

2023-Sept.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair, Sally Maddox

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2023-Sept. 12th September 2023, 7.30pm in Bicton village hall.

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: Sally Maddox, Richard Brett, Elliott Blackmore, Wendy Horan, Sue Llewellyn, Mandie Lee, Rod Warren, Paul Quartermaine, Deirdre Grennan, SC Cllr. Lezley Picton, Parish clerk-Peter Anderson and 4 parishioners

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT. Police Constable Rich Walters was in attendance. He reported that he and his team cover 14 parishes. Over the last month they have dealt with 69 incidents, 9 of which were related to Churncote Island, 13 highways related, and 3 RTC's (road traffic collisions) 8 to care homes and 1 ASB (anti social behaviour). That makes our area relatively low crime but it does not mean that we should slacken our vigilance. He has put some posters by the school to try to discourage dangerous parking. Our PCSO has spent some time in Bicton with the speed gun and some drivers have been caught. Last night two tractors were stolen from Rea Valley tractors. It is thought that these high value tractors were stolen to order.

OPEN FORUM

Matt and Dee Povey reported that there has been more damage on the corner to the new kerbs. The drivers tend to not take kindly to being reproached. There is a video of the latest incident which was shown. Over two days there were 30 lorry movements (15 in and 15 out). These incidents may amount to a public nuisance or driving without due care or damaging the King's highway but proving such may be difficult. Cllr Blackmore will speak, yet again, to the farmer, Mark Gethin.

Stuart Leighton said that weeds abound around The Oval. SC is now forbidden from using chemical weed killers. A flame-gun may be a possibility. It may be possible for SC to devolve the power, and the money, so that BPC can deal with this. Lezley will send contact details.

Bicton Lane drains still need clearing. Lezley said to send her an email.

SC Cllr Picton report: SC is entering an agreement with neighbouring counties, 'The Marches Forward Partnership'. This will create more efficient purchasing power especially for solar installations which need extra infrastructure. A 'Bio char' facility is to be installed. This uses pyrolysis to consume waste and it will generate valuable by-products including potash, carbon credits and spare heat. **Planning for the redevelopment of the Riverside**, in Shrewsbury, continues. **BT will soon remove all copper connections.** This needs publicising as it could affect landlines and emergency calls. Cllr Brett will write an article for the newsletter.

0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES**, 2023-Aug, dated 8/8/23. With some very minor alterations, initialled by the chair, these were signed as a true and accurate account.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 Cllr Maddox went to Lloyds Bank, Shrewsbury branch, with the determination to sort out the transfer from HSBC. It took some time and some confusion on the part of the bank staff. Cllr Maddox made an official complaint. There was an issue with her signature. Cllr Maddox has determined to return to the bank tomorrow in order to further pressure them to sort it out.
- 3.2 Street lights at the new Bicton Heath housing developments which switch off at midnight. The official reasons for this are; to save money, to cut crime (according to Eric Pickles) to aid nocturnal pollinators, to allow birds to sleep and to reduce light pollution.

4. PARISH MATTERS

- 4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item* The yellow lines on Isle Lane have had the mud and debris removed.
- 4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item* Generally they are OK.
- 4.3 To review the Bicton Parish-Housing-Survey 2019. Cllr Warren presented an analysis of progress and aims. See attached in minutes book.
- 4.4 The traffic arrangements for the steam rally were a success; email from Alan Boyd. Preston Montford Lane was closed to rally traffic, Calcott Lane and Shepherd's Lane had 'road closed' signs. BPC has not received any reports of any other congestion. Perhaps it was because the traffic light control person remained awake this year!
- 4.5 Visit to Bickley Coppice, Scouting site. Sunday 17/9/23. BPC is invited, noted.

5 PLANNING

5.1 23/03383/FUL 3 Lewis Way, side annex to existing house, with service off the existing house. This application looks the same as the previous one which was rejected by SC as being too big and too close to others; given this SC decision, BPC concurs, and therefore objects.

5.2 From SC SNN (Street Naming and Numbering) “*Having carried out checks in our Local Land and Property Gazetteer I have decided to proceed with the following Names: Gosnell, Fielding, Spearman. I ruled out Sandford, Onslow and Cotes due to duplications within the Shrewsbury postcode sectors and Stury due to possible pronunciation issues. As 4 names are required I am also going to use one of the Developers suggestion of: Acacia Grove.*” BPC dislikes, in this context, Acacia Grove, but the SC naming process becomes increasingly complicated the more one tries to engage with it.

5.3 The cow barns on Calcott Lane seem to have a possibly non agricultural use. No planning application has been received for change of use. Cllr Blackmore will check it out.

6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Bank Statement HSBC number 404 £65,989.63 Lloyds account £9,225.71 The £60,000 cheque that BPC wrote to itself to transfer the money from HSBC to Lloyds was returned unpaid, when the clerk enquired as to why, the best answer was something vague about signatories. Cllr Maddox and the clerk visited Lloyds bank, Shrewsbury branch, on 18/8/23. They were told that Cllr Maddox was not a signatory. When the clerk remonstrated, expostulated, and showed no small measure of exasperation the very helpful bank staff made further investigations and declared that Lloyds Bank had confused Cllrs Lee and Maddox! Firm assurances were given to the clerk and Cllr Maddox that the transfer would be sorted out with no further effort from BPC. To date, 4/9/23, the transfer has still not occurred.

6.2 Muriel’s Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. The wood is safe but it needs maintenance. Mainly it is the volunteer holly growth that is choking to wood which needs a radical thinning. Advice and quotes are to be sought.

6.3 To consider the implications of a Neighbourhood Plan for Bicton. BPC is of the opinion that a formal Neighbourhood Plan (N’plan) is not suitable for Bicton at this present time. There are moves afoot with the boundary changes and the expansion of Shrewsbury that an N’plan could not address now. BPC has worked closely with SC over the years and its input in to the SC Local Plan, which pertains to 2036, is agreed. Also there is the cost, volunteer effort and the time it would take. Grants are available but even so the preparation of an N’plan could take 2 years, £20,000 and an untold number of volunteer hours. Things may change in the future but the decision of BPC is to not pursue its N’plan for now.

7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

7.1 Web site fees, quarter to August £120.00

7.2 Street light electricity, 2nd quarter July-Sept. 2023 £209.15

7.3 Clerk’s salary July-Sept 2023 £1,691.00

7.4 Clerk’s expenses April-Sept 2023 £375.00

7.5 Kevin Williams lengthsman duties £345.00

7.6 Payment of the above accounts, 1er Cllr Blackmore, 2er Cllr Llewellyn and agreed.

8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

8.1 SALC AGM - 3rd November 2023, 6pm -10pm at The Wroxeter Hotel, Shrewsbury. Noted. Cllr Lee has volunteered to attend.

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

9.1 Russ Maxim, representing The Brethren, has cleaned the bus shelters. For this valuable service to the community BPC sends its thanks.

9.2 A bent 40mph repeater sign, on Calcott Lane, was reported to SC. The SC officer could not find this sign and the incident report was closed.

9.3 The defibrillator has been checked.

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

MEETING CLOSED 9.44 pm. 2023-Sept b