Minutes of a Meeting of: Bucklebury Common Advisory Committee  
held on: 14/11/2012

Present:  
Willie Hartley Russell (Lord of the Manor)  
Cllr Graham Pask (West Berkshire Council),  
Rupert Hartley Russell (Resident), Cyril Lewington (Resident), Tim Culley  
(Bucklebury Common Conservation Group) Steve Beeson (Resident), Alan  
Dunkerton (Bucklebury Parish Council), Tim Slatford (Bucklebury Parish Council),  
John Perry (Resident) Chris Marriage (Mid & West Berks Local Access Forum)  
Simon Barnett (WBC Countryside Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:  
None  
All members of the Committee introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING  
Agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING  
The Avenue – looking at potential funding for survey work.
John Perry stated that some surgery work had been undertaken on dead and  
dangerous limbs.

Litter Bins – Graham Pask asked how often the bins on the common were being  
emptied. Simon stated that they were being emptied twice weekly now.

There were issues with rubbish being left out at the Scout Hut.

Action: Simon to chase up ISSW to instal bins at Angels Corner and remind Scout  
Group of their obligations to remove their rubbish.

4. COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER’S REPORT  
Simon gave his report which covered work being undertaken on other WBC reserves  
and Commons, the Living Landscape Project and Higher Level Stewardship  
agreements.

Any flytipping dumped on the common is being picked up and removed by the Veolia  
Response crew from Cox's lane parking area.

Graham Pask spoke about the Carbins Wood path he understand that the claim had  
been refused but there had now been an appeal against the decision which was with the  
Planning Inspectorate.
Willie Hartley Russell stated that there had only been permitted access during certain periods of time. West Berkshire Council had thrown out the claim on the basis of the evidence.

Chris Marriage asked about the Carbins Wood path; Willie Hartley Russell stated that he owned the entrance to the wood, in the past it had only been open between 7am and 7pm to allow deer stalking at night.

Simon and Graham spoke about the BBOWT proposal, Paul Hendry (Countryside Manager) would provide a proposal and meet with Willie Hartley Russell.

**Action:** Paul Hendry and a representative of BBOWT to meet with Willie Hartley Russell to discuss the proposals.

Steve Beeson spoke about current problems on the common with 4x4 vehicles. Byway 66 down towards Pangfield Farm was being damaged.

Chris Marriage stated that Local Authorities seemed reluctant to use Traffic Regulation Orders in these instances.

Steve Beeson stated that he had had a long conversation with Elaine Cox (Rights of Way Manager at WBC). He wondered given the issues and potential cost of TROs and the long consultation process whether it might be more appropriate to use Voluntary Restraint and put up signs accordingly (there was still consultation with LARA – the 4x4 Users Group).

**Action:** Simon to discuss this with Elaine Cox and try to set up a meeting (as a sub-Group of this Committee) and invite the new local Sergeant.

Graham Pask spoke about the recent spate of anti-social behaviour in the village, a working group had been set up and many of the issues had been dealt with. The Bucklebury Police Liaison meeting 6 weeks previously had been attended by 65 local residents, 3 members of the local police and a working group of the Parish Council. The group was now turning its attention to other issues, including off-road vehicles on the common.

Mobile Cameras/CCTV – Simon explained that the old unit was now being replaced by the Waste team at WBC and it was hoped that this could be used on the common for surveillance purposes (flytipping etc.). Update at next meeting.

5. **Conservation Work on the Common**
Tim Culley spoke about the work of the Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group. They had been in action, continuing the maintenance work on the restored areas of heathland. A contractor had weed wiped birch scrub on the 12 acres of restored heath on the Upper Common and the 70 acres of restored heath on the lower common. There had also been some work to manage the gorse.

The restored areas of heath had now been entered into the Higher Level Stewardship scheme with Natural England, the agreement would run from 10 years from July 2013. This would ensure that there were sufficient funds to contain to maintain the heath into the future.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hocket track. Tim Culley spoke about this route which was badly rutted and impassable in places.

**Action:** Simon to contact contractor to quote for work and arrange repair.

Danger from old/senescent trees. Issues of dying trees and large amounts of dead wood which could present a hazard in public areas or adjacent to the highway.

Rupert Hartley Russell had spoke to a resident of Fanny’s lane who was concerned about problems with anti-social behaviour on this car parking area. He wondered whether the parking area could be made smaller to prevent this. Graham Futcher would be willing to do this work.

Steve Beeson mentioned the new gate that had appeared with a ‘No Entry’ sign on it across the track at Carbinswood.

**Action:** Simon to investigate

The track at Osgoods had just been repaired and a good job had been made of it. Steve suggested a letter from the Parish Council to thank the owners.

On the main common road, past the crossroads there were dead branches and leaning trees on both sides of the road.

**Action:** Simon to meet with Tree Officer to look at these and arrange for work to be undertaken.

There were discussions about Ash dieback disease (*Chalara fraxinea*). Nothing could be done at present other than to report suspected cases.

There was a request to clear back the scrub roadside at the edge of the car parks.
Action: Simon to arrange.

Willie Hartley Russell indicated that there were problems with dog-fouling at Chapel Row Green and suggested a dog bin ion the appropriate place by the gates would be ideal. Could the Parish Council help?

Action: Simon to arrange for a quote from ISSW to instal and empty.

Willie Hartley Russell spoke about the pillow mounds, a tree needed to be felled and he had spoken to Dick, also the work around the Wellingtonias on Pease Hill would be finished.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
   9th May 2013

[Signature]

23rd May 2013