

2024-Jan.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair, Sally Maddox

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2024-Jan. 9th January 2024, 7.30pm 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, Ed Potter, Parish clerk-Peter Anderson and 3 parishioners.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT. The Safer neighbourhood Team (SNT) invited BPC to submit its 3 policing priorities. They are 1, burglaries, 2, speeding traffic, 3, school parking.

OPEN FORUM

SC Cllr Picton report: Shropshire Council is making good progress towards budget savings. Social care is by far and away the biggest expense. This year the cuts have been 'invisible'; next year they could be painful. It will depend on the settlement from central government. Libraries and leisure centres are non-statutory. Many councils charge for collecting green waste; as yet SC does not. **A clerk's group has been set up** so that all of a parish council's enquiries should go through its clerk. **Shrewsbury Movement Strategy** is up for consultation; it is about town through-traffic; it is stressed that it is not anti car. **Car parking fees are being reviewed.** It is likely that evening and Sunday charges will be introduced. No profit is allowed on these fees, earnings must be reinvested in car parking. **The sports village transformation** is continuing; the future of the Quarry pool is undecided.

Everyone is encouraged to respond to the SC budget consultation.

The Coppice footpaths, bus stops and 30mph should be done this spring under the section 106 agreement.

0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES**, 2023-Dec, dated 12/12/23. Approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Drainage issues. Preston Montford brook flooding. Welshpool Road has flooded. Landowners are responsible for blocked watercourses on their land. Bicton Brook is the responsibility of National Highways because it drains the A5 Bypass, it has 2 issues. The culvert under Lower Calcott Lane needs rebuilding and the culvert under the Holyhead Road needs clearing. The clerk is asked to write to National Highways.

3.2 The Brethren will donate £300 towards cleaning and painting the bus shelters.

3.3 Chris Davies, of Shrewsbury Storage, has promised to move the yard gates back by the end of February.

3.4 The hedge on the Holyhead Road, belonging to Salop Leisure, has been cut back.

4. PARISH MATTERS

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions, Standing Agenda Item.

4.2 Parish footpaths, Standing Agenda Item. They are waterlogged and dog fouling continues.

4.3 Bicton Place Plan, Standing Agenda Item. Cllr warren presented a further draft. It has clearly set out priorities; road safety, speeding, school safety, drainage. These will now be sent to Mathew Mead at SC. Individual councillors will lead projects. Mandie and Wendy, Holyhead Road safety. Richard and Deirdre, school safety. Sue and Paul. lane speed limits. Water courses and drainage, Rod and Elliott.

4.4 BPCs 7.30 start now clashes with a prior booking of the village hall from April to October. There is a yoga class in the hall till 7.45 and it has been promised quiet. BPC will meet at 8pm to avoid the yoga but will book the hall from 7.00 to 10pm for the future.

5 PLANNING

5.1 23/03689/LBC Field Studies Council, Preston Montford Field Centre. Replacement of sliding sash windows to Queen Ann Room, Library and replacement of window casement to Room 41. the proposed designs will match existing affecting a Grade II* Listed Building. SC Decision: Grant Permission. Noted.

5.2 23/04818/FUL Crofton, 16 Church Close, Single storey hall extension, Two pitched roof dormers to front roof slope, Garage conversion to form further living accommodation including new flat roof over. SC Decision: Grant Permission. Noted.

6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

- 6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Lloyds Bank Statement (online) £69,816.51 It is decided to open a deposit account, paying interest, at Lloyds. £40 to £50,000 to be deposited at 60 days notice. Details to be presented at the next meeting for decision.
- 6.2 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, Standing Agenda Item. All is safe. Tom Llewellyn is able to start work in March.
- 6.3 Grant application to the PCC for road safety equipment, progress report. The PCC email will be forwarded to Cllrs for comments on how best to fill in the application. BPC is minded to have 4 VAS. The exact positioning will need to be done in consultation with Shropshire Council. David Gradwell is the man to ask. The likely cost is about £4,000 per VAS. The maximum grant is £10,000. BPC is prepared to match fund 50%. CIL could pay for this.
- 6.4 email from Robin Pocock, traffic officer representing Montford Parish Council (MPC). MPC's main concern, at the moment, is A5 safety. It also has in mind changes that the NWRR will bring. MPC is engaging with other parishes, National Highways and the MP. Progress is slow. BPC will be kept in the loop.
- 6.5 Town/Parish Boundary Review, (also known as a CGR i.e. Community Governance Review) consultation from 15/12/23 to 26/1/24, email from Graham White, the County Solicitor. It is difficult to interrogate the SC website on this matter as the maps and 'consultation' are inadequate. The clerk will email Graham White for elucidation.
- 6.6 To confirm the BPC budget for 2024/25 and to set the precept. Cllr Quartermaine has produced a detailed budget proposal which BPC accepts. It is considered prudent to keep the precept the same as last year, £14,746.00. BPC's finances are sound and investments in the parish can be made; e.g. VAS.
- 6.7 The defibrillator needs new batteries; there are several to choose from. The batteries need replacing every 2 years. Cllr Maddox has been researching the best deal. She will email the clerk who will place the order.

7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

- 8.1 SALC Area Committee, 18/1/24, 6 to 8pm, zoom. Cllr Lee will attend.
- 8.2 SC budget consultation. Individual councillors are entreated to respond.

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

- 9.1 Canopy Nursery has been Ofseaded and found, on a technicality, to be in need of improvement. These improvements are being made.
- 9.2 Chris Davies, of Shrewsbury Storage, litter picks Isle Lane in his lunch hour. For this he is thanked.
- 9.3 There are pot holes by Pound Farm. Cllr Maddox has reported these.
- 9.4 Cllr Grennan is keeping the phone box library tidy and doing an excellent job. Thank you Deirdre!

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 13th February 2024. at 7.30pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 9.55 pm.
2024-Jan b