

2023-Aug.a.

**BICTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Chair, Sally Maddox

**MINUTES** (Draft until signed) of meeting 2023-Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> August 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 4 parishioners

**NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT.** A dozen reports were received, including; general policing news, fraud update, PCC newsletter, crowd-funding for neighbourhood watch, a burglary-appeal for information, police officers have been awarded a 7% pay rise, vehicle checks, and fund raising for youth work.

**OPEN FORUM**

**Matt Povey** said that the bollard by his house is still flat and the drains on Bicton Lane are still awaiting clearing.

**Stuart Leighton** has the leaflets outlining the proposed house building at Bowbrook (94 initially rising eventually to 400). An actual planning application is expected by the end of the year.

**SC Cllr Picton report:** The Bowbrook development is in the SC 'Emerging Plan'. This plan has accepted some of the counties proposals and some it has refused. Progress is being made towards the £51m savings that SC must make. Social care, especially children's care, costs are increasing. There is some debate about the Affordable Housing Contribution; some neighbouring councils charge as much as 40%.

0. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Maddox, 4.3, she has part time employment at the Coppice.

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

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES**, 2023-Jul, dated 11/7/23. The draft minutes contained errors. 5.3, delete the reference to the water table. 6.2, add the word immediate before the word danger. 9.1, Cllr Llewellyn did not speak to the driver, she indicated by gesture that slower driving is safer. 9.2, The lack of water supply is expected to be temporary due to water pressure issues. These changes to the draft minutes were made by the chair, Cllr Maddox, and then the minutes were signed as a true and accurate account.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 Severnway; damage caused by tractors is the responsibility of the landowners to repair. It was debated as to whether a letter may help landowners to remember this responsibility but the decision was to wait as some landowners are communicative anyway. Some piping is needed on 'Swains Corner'. Paul Butter is unable to get the digger in to do Bicton Pool because of pressure of other work. Vegetation is spreading down the ditch. The decision was taken to leave this work on the Pool until next year.

3.2 The footway through the snicket has been completed.

3.3 Cllr Blackmore spoke to Robin Morris about vehicles from the business park speeding on Isle Lane. It was commented that Isle Lane should be a 30mph, as indeed, all lanes should be. As a point of interest it was also commented that pedestrians have a right of way on lanes but anyone wishing to exercise this right should have great care for their own safety.

3.4 Speeding on the A5 is still noticeable.

4. **PARISH MATTERS**

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item* The yellow lines on Isle Lane by the Four Crosses cross roads are covered with weeds and debris. The speed restriction signs close to the Four Crosses cross roads need clearing.

4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item* The crop has been cut on Chapel Hill. The Severn way is muddy. Other footpaths are OK.

4.3 Sally and Lezley have visited The Coppice to learn from residents what local issues are uppermost in their minds. The Uddlington farm driveway kerbs have been dropped-noted. There were 50 people at this meeting. Sally made notes which are attached to the minute book.

5 **PLANNING**

5.1 23/03422/CPL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: Application for Lawful Development Certificate for erection of a single storey side extension, a two storey rear extension and the installation of solid wall insulation (revised scheme) Old School House, Holyhead Road. This is for information only, BPC cannot comment.

5.2 Naming of streets at Bicton Heath, Suggestions from BPC are; Jenkins, Gosnell, Harley, Spearman, Cote, Onslow, Sandford, Fielding.

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. HSBC Bank Statement number 402. £76,419.83 Lloyds acc. £12,876.46 The transfer is still not complete. Neither HSBC nor Lloyds are able to explain why. A further £60 compensation, from Lloyds Bank, has been received because the complaint about the unsatisfactory handling of the transfer from HSBC. This is in addition to the £40 so a total of £100 has been received. A Lloyds customer service person told the clerk that BPC could write itself a cheque from HSBC to Lloyds. Following this advice a cheque for £60,000 was written.
- 6.2 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. It would benefit the wood to have some of the underbrush cut back. This may involve employing someone with a powerful strimmer. Rod spent 6 hours cutting back the holly. Also there is stuff overhanging the brook which may need access to the field with a digger as there are brands in the ditch. Kevin Williams will be asked to undertake the strimming work. In addition the roadside hedge needs cutting with a tractor. Permission will be needed for access to the field. Wide gate access to the wood, from the road, would be advantageous, or a section of fence could be temporarily taken down. Rod says that the tree fallen across the brook, previously thought to be an oak, is, in fact, an hornbeam and it is hung up somewhere between 6 and 10 feet; also there is a cherry tree come down. Sue will get Tom to look at the wood and give some advice about what to do.
- 6.3 The insurance money for street light F has arrived in the BPC Lloyds bank account. £2,776.46 BPC can reclaim the Vat on the total cost of £3,331.75 so this is a full settlement. Noted.
- 6.4 *SH0023: Receipt of documents – notification of exempt status, 2023* This is the official notification from the external auditor that the BPC audit has been received and that all is in order. Noted.
- 6.5 Should BPC review its housing policy? There was some confusion as to this agenda item, what it means and why it was here. The clerk apologises for his confusion and misunderstanding the request of a councillor; but it has raised the question of a Neighbourhood Plan and would one suit Bicton. Councillors are requested to research the subject for the next meeting.
- 6.6 Bicton Club would benefit from a raised awareness, in the community, of what it has to offer. A 'sail' banner for when it is open would cost approx £89 and a flyer for every house would be useful; at present cost unknown. Would BPC be prepared to make a grant for these costs? BPC is not minded (4 votes against, 2 in favour and 2 abstentions) to fund this request, at the moment, because it is thought that other options may be more fruitful, e.g. large posters and articles in the parish newsletter.

## 7 **PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment**

- 7.1 Highline Electrical for street light F. £3,331.75 Lloyds chq 001
- 7.2 Kevin Williams, lengthsman duties, £319.00 Lloyds chq 002
- 7.3 BPC HSBC acc. To BPC Lloyds acc. £60,000 (sixty thousand pounds) HSBC chq 301
- 7.4 Payment of the above 1er Cllr Blackmore, 2er Cllr Llewellyn, 3er (HSBC cheque only) Cllr Grennan.

## 8. **EXTERNAL ITEMS**

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

- 8.1 A 40mph repeater, on Calcott Lane, is missing.
- 8.2 The street lights at the Barratt Homes development at Bicton Heath go out at midnight.
- 8.3 From PC Rich Walters; Re: school parking on Bicton Lane. "I have today received an email finally from Highways to say I can put up a few posters at Bicton school. These will have to be A4 and rounded corners. I have ordered some today from stores, so they will probably arrive just in time for the end of term. Sorry it has taken so long but we are getting there."
- 8.4 Cllr Llewellyn has reported, to SC, potholes on Isle Lane.
- 8.5 Cllr Grennan has reported, to SC, that the drain, on the road, outside her house, has had plaster tipped in to it by a builder working on a nearby house. The drain is not blocked but it is messy. SC has told her that it is busy.
- 8.6 The defibrillator has been checked and the hand gel replaced.
- 8.7 The Co-op is holding a "Food Waste Event" at Bicton village hall.
- 8.8 Cllr Maddox did an informal survey about parking on Bicton Lane. Concerns were expressed about Church parking and school parking and about the safety of children using the side gate to leave the school premises.

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023. at 7.30pm in Bicton Village Hall.