

2023-Dec.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair, Sally Maddox

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2023-Dec. 12th December 2023, 7.30pm in Bicton village hall. In the absence of Chair Cllr Maddox, Vice Chairman Cllr Blackmore chaired the meeting.

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: Richard Brett, Elliott Blackmore, Sue Llewellyn, Rod Warren, Paul Quartermaine, Deirdre Grennan, Wendy Horan, SC Cllr. Lezley Picton, SC Cllr Ed Potter, SC Place Plan Officer Mathew Mead, Parish clerk-Peter Anderson and 5 parishioners.

SC Place Plan Officer Mathew Mead explained the importance of a Place Plan. This should have about 5 projects which are realisable priorities. Such as VAS for highway safety, road crossings, speed limits, transport and accessibility, drainage issues, this list is not exhaustive. Cllr Warren will redraft the Place Plan, he has so far drawn up, for consideration at the next meeting. "Bicton Place Plan" will now become a standing agenda item.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is offering grants of up to £10,000 for road safety improvements. BPC will apply for this grant. Possibilities are a VAS (vehicle Activated Sign), a temporary chicane and an ANPR camera. These are dependent on costings and the approval of SC Highways Dept.

OPEN FORUM

Matt and Dee Povey reported that the farmer/occupier (not the owner) of the chicken farm at the end of Bicton Lane, Mark Gethin, will be leaving. It is not known why or what will happen to the chicken enterprise.

Andrew Leighton has volunteered to be part of a Community Speed Watch (CSW). BPC applied for this scheme once before but was told by West Mercia Police that the Holyhead Road was not suitable because "The traffic is too fast" and this would make it unsafe for volunteers. BPC is resolved to try again for this scheme.

SC Cllr Picton report: The service station at Churncote Island is back on the planning portal; possibly for a technicality, BPC has not received any notification. **SC is on track to balance its budget;** although the Autumn Statement did not help. So far £47m of savings have been identified. The consultants that SC hired, at a cost of £3m, were worth it because they found savings of £35m. Statutory expenditure is the bulk of SC's spending. **The A5 junction, in Montford Bridge, is a Montford Parish Council Place Plan priority** and BPC should also have this as a Place Plan priority because traffic using this junction will affect Bicton, especially after the NWRR is built.

0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

0.1 **APOLOGIES** for ABSENCE were received and accepted, from: Sally Maddox, Mandie Lee, NOTED

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES,** 2023-Nov, dated 14/11/23. These were approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

4. PARISH MATTERS

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item*

4.2 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item* They are wet.

4.3 Suggestions for taking up the Brethren's offer of a project to support. The bus shelters need a clean and re-paint, preferably in a more subdued, sympathetic colour. A village 'gateway' is not favoured. Cllr Blackmore will speak to Laurie, who represents the Brethren.

4.4 Shepherd's Lane road closure, 12 to 16 Feb 2024. Severn Trent Water. Noted.

4.5 Traffic congestion at the gates of Shrewsbury Storage on Isle Lane and what might be done about it. Cllr Blackmore has spoken to Chris Davies, the site owner, and has been assured that the gates will be moved 30 feet back, next year.

5 PLANNING

5.1 23/04296/FUL Grove Farm, Isle Lane, Widening of internal door opening, addition of new bay window and formation of paved terrace. SC Decision: Grant Permission. Noted.

5.2 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. Withdrawn. Noted.

6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

- 6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. Lloyds Bank Statement as at 1/12/23, £71,896.66 verified by Chairman.
- 6.2 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. Cllr Warren reported that all is safe. Prices have removed the fallen trees from the brook. There are still some branches to remove; Tom Llewellyn will do this.
- 6.3 To consider the 2024/5 budget. Proposals in the Place Plan will require some expenditure but CIL should cover this. Muriel's Little Wood is in need of opening up and general woodland maintenance the cost of which is expected to be in the region of £1,000. General inflationary pressures must also be allowed for. The final BPC budget and precept is to be decided at the January meeting. Thanks go to Cllr Quartermaine for preparing the draft budget.

7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

- 7.1 Clerk's salary, Oct/Dec. £1,691.00
- 7.2 Richard Brett, web site maintenance, £120.00
- 7.3 Shropshire Council, street light electricity, 209.15
- 7.4 Payment of the above accounts, 1er Cllr Llewellyn, 2er Cllr Blackmore and agreed.

8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

- 8.1 Free online driver awareness session. 14th December 6 to 7.30pm noted.
- 8.2 Emergency Planning event, 4 - Friday 26th January 2024, 10am - 3pm noted.

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

9.1 There is a culvert under Lower Calcott Lane which is blocked. Also the culvert under the Holyhead Road is silted up. The ditch behind the school is overgrown.

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 9th January 2024. at 7.30pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 9.36pm.
2023-Dec b