

2023-Nov.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair, Sally Maddox

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

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs.: 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 3 parishioners

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT. 32 reports have been received. One *may or may not* relate to Bicton. “*These charges relate to burglaries which took place across Shrewsbury on Tuesday 10th October. Both men are due to appear before Kidderminster Magistrates Court later today*”.

All the reports are available, on email, upon request.

The clerk has received a very suspicious email purporting to be from a BPC councillor. It was almost convincing. Everyone should be very cautious about emails.

OPEN FORUM

Dee Povey reported problems with the chicken lorries on Bicton Lane. Stones protecting a wall were removed, without the owners permission, there was an altercation and the police were called. The lorry drivers can be rude and aggressive. BPC and Lezley Picton are at a loss to know what more can be done apart from Matt and Dee Povey taking civil legal action.

Richard Blackledge, representing the Plymouth Brethren, wishes to support a parish project. There is a modest amount of money from an ‘Amenity Fund’ and BPC is being asked for suggestions. Some initial ones are; a village gateway, fill and maintain the planters at the Four Crosses and paint the bus shelters. Other suggestions are to be sought. Also Richard mentioned the traffic congestion on Isle Lane at the entrance to Shrewsbury Storage. BPC has previously asked the owners to move the gates back; Cllr Blackmore will ask again. Cllr Picton will also look in to it.

SC Cllr Picton report: ‘Crowd fund Shropshire’, launched on 11th October; details are on the SC web site. **Update on the CGR** (Community Governance Review; which is redrawing the Bicton parish boundaries.) BPC will have an opportunity to send in its comments.

Homes Plus, which is an arm of Severnside Housing is contacting parish councils and asking inappropriate personal questions about prospective tenants. BPC has not been contacted. **The proposed footpath** from The Coppice to Clayton Way may be possible because Severn Trent need to lay a new water main in that area and the path could be laid on the same route. Severn Trent has a Community Fund to pay for such projects. **Smithfield Road development,** in Shrewsbury, is progressing. **The Marches Agreement** between Shropshire Worcestershire and Herefordshire has secured a £4m grant for enhanced connectivity and EV charging. **SC is on course** to cut the required £51m from its budget. So far savings of £38m have been found but there may still be a shortfall of £4m. Care Services are the major costs. **The SC divisional boundaries** review recommendations are now in the process of going to the Commons and Lords. **The NWRR,** which is a minor road by Government standards, has been approved by SC, subject to conditions but the aquifer will be no problem because it is 250m deep and the bridge piles are 50m. Better Transport for Shrewsbury has asked the minister to ‘call it in’. This will lead to a review process. **The HS2 cancellation** has released money which will become available for rail and bus services. **An Order is being enacted** to protect playing fields from dog poo, there was a consultation; to which Cllr Maddox replied.

0. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

0.1 **APOLOGIES** for ABSENCE were received and accepted, from: Richard Brett, SC Cllr Ed Potter.
NOTED

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES,** 2023-Oct, dated 8/10/23. These were approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. **PARISH MATTERS**

- 4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item* Kevin has cleaned the speed restriction signs but there are still two, on Bicton Lane, that need doing.
- 4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item* They are wet. The Severnway is a quagmire by Prices field. It is caused by the water running off the field.

5 PLANNING

- 5.1 23/04575/FUL Old School House , Holyhead Road, Proposed erection of a single storey side extension, a two storey rear extension and the installation of solid wall insulation. BPC records a neutral response.
- 5.2 23/03383/FUL 3 Lewis Way, Bicton, Side annex to existing house, with service off the existing house SC Decision: Grant Permission. Noted.
- 5.3 The North West Relief Road has been approved by SC planning committee subject to conditions and a viable business plan being presented to government to unlock the funding. Noted
- 5.4 23/04818/FUL Crofton , 16 Church Close, Bicton. Single storey hall extension, Two pitched roof dormers to front roof slope, Garage conversion to form further living accommodation including new flat roof over. This will match other houses on the Close and BPC supports it.

6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

- 6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Cllrs Llewellyn and Blackmore went to HSBC and successfully transferred the account to Lloyds Bank. All of BPC funds, £72,172.66 are now in this account. There is still some confusion over who are the signatories. Apparently, Cllr Maddox, who received a welcome pack, is not a signatory, but Cllr Lee, who has not received a welcome pack, is a signatory. Lloyds has promised to sort it out.
- 6.2 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. Cllr Warren reported that all is safe. There is deep water in the brook and the fallen trees in it are still there; Cllr Horan will remind Mr Price.
- 6.3 2nd draft Bicton Place Plan. Cllr Warren has done a lot of work on this, he has ploughed through 800 documents! for which he is thanked. A final draft will now be produced. It is recommended that there should be just 4 or 5 priority projects on the plan. Mathew Mead, the SC Place Plan officer will be invited to a BPC meeting.

7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

- 7.1 Kevin Williams, lengthsman duties, £276.00 chq 008
- 7.2 Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project. Conference fee for 3 BPC councillors, £60.00 chq 009
- 7.3 Payment of the above accounts 1er Cllr Llewellyn, 2er Cllr Blackmore and agreed.

8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

- 8.1 SALC meeting 19 October notes, previously circulated. Noted.
- 8.2 Verges, Hedges and Watercourses event notes, previously circulated. The highlights are; verges should be cut in September and the grass carted off to prevent fertility build up which disadvantages wild flowers. The practicalities of carting off seem to be insurmountable. Verges should only be cut back for one and a half metres. Hedges should have the height of cut varied each year. SC, and the Wildlife Trust are running tree schemes but both are only supplying whips. (Cllr Llewellyn has some trees ready for transplant.) Cllrs Warren, Grennan and Lee attended this conference, they will write a piece for the newsletter.
- 8.3 Citizens Advice Shropshire Annual General Meeting 28/11/2023. Noted.
- 8.4 Conference on The Importance of Town and Parish Councils to help deliver Nature Recovery across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. 17th November at FITZ village Hall. Cllr Lee is booked to attend. Noted.

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

- 9.1 Spam emails. The clerk received an almost convincing email purporting to be from Cllr Blackmore. Several people have received emails purporting to be from Jessica Pannet. These are obviously nefarious and everyone must be on their guard.
- 9.2 There was a pot hole at the end of Isle Lane that has been filled but there is collapsed tarmac by the turn to Wags and Whiskers.
- 9.3 There were 3 pot holes on Bicton Lane, 1 was filled. Cllr Maddox has reported the others.
- 9.4 The defibrillator has been checked.
- 9.5 There is litter on Calcott Lane and also in Little Wood.
- 9.6 The missing/damaged 40mph repeaters on the Holyhead Road have been replaced.

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 12th December 2023. at 7.30pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 9.38 pm. 2023-Nov b