement dwelling.
BPC **objects** to this application.
- P3. 09/01271/HOUSE The Berries, Turners Green.
Demolish existing garage and extensions and replace with two storey and roof extensions/loft conversion.
BPC has **no objection** to this application.

Planning applications determined:

- P4. 09/02074/HOUSE Brimstone Cottage, Little Lane.
Single storey rear extension.
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.
- P5. 09/02058/HOUSE The Brambles, Chapel Row.
Retrospective replacement shed and single storey kitchen extension by demolition of existing conservatory.
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.
- P6. 08/002405/FUL & 08/02406/LBC Copyhold Farm, Hatch Lane.
Rebuild dangerous brickwork. Stabilise structure and provide weatherproof roof. Existing vacant barn to have storage above at first floor, access via new staircase.
BPC had **no objection** to this application and it has been **approved**.

Signature

Date

2010/1

- P7. 09/00124/HOUSE Mulberry House, Carbinswood Lane (Adjacent Parish).
Demolition of former stable block and the erection of a swimming pool house.
BPC had **no objection** to this application, which WBC **refused** and was then sent to appeal. The appeal has now been **dismissed**.

DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS

Dc1. Gritting of Roads in Recent Weather.

Mr. Pask reported that WBC have 6 days supply of grit, however Government have said that WBC must use 20% less salt on the roads. He also said that he felt WBC had made a valiant attempt to keep roads clear.

S1. Schools.

The Clerk reported that Bucklebury Primary School was closed today due to the adverse weather and the conditions in Berrys Road and Blacklands Close. It is planned that the school will open tomorrow from 10.00am until 3.00pm.

ROADS

R1. Damage due to adverse weather.

Mr. Heslop asked whether WBC would be carrying out an extra inspection of the roads once the snow and ice have thawed. Mr. Pask responded that they would be. It was agreed that all members should report any potholes to Streetcare instead of one list being compiled by the council and then forwarded to WBC.

All

HALLS

H1. Memorial Hall.

Mr. Hind reported that part of the pipework in the Memorial Hall has frozen, thus restricting heat supplied to the Oak Room and the Committee Room; this has nothing to do with the boiler.

There is a hall meeting next week when increases in hall charges will be considered. Mr. Hind asked that the Memorial Hall be on the topic list for the February meeting of BPC.

HP

MAINTENANCE

M1. Upper Bucklebury Bus Shelter.

The Clerk reported that a quote is awaited from the WBC contractor to fit armoured Perspex supplied by BPC to repair the damaged bus shelter. The original quote from this contractor to make the repair with shatterproof Perspex was £315.00 +VAT. Armoured Perspex with delivery is expected to cost in excess of £100.00.

HP

PUBLIC PATHS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Pp1. The Cottage Inn.

Mr. de Lara reported that the Cottage Inn ceased trading before Christmas. There are currently discussions on going regarding ownership, but there is a possibility that it will be converted into a private house. The land to the rear of the pub is within the settlement boundary; Mr. Pask was asked to investigate the possibilities of this being changed.

GP

Signature

Date

2010/2

Pp2. Land at the top of Little Lane.

Mr. Beeson reported that more cars and vans are parking on the grass at the top of Little Lane and asked whether more posts could be erected in order to prevent this. The Clerk replied that there may be issues over who owns the land and Mrs. Frankum said that she had wondered whether it would be possible to erect a bus shelter on the land. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate ownership of the land.

HP

Pp3. Bucklebury Meadow – TPOs on new Oak Trees.

The Clerk reported that the paperwork for the TPOs on the new oak trees has now been received.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Ga1. Cemetery Chapel Carols.

Mrs. Frankum reported that the “Carols by Candlelight” held in the Chapel held before Christmas was very successful and everyone enjoyed it, particularly with the festive snow. Donations collected at the end totalled £88.34. Mrs. Frankum thanked Mr. Beeson who worked very hard and supplied a gazebo, barbeque, lighting and a generator to make the event a success. All the people involved were local and this added to the spirit of the event. Mrs. Frankum has thanked Mrs. Powell and Mr. McNish for their contributions. The Clerk will write to the Ward family and thank them for playing the accompaniment.

HP

Ga2. Annual Assembly.

There was some discussion about possible speakers for the Annual Assembly. It was agreed that local groups could have a display and particularly those who BPC are supporting financially in the coming year. It was agreed that Paul Gomm, the manager of Chapel Row Surgery be asked to come and speak, amongst other things on the surgery’s future plans. The Clerk will contact Mr. Gomm and arrange this. Mr. Hind agreed to talk to those users of the hall who are at the hall meeting next week and inform them of the offer of a display.

HP

HH

Ga3. 5 Year Review of Fire Service Policy.

Mr. Slatford reported that he had no comments on the policy, however he recommended that an article should be put into the April edition of The Oaks about Home Safety Checks which the fire service are willing to undertake.

Ga4. Ringfenced money for Memorial Hall and Victory Room.

It was agreed that the practice of BPC receiving the accounts for the Memorial Hall should be reinstated and further extended to cover the Victory Room. The Clerk will convey this information to the relevant committees.

HP

Ga5. Litter Pickers for Common Clearing.

The Clerk reported that litter pickers like those supplied by WBC cost in excess of £10.00 each. A cheaper alternative is available at approximately £5.00. The Clerk will continue investigating the cost and will also investigate whether there may be any grants to cover their costs.

HP

PARISH PLAN

Ppl1. Mr. Brook reported that Sarah Ward, Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Frankum, had visited the St. Martins Club to ask for their suggestions for the Parish Plan. The Greening Bucklebury workgroup has now been started. A public meeting was to be held on 3rd February; however this will have to be moved due to Mr. Brook’s unavailability. Cold Ash are launching their Greening group in the Acland Hall on 23rd January at 10.00am.

FINANCE

F1. Balances:

Lloyds Treasurers Account £43,440.02 At 14/12/09.

Signature

Date

2010/3

Scottish Widows Call Account	£12,739.74	At 2/10/09.
Scottish Widows Gilroy Bequest Account	£4,456.32	At 2/10/09.
Scottish Widows Memorial Hall Extension Fund	£13,732.08	At 2/10/09.

The Clerk reported that once all cheques written to date and lodgements have cleared the balance in the current account is £7,508.39.

F2. Cheques signed by Councillors since the last meeting:

R.B.C. Building and Groundwork	£3,208.50	Drainage and path to Play park – Memorial Hall.
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F3. Cheques to be signed by Councillors:

CR Landscapes	£333.38	December quarter Cemetery Maintenance
Southern Electric Contracting Ltd.	£26.84	Street light maintenance.
Mrs. S. Cornell	£35.00	Bus shelter cleaning.
Mr. R. Kent	£50.00	December quarter – Cemetery Superintendent.
Mrs. H. Pratt	£468.53	December quarter expenses & clerks December salary.
Bucklebury Parish Council – MHE	£5,033.13	VAT return for Memorial Hall.

F4. Budget for 2010/11.

A question was asked regarding the inflation rate used to prepare the budget because many items are increasing by more than the cost of inflation. The Clerk responded that this was the figure recommended by a member and appears to be sensible given what has been spent to date.

Acceptance of the budget prepared by the Clerk was proposed by Mr. Brook, seconded by Mr. de Lara and unanimously agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1. GLEAM Fighting Fund.

Mr. Beeson reported that GLEAM are trying to get legislation through Parliament in order to protect green lanes, however whether this happens is determined by which party get in at the next election and where this lies on their priority list. It is expected that there is about 2 years of work to be done in order to prepare for a bill. Mr. Beeson proposed a donation to GLEAM of £50.00 for this work. This was seconded by Mr. Dickens and unanimously agreed.

C2. Birds of Berkshire Atlas Group.

Mr. Dickens proposed a donation of £50.00 to this group for the publication of the Atlas. This was seconded by Mr. Heslop and unanimously agreed.

C3. Grit Boxes.

A number of residents have asked for extra grit boxes at certain locations within the parish. Section 10 of the WBC Winter and Adverse Weather Policy gives guidelines for the location of grit boxes. It was agreed that a copy of these guidelines should be sent to those people who feel a grit box would be useful and to refer them to Streetcare if they still feel that the location meets the criteria for a grit box.

HP

C4. Youth Offending Team Reparation.

A request has been received for any voluntary work which could be carried out by 10-18 year olds in order to repair harm they have done in the local community. It was agreed that the Bucklebury Heathland group and the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers may be suitable. The Clerk will respond with details.

HP

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signature

Date

NEXT BPC MEETING:

Monday 8th February 2010

NEXT PLANNING MEETING:

Monday 25th January 2010 (8pm)

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLOWING DATES:

District Parish Conference

Wednesday 17th March 2010

Signature

Date