

2023-Jan.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair, Sally Maddox

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2023-Jan. 10th January 2023, 8pm in Bicton village hall.

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: Richard Brett, Elliott Blackmore, Sally Maddox, Sue Llewellyn, Mandie Lee, Rod Warren, Paul Quartermaine, Deirdre Grennan, Wendy Horan, SC Cllr. Lezley Picton, Parish clerk- Peter Anderson and 6 parishioners.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT. Our Police Constable has changed to Richard Walters. He has been invited to BPC and he has promised that, when other duties allow, he will attend. Also there is an anecdotal report of a burglary at Lion Lodge.

OPEN FORUM The Chair, Sally Maddox, reminded us that open forum is only supposed to last for 15 minutes. All contributions are welcome but we are all reminded, respectfully, to please be brief. **Sonia Swain asked about the SAMDev allocation of 15 houses alongside the Holyhead Road.** The situation is that SC is under pressure from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to build a set number of houses by 2036. SC has adopted a policy for allocating sites which is called SAMDev (Site Allocations and Management of Development.) If a parish council does not engage with SC and SAMDev then SC will impose what it thinks is best. It may have been that Bicton could have had many, many houses allocated as it is not allowed to have a zero allocation. BPC engaged with SC and negotiated the reasonable and manageable 15 houses and chose this site to best fit in with the village. These houses will not be built until there is an agreement between the landowner, SC planning authority and a developer. The planning process will go through the usual public consultation and it has not yet begun.

Gordon Wallach reminded us that The Brethren are ready and willing to continue collecting litter along the Holyhead Road.

SC Cllr Picton report: The planned footway from Shelton to The Coppice is in the SC programme; at present it is muddy and needs paving. Also drop-kerbs are needed at Uddlington. **SC is undertaking its budget consultation.** An independent member is needed on the scrutiny committee; if you are interested please look on the SC web-site. **The boundary commission** is reviewing the SC electoral divisions (Not the parish boundaries!) Tern is bound to change...**Central government has allocated** some more money to SC for social care. **Second home owners in Shropshire** are likely to have to pay 200% council tax.

0. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Blackmore, 5.1, he is a near neighbour.

1 **APOLOGIES** for ABSENCE were received and accepted, from:, NOTED

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES**, 2023-Jan, dated 10/1/23. These were signed as a true and accurate account.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 The costings to maintain, and improve, the Severnway and Bicton Pool are still awaited. Paul Butter, of SC, and his small team, are stretched very thin across all of Shropshire.

3.2 Hedge by the small school gate on to Bicton Lane. It was previously agreed, with the school head, that it would improve safety for the children using this gate, to reduce the size of this hedge and that BPC would pay for it. A contractor has the job in hand.

4. **PARISH MATTERS**

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item* Cllr Warren met lengthsman Kevin Williams at Muriel's Little Wood. They cleared the brash and Kevin will brush-cut when appropriate; also he will reduce the height of the outer holly, probably in March. This will open up the wood to light and ventilation. They both agreed that all is safe in the wood.

4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item*. **Diversion of FP 7 (pt) & FP 8Y (pt)** Town of Shrewsbury & Parish of Bicton (Welshpool Road) BPC has commented, to SC, that this diversion is somewhat circuitous and will need to be well sign-posted. **The Grange Bank to Calcott footpath** is still of uncertain designation as a response from SC is still awaited. **All of the footpaths** in the parish are wet but not as bad as sometimes.

5 **PLANNING**

5.1 Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath; 22/03543/FUL. This went to the SC planning committee 10/1/23 at 2pm; Cllr Blackmore spoke to the planning committee on behalf of BPC to object to this application. The grounds for objection are: 1, Drainage; all of these SWSUE developments rely on the ditch which eventually runs past the church in Bicton. 2, There are no bungalows. 3, How can this be a "sustainable" part of the "Shrewsbury West Sustainable Urban Extension" (SWSUE) when there are no rainwater butts, no heat pumps, no solar panels, every house needs a gas boiler, and it encourages the use of cars?

5.2 22/04433/LBC Grove Farm, Installation of solid oak floor to Living Room affecting a Grade II star Listed Building. SC Decision: Grant Permission. Noted.

6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

- 6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Bank Statement number 396. £51,437.08 verified by Chairman. The Environmental Maintenance Grant-EMG-(lengthsman) has been received from SC, £2,088.00
- 6.2 Online banking enquiries. HSBC has been contacted, by the clerk, but it does not seem to understand the needs of a parish council. Cllr Quartermaine has experience of Lloyds Bank and on his advice the clerk explored changing the BPC account to Lloyds. The omens are good and the clerk was instructed to move the BPC account. The BPC signatories are Cllrs Maddox, Llewellyn, Lee, Blackmore and Grennan. They all agree to continue to be signatories at Lloyds.
- 6.3 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. See above under lengthsman.
- 6.4 To set the 2023/24 budget and precept. After careful consideration the precept is set at £14,746.00. SC has a formula of "band D equivalents" last year for Bicton it was 451; this year it is 557. So, the increase from £11,950 will keep the precept per household the same.
- 6.5 Lockable notice board for Montford Bridge bus shelter. £57.95. To expedite the purchase the clerk will buy it on his personal credit card and claim a refund at the next meeting.
- 6.6 A consultation on SC electoral division boundaries. Cllr Picton has advised that Tern Division will most likely change. BPC has long believed that, logically, Bicton should be in Loton Division. This would mean that all of Montford Bridge is in the same SC electoral division and Bicton does have more in common with Montford and the Nesses than it does with Upton Magna and even Bomere Heath. The clerk will return the consultation questionnaire with the above comments.
- 6.7 A Freedom Of Information (FOI) request has been received regarding the problem of lorries using Bicton Lane. The advice that the clerk has received is that if he holds a document which has no confidentiality requirements attached to it then it is a public document and must be provided under the Freedom Of Information (FOI) rules. Therefore the documents requested will be forwarded.

7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

8.1 Shrewsbury Household Recycling Centre Tour, 5th or 19th April. Cllr Lee has the contact details; anyone wishing to go should email her.

9. **EXTRA INFORMATION** Any *Additional Information* not specified on the agenda.

9.1 Vehicles continue to speed on Isle Lane; also walkers who are on the roads in bad visibility should be encouraged to wear bright/reflective clothing. The clerk will put this in the newsletter report.

9.2 The de-fibrillator has been checked.

9.3 Cllr Maddox will organise a litter pick soon and The Brethren will also litter pick in their usual way. BPC sends thanks to all of these volunteers.

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 14th February 2023. at 8.00pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 9.29 pm.
2023-Jan b