

**BICTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman Sally Maddox

**MINUTES** (Draft until signed) of meeting 2022-Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 8pm in Bicton village hall.

**PRESENT:**

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

**NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT.** 14 reports were received ranging from thefts from farms, through speed checks, drink driving warnings, heating oil thefts, and domestic abuse to weekly fraud updates.

**OPEN FORUM**

**Edward Swain** asked about the proposed changes to planning law. Cllr Picton said that there are no details available yet although it is expected that there will be changes to the 5 year land supply requirements. It is not known exactly how this might, or might not, affect the agreement that BPC has, under the SAMDev rules, for the 15 dwellings along Holyhead Road. He also asked about the hedge by the small school gate. BPC has made an arrangement with the school Head to have this hedge cut back and BPC will meet the expenses.

**SC Cllr Picton report: SC is working on its next year's budget;** a saving of 20% (£53m) must be made. A deficit of up to £15m must also be reckoned with. Care costs will rise with inflation. The hospitals are full and this has a knock-on effect in to care costs. A pay rise to SC staff will cost £6.5m next year. It is vital that SC should have a manageable budget in order to keep the Commissioners and a section 114 order at bay. If this befalls a council all the commissioners do is the legal minimum regardless of the consequences. The focus of SC will be on making efficiencies by listening to the frontline staff. For instance, at present SC is spending £5m on temporary emergency accommodation which can be hotel costs of as much as £80 per night; if SC owned its own properties this could save as much as 75%, and children in care can cost as much as £4,000 per week whereas a child in a foster home costs £500.

**The SC electoral divisions are up for review.** Changes are likely to be made to the boundaries but it is uncertain what will happen to Tern and Loton, if anything... There is a consultation which BPC can consider at its next meeting.

0. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Blackmore, 5.2, he is a near neighbour. Cllr Brett, 7.1, he is the website manager.

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

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES**, 2022-Nov, dated 8/11/22. These were approved and signed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 The Severnway gate by the old Vicarage has been fixed by SC. The adjacent section of Severnway is very muddy because a farm water pipe has been installed.

4. **PARISH MATTERS**

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item*

4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item* The stone for the village hall snicket is still pending; Paul Butter is very busy. The Severnway past Grove Farm is in a rough state. The status of the Grange Bank to Calcott Farm footpath is still unresolved. The Severnway towards Montford Bridge is in a bad state. The footpath called 'Hopkins Yard', past Mathew Egerton's new house, is no longer used by tractors; its status as farm access is uncertain, Cllr Blackmore will speak to Mathew Egerton and Shona Butter about it. The stump, that Mr Price agreed to remove, is still in the ditch.

4.3 Lorries on Bicton Lane, a progress report. Matt and Dee Povey are taking legal action against the previous owners of the house. They ask if BPC has any records of the previous owners bringing the problems to BPC. BPC will check its records and take legal advice as to the disclosure of any records that may exist.

The driver training video has still not been made, the stated reasons are that longer days are needed and the videoing man has his arm in a sling. The drivers are still unaware of the advised routine for unloading and loading the 'moffat' (forklift) and this causes disturbance to residents, especially in the night. Birds are being taken in the night because they must arrive at the processing plant at a given time. Avian flu restrictions have affected this timing.

5 **PLANNING**

5.1 22/03310/VAR (validated: 18/07/2022) Community Centre And Premises, Shepherds Lane, Application under Section 73 for the variation of condition no.2 (approved plans) pursuant of 19/03600/FUL to allow for approval of 'as built' internal layout; Decision: Withdrawn. This was one of two overlapping applications, the other was approved and so this was no longer necessary, hence it was withdrawn.

5.2 RE: 22/03543/FUL Mixed residential, Bicton Heath, email from SC Planning.

This is an amendment to a application by means of a change to the description to include 4 additional dwellings from 102 to 106 dwellings as a result in a reduction of the 2.5 storey 'Cheltenham range'. The type of dwellings is clearly set out on the proposed site layout plan. BPC asked for a deadline extension. Reply:- *As such I am unable to extend the consultation period as I have deadlines to adhere to; the Council's Drainage Team have been consulted on the application.*

Cllr Picton advises that it is allowed to put comments in until the date of decision, also the applicants have engaged with SC in genuine consultation and this is likely to be granted. SC is of the opinion that the drainage situation is acceptable.

Cllr Blackmore has arranged to speak to SC drainage officer John Beliss and to local land owner John Roberts to get their opinions.

## 6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

- 6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Bank Statement number 396, £51,301.08 verified by Chairman. Transfer of bank account from HSBC to Lloyds? Cllr Quartermaine has good experience of banking with Lloyds and he has been assured that Lloyds does want parish council business, the terms are favourable, the account transfer is simple, and online banking has many advantages. BPC is minded to transfer to online banking at Lloyds but first the clerk is asked to check with the present bank, HSBC, if it will offer equally good terms.
- 6.2 To consider the 2023/24 budget in order to set the precept. This will be set at the next meeting. Due consideration will be given to the current rate of inflation.
- 6.3 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. Cllr Warren reported that all is safe. There is a pile of brash which needs removing; Kevin Williams will be asked to chip it. Also Kevin will be asked if he can undertake some clearance work in the wood next year.
- 6.4 Lockable notice board for Montford Bridge bus shelter. There are several websites advertising boards which might be suitable; the clerk will research these for the next meeting.

## 7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

- 7.1 Website hosting, quarter to November, £120.00 chq 277
- 7.2 Kevin Williams, lengthsman duties, £286.00 chq 278
- 7.3 Clerk's salary, Oct/Dec, £1538.00 chq 279
- 7.4 Payment of the above accounts 1er Cllr Grennan, 2er Cllr Blackmore and agreed.

## 8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

8.1 Report from the SALC AGM. Cllr Lee attended this by zoom; she reported that:- SALC 73rd AGM 6 pm on 11 November 2022 Guest Speaker: The Chief Constable, West Mercia Police, Pippa Mills. There has been a big shift to cyber fraud. People are more likely to be a victim of online fraud than burglary. There is a community charter and parish councils that are on the list have a visit from the local constabulary every three months. Hanwood Parish Council asked for more granular crime reports saying the current newsletter's coverage is too wide and not specific to parishes. On speeding the Chief Constable said that if infrastructure can be put in place to reduce the speed limit the police will reduce the speed limit and police it. The annual subscription fee has risen. Up to 3,500 electors, the fee will be raised 3 pence per elector. This takes the charge to 42.5 pence per elector from 39.5 per elector. SALC's current reserves are £103,000. It was mentioned that while this sounds a lot the rise in subscription fee is in case SALC need to find and pay for its own offices with IT support. They are also recruiting a new member of staff. The clerk is asked to enquire about the charter requirements that parish councils should get a police visit every 3 months.

8.2 Tours of the recycling centre are now possible. BPC is interested, details of times and dates are needed.

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

- 9.1 The defibrillator has been checked and it is in good order.
- 9.2 There is a query about street facing CCTVs and the regulations that govern them. The clerk is asked to research this.

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. at 8.00pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 10.15 pm.  
2022-Dec b