

2023-Jun.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair, Sally Maddox

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2023-Jun. 13th June 2023, 7.30pm in Bicton village hall.

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: Sally Maddox, Elliott Blackmore, Sue Llewellyn, Mandie Lee, Rod Warren, Paul Quartermaine, Deirdre Grennan, Wendy Horan, SC Cllr. Lezley Picton, Parish clerk-Peter Anderson and 5 parishioners.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT. There were 14 Neighbourhood Alert Reports, all of them important in a wider sense but none of direct relevance to Bicton parish.

OPEN FORUM

Adam Williams (scout name “Dexter”) Chair of Bickley Coppice Camp, explained that The scouts and guides who use Bickley Coppice want to be considered as part of the Bicton community and not just as occasional visitors. The coppice is 48 acres with 5 camp grounds; there is mains water but apart from that it is off-grid and offers a vital resource for youngsters to get away from screens, reconnect with nature and have some fun.

Matt and Dee Povey reported that the promised work on the corner of Bicton Lane, (governed by a section 50 notice) is booked in with the contractors for 21/22 July.

Stuart Leighton reported that car parking at the Crescent, Montford Bridge, can be a problem. BPC is sympathetic but there is little that it can do because it is a matter for Severnside Housing and SC Highways.

SC Cllr Picton report: The dropped kerbs at Oxon Hollow are on the SC jobs list. The vegetation will be cut back at the same time; this must wait until the bird nesting season is over.

0. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Blackmore, 5.2, he is a near neighbour.

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

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES**, 2023-May, dated 9/5/23. These were signed as a true and accurate account.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 The Severnway is still awaiting its repairs and improvements. It is needed for Paul Butter to inspect the issues. Cllr Blackmore will organise this.

3.2 Bicton Pool, this also needs Paul Butter.

3.3 The snicket, this also needs Paul Butter. Paul is very good but he is understaffed and he has a huge amount of work on, county-wide.

4. **PARISH MATTERS**

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item* Grange Bank hedge was cut back last week. Generally verge cutting should not be done before August to allow the wild flowers to seed. Verges trimmed before that, for safety, should only be done to a 2 foot width.

4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item* As usual, some crops are impeding some footpaths. This will be cured when the crops are harvested. The dry weather has made paths dry.

5. **PLANNING**

5.1 Land Adjacent To Churncote Island,(22/02464/FUL) Service station, This went to the SC planning committee on 23/5/23; BPC attended and spoke strongly against the proposal but it was passed. BPC has gained the respect of the SC planning committee because “It knows how to pick its battles” and “It trains its speakers well”.

5.2 23/01835/ADV Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of, Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath. Housing development sales signage and flags comprising: 7no flags, 1no V stack and 2no single (double sided) stack signs. This is a technicality, the signs are temporary, BPC has no objections.

5.3 **Any LATE Planning Applications** received *after* the distribution of the agenda ?

6. **OFFICIAL MATTERS**

6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Bank Statement number 400, verified by Chairman. Report on the intricacies of changing the bank account to Lloyds Bank. The money has not been transferred from HSBC. The clerk spoke to Lloyds and was told that he must instruct HSBC to move the money; the clerk then spoke to HSBC and he was told that he must instruct Lloyds to ask for the

money. An alternative to this circularity is for BPC to write itself a cheque. This is agreed in the sum of £10,000, to initiate the process.

- 6.2 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. There is an ash tree with some dead branches and a tree has split in last night's storm and dropped across the stream in to Church field. Neither represents a danger but a tree surgeon will be asked to look at them. Cllr Horan will ask the Church field tenant, Dave Price, for permission to enter the field.
- 6.3 Street light F. The van driver's insurance has agreed to pay, in full, for the reinstatement of this lamp post. It is taking some time to persuade all of the different agencies to do their duty and make the necessary connections. Highline Electrical has been exemplary in progressing this matter. As soon as the money arrives from the insurance they should be paid. The money has still not arrived.
- 6.4 SC Divisional boundary review. Montford Parish Council is of the opinion that:- *MPC comment on Loton: MPC strongly prefers the Loton Division to include **Bicton** Parish rather than Ford because it would be a first step towards unification of the village of Montford Bridge which is split between Bicton and Montford Parishes by the River Severn. MPC has always wanted the entire village of Montford Bridge to be included in Montford Parish.* BPC would prefer to be in Loton division, it is logical that Bicton should share the same division with its immediate neighbours and it would remove the anomaly of Montford Bridge being divided between divisions. Cllr Picton reported that the Boundary Commission wants to split Bicton in to 'Urban' and 'Rural' with Bicton Heath and Bowbrook becoming 'urban'. The parish would then be 'warded' with 3 cllrs urban and 6 cllrs rural. If this happens it will trigger SC in to doing a CGR (Community Governance Review) This could make the 'urban' areas part of Shrewsbury Town parish. It is uncertain what this would do for the status of Montford Bridge or how many Cllrs BPC would have. BPC can write to the Boundary Commission and state its views but going on past experience they do not listen to local advice about geography/preference/etc, it just plays a 'number of voters in each division' game.
- 6.5 In the light of recent SC planning decisions and the proposed divisional boundary review is it time for BPC to review its housing policy and SAMDev status? This will be deferred to the next meeting.

7 **PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment**

- 7.1 Clerk's 3 monthly salary. £1,691.00 chq 293
- 7.2 Data Protection Fee, £40.00 chq 294
- 7.3 Street light electricity, £209.15 chq 295
- 7.4 Kevin Williams, lengthsman duties, £424.00 chq 296
- 7.4 BPC transferring money to the new Lloyds account, £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) chq 297
- 7.5 Payment of the above accounts, 1er Cllr Blackmore, 2er Cllr Llewellyn.

8. **EXTERNAL ITEMS**

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

- 9.1 The defibrillator has been checked.
- 9.2 Cllr Llewellyn reported that some suspicious characters were seen at Rossall. She suggested that a Whats-App group would be a good way of spreading the word to keep a look out. She will set it up.
- 9.3 There are some banners, advertising local events, on the fence opposite Bicton Lane. Technically this is fly posting but if it is for a local event and the posters are taken down afterwards then it is considered to be OK.
- 9.4 John Bellis, of SC, has stated that the culvert under Bicton Lane, by the church, is an SC asset and that the National Highways is responsible for the ditch which flows along the boundary of John Roberts' land and eventually flows through the aforementioned culvert.
- 9.5 Russ Maxim, and The Brethren, have cleaned the bus shelters.

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 11th July 2023. at 7.30pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 9.18 pm.
2023-June b