

2025-Jul.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman Elliott Blackmore

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2025-Jul. 8th July 2025, 7.30pm in Bicton village hall.

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: Elliott Blackmore, Richard Brett, Sally Maddox, Sue Llewellyn, Mandie Lee, Wendy Horan, Edward Swain, Steve Griffin, SC Cllr Ed Potter, Parish clerk-Peter Anderson, 4 parishioners and Maxine Baker.

Chairman Elliott Blackmore announced the impending retirement of the clerk and introduced Maxine Baker who has expressed a willingness to become the interim clerk in order to smooth the transition to a new permanent clerk. The present clerk will do all that he can to aid this smooth transition.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT, REPORT.

OPEN FORUM

Jim Griffiths reported problems with Drains on Grange Bank. Cllr Swain volunteered to report this on 'Fix-My-Street. Also, dog-poo bins are needed. Cllr Maddox said that BPC should provide the bins because the village hall bins cannot be used for dog-poo. SC will charge £505 per year to empty bins which must be on council owned land.

The Smart Water Register is only valid for 5 years, it is now due for renewal.

Dog-poo is a problem all over the parish and on the playing field. Ideally a police officer needs to be with the dog warden to apprehend the offending dog-owners.

Alan Boyd reported a particularly dangerous incident of speeding on Calcott Lane. He has a video of this and it is possible to make out the registration number. This could be sent to 'Operation Snap' and to the police. Children walk along Calcott Lane. There would be advantages to making the lane in to a cul-de-sac. The NWRR is in abeyance but a cul-de-sac may still be a possibility. Cllr Blackmore will speak to SC traffic engineer Dave Gradwell.

SC Cllr Ed Potter: The North West Relief Road (NWRR) is "paused" that is, it is still live but not progressing. SC cannot actually cancel it because then it would have to pay back, to central govt., the £39m that has so far been spent on the project and this would bankrupt the council. The govt has previously promised £54m to build the road; it may be possible to deduct the £39m from the £54m. Also, the Oxon Link Road may technically be a possibility but it would be a road to nowhere. Also, any available highways money could be better spent elsewhere, e.g. Dobies Island. **The Local Plan** is being updated and there is a call for sites. Because of the revised housing targets Shropshire no longer has a five-year-land-supply. There has been surveying at various sites in Bicton. **SC finances;** There has been a £13m overspend already this year, mainly on social care. A section 114 (bankruptcy) must be avoided as this would be disastrous for Shropshire. **There is CIL money being held by SC** this could be released to the parishes, Shrewsbury town centre is a magnet for this money.

0. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Maddox, 7.1, she is due the refund.

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

2. **VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES**, 2025-Jun, dated 10/6/25. Agreed and signed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. **PARISH MATTERS**

4.1 Lengthsman, report and instructions Standing Agenda Item Kevin cleared and tidied the Montford Bridge bus shelter which is now in good condition. He removed branches from in front of the Montford Bridge Vas and cut grass around the bench.

4.2 Parish footpaths, Standing Agenda Item Some hedges are overgrown. Chapel Hill footpath is partly re-overgrown. Opposite the Woodland Cottages a way marker has been knocked down.

4.3 To review the BPC web site. It needs updating. This review is best left until a new clerk is in place.

5 **PLANNING**

5.1 SWSUE flyer explaining proposals. Noted but since the boundary review no part of the SWSUE is in Bicton parish; although, a new doctors' surgery would benefit the whole area.

- 5.2 Future of Neighbourhood Plans. Quote from Salc “We believe that Neighbourhood Plans are an essential tool in the planning system for town and parish councils...etc” BPC has explored the possibility of such a plan but given the time to produce one (years), the effort and the cost, now is not the time to pursue it.
- 5.3 Proposed Lidl development off Welshpool Road. This is not in Bicton parish but it is felt that a budget supermarket would be an asset to the wider area. Inevitably it will put more traffic on to Welshpool Road.
- 5.4 24/02808/OUT 400 dwellings, 80 bed care home, land north of Mytton Oak road. SC granted.

6. OFFICIAL MATTERS

- 6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts and financial report. CIL of 57,609.59 has been received. Current acc. £79,394.68 deposit acc £63,102.01 The chairman examined and signed the statements.
- 6.2 Muriel’s Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. Cllrs Maddox and Griffin reported that all is safe.
- 6.3 Vas, speed Indicator devices, a progress report. Patterns of serious offending are beginning to emerge; in time it is expected that the police will be able to act to catch the offenders.
- 6.4 Alex Wagner, SC deputy leader wants a partnership with Town and Parish Councils. There is a “Shropshire Together Conference on Fri 25 July, 9am to 3.30pm” BPC is invited. Noted
- 6.5 Severn Trent grant for Bicton pool. Cllr Blackmore will get quotes for the work.

7 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment

- 7.1 Refund to Cllr Maddox for compost and plants for the 4 Crosses planters. £33.70
- 7.2 JW & PM Edwards & son. Hedge cutting, £192.00
- 7.3 Kevin Williams, lengthsman duties £328.00
- 7.4 Payment of the above accounts agreed.

8. EXTERNAL ITEMS

9. **EXTRA INFORMATION** Any *Additional Information* not specified on the agenda.
- 9.1 Cllr Maddox has reported, to SC, potholes on Calcott Lane.
- 9.2 The Best Kept Village inspection has been delayed due to the illness of the inspector.
- 9.3 The Four Crosses area has been tidied up by Cllrs Maddox and Llewellyn.
- 9.4 Chris Davies of Bicton Storage continues to do his volunteer litter picking on Isle Lane.
- 9.5 The defibrillator has been checked.
- 9.6 The residents of Woodland Cottage request bollards outside their house. It has been 2 years since Cllr Maddox requested these. Sc Cllr Ed Potter will look in to this.
- 9.7 New house building in Bicton, which is inevitable, could supply, in addition to CIL, funds and land for a pump track.

10. **NEXT MEETING** due to be held on Tuesday 12th August 2025. at 7.30pm in Bicton Village Hall.

MEETING CLOSED 8.50 pm.
2025-Jul b