

2021-Dec.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Richard Brett

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2021-Dec. 14th December 2021, 8pm in Bicton village hall.

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: Richard Brett, Elliott Blackmore, Sally Maddox, Wendy Horan, Sue Llewellyn, Mandie Lee, Rod Warren, Paul Quartermaine, Deirdre Grennan, SC Cllr. Lezley Picton, Parish clerk-Peter Anderson and 2 parishioners.

POLICE REPORT. There was a report in a new format which BPC did not readily comprehend.

OPEN FORUM. The central refuge, in the B4380, outside The Coppice, has been damaged and it has been unlit for one week. An emergency sign has been placed. This has been reported and assurances have been given that a permanent fix will be effected soon. This refuge, and the whole stretch of road, is supposed to be upgraded as part of the ongoing development of this area.

SC Cllr Picton report: SC is expecting the three year Financial Settlement, from Govt. soon. 86% of SC expenditure goes on social care. **There is now in force a level 4 covid response** which means that normal administration is suspended. **Vaccinations are running at 9,000 per day,** by Jan 1 150.000 will be completed. **The boundary review** will now only be for divisional boundaries. **If BPC wants there to be a 20mph** limit anywhere in the parish it should be put in the Place Plan. **Any desired extra bus services** should also be put in the Place Plan.

0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES,** 2021-Nov, dated 9/11/21. The minutes were signed as a true and accurate account.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The planning permission for the Four Crosses Garage car sales pre-dates 2007. The records are being researched.

4. PARISH MATTERS

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item*

4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item.* The Chapel Hill/Grange Bank footpath is difficult to walk. Cllr Maddox will mention this to Mr Price. Also she will ask him to do something about the fallen tree on the Severnway where the roots are threatening to fall in to the ditch. The clerk is asked to put a note in the newsletter report to ask landowners to maintain footpaths on their land. The footpaths are generally wet and Bicton Brook is full. The Severnway has some issues still to resolve; the pipe out of the pool is flowing, some willow trees by the pool would help to dry the area, a 'sleeping policeman' would help to divert water in to the ditch, the fallen tree's roots are filling the ditch, Swain's Corner is wet and needs more stone and a grip. The clerk is asked to write to Paul Butter thanking him for the sterling work that he has done on this project.

4.3 Email from a parishioner supporting the new dog walking arrangements on the playing field; and also another email objecting. These comments will be passed on to the village hall committee.

4.4 The Brethren have cleaned the Church Lane road sign. Small jobs like this keep the parish tidy and encourage everyone to have pride in Bicton. BPC sends its thanks to The Brethren.

5 PLANNING

5.1 21/04047/FUL Rossendale, Shepherds Lane. Works to partially render external walls

SC Decision: Grant Permission. Noted.

5.2 21/04015/FUL (validated: 16/08/2021) Oxon Touring Park, Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath,

Formation of new field access, SC Decision: Refuse. Noted

6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Bank Statement number 383 £46,268.24 verified by Chairman. HSBC has imposed a charge on BPC's account. £8 per month service charge plus £1 per cheque. Other banks are still offering free banking to in-credit accounts. Lloyds has been recommended; the clerk is asked to investigate transferring the account.

- 6.2 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. Some branches came down in the storm, these have been cleared and the brash stacked; this can be burned. Rod has cut back some holly and cherry; now the roadside hedge-trimmer is needed. If the boundaries were opened up it would ventilate the wood. There is a hanging branch in the centre of the wood and while it is of no immediate danger it needs a tree surgeon to remove it. The clerk is asked to contact Max Jellicoe.
- 6.3 To plan the 2022/2023 BPC budget and precept requirement. BPC's finances are in a strong position. Careful management means that BPC has a good reserve. This makes it possible to have no increase in the precept for the third year running. A final decision will be made at the January meeting. At the height of the pandemic SC awarded to BPC a grant of £265 to be used for PPE or other necessary support in the community. The village hall has had ongoing expenses and it would be appropriate to pass this money on to it. Cllr Brett will make the arrangements with the village hall committee.

7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

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|-----|---|--------|---------|
| 7.1 | Street light electricity, 2021/2022, 2 nd instalment. | 145.74 | chq 247 |
| 7.2 | Clerk's salary, Oct-Dec, £1493.00 | | chq 248 |
| 7.3 | JW & PM Edwards, hedge cutting, £84.00 | | chq 249 |
| 7.4 | Kevin Williams, lengthsman duties, £228.00 | | chq 250 |
| 7.5 | JTC Plant Services Limited, rubble crushing, £330.00 | | chq 251 |
| 7.6 | web site maintenance. £120.00 | | chq 252 |
| 7.7 | Payment of the above accounts, 1er Cllr Grennan, 2er Cllr Warren, and agreed. | | |

8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

- 8.1 SALC 72nd AGM, 6pm, 19 November 2021, via Zoom. A report from Cllr Lee. In addition to the routine elections, etc there was this decision on the subscription;
Before the Annual Subscription Fee was recommended and approved the Chairman spoke about why the change had been made. He mentioned that 99% of membership is now town and parish councils which increases the workload and that there is a tendency for the smaller councils to use SALC services more than the larger councils. In the new year a working group is being set up to review subscription fees and produce a formula for how they are increased, anyone interested in being part of the process should get in touch with SALC.

The following interim model was approved

- Admin Fee £60 under 1000 electors, £70 over 1000 electors (no change)
- Per Elector up to 3500, be raised 3.5 pence from 36 pence per elector to 39.5 pence per elector
- Per Elector over 3500, to remain at 1.5 pence per elector

NOTE: This does not include NALC fee of 7.49 pence per elector, with a cap of £1,920 for larger councils.

- 8.2 SC is reviewing its Code of Conduct; BPC shares this code. When the review is complete BPC will reaffirm its adoption of this code.

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

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 11th January 2022. at 8.00pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 9.27pm.
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