

2017-Nov.a.

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Richard Brett

MINUTES (Draft until signed) of meeting 2017 Nov, 14th November 2017. 8pm in Bicton Village Hall

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: Richard Brett, Elliott Blackmore, Sally Maddox, Wendy Horan, Sue Llewellyn, Deirdre Grennan, Martin Davies, Rod Warren, SC Cllr. Lezley Picton, Parish clerk-Peter Anderson, 9 parishioners, Selby Martin of the CPRE and PC Ross Cookson.

POLICE REPORT All is well in Bicton. Neighbourhood Watch (and Horsewatch) is a good thing to have. It can be informal but if it is registered on the national website it may lead to a reduction in house insurance premiums. Ross has some Neighbourhood Watch signs available. Someone has been selling mattresses door to door; this is not necessarily illegal but it is somewhat suspicious. The 70 bus has been reported as speeding through Bicton, Ross will look in to this. As usual, speeding vehicles are a problem on all of our roads.

OPEN FORUM

The hedge behind the old phone box by the village hall needs cutting back, Cllr Brett will sort this out.

It is reported that there is a parking/turning problem at the hammerhead of the Crescent, Montford Bridge; but the locals do not complain and one has stated that there is no problem.

One parishioner wants to build a house in her garden and another wants to build 2 houses in a paddock. These issues are closely bound up with the current *Local Plan Review* which BPC will be considering at the next meeting on 12/12/17.

Selby Martin of the CPRE had some comments to make about the proposals for the North West Relief Road (and house building). It will increase the traffic on the B4380. It will cut through the old river bed and cause damage to the environment and to wildlife. The road is unlikely to deliver its stated benefits. There are other alternative solutions to Shrewsbury's traffic problems; such as; more park and ride and mini buses from existing car parks. The road will 'induce' more traffic. A cost over-run (from £104m to £140m) is quite likely and SC will have to find the extra money. It is having to find £21m anyway. SC has set a target for building 28,500 houses over the next 20 years, but the ONS (Office for National Statistics) figures indicate that 18,000 would be enough; other valid projections suggest that 10,000 could be enough. The reasons are that there is lower immigration, fewer children are being born and life span is shortening. SC is under pressure to build because of the new house levy it receives and the extra council tax.

The indicators are that the NWRR will be built, sooner or later. The reasons for stating this are: SC has been planning this road for decades. SC has spent a lot of money and energy planning this road. If it were not for the 2008 financial crash it would have been built by now. SC has a plausible answer to every criticism of this project. The Oxon Link Road (OLR) will be finished by 2021 regardless, and this forms a vital stretch of the NWRR. SC is bidding for a grant of £83m, if it gets this money a condition will be that the NWRR must be open by 2022. It seems that the pressure to build the NWRR is irresistible.

SCC Cllr Picton reported; A planning policy officer will speak at the next LJC meeting at Cressage, 27/11/17, about the Local Plan Review. In view of how this review will affect Bicton, BPC is urged to attend. SC is also conducting a 'Cultural Consultation', details are on the SC website. The lengthsman's grant is likely to be available next year but is doubtful after that. The planning application for the OLR (Oxon Link Road) will go in soon. Building the NWRR will take precedence over dualling the A5. The barking at Wags and Whiskers is not constant; this makes enforcement difficult, but Cllr Picton will continue to monitor the situation. Bicton Lane lorries-Mark Gethin will pay to have kerbs installed at the critical point; there is no SC money to do this. SC Cllr Peter Nutting, leader of SC, has volunteered to visit Bicton to discuss matters of mutual interest. BPC welcomes this visit. Bomere Heath Parish Council paid for rumble strips, to try to control traffic speeds, (after a car was monitored at more than 100mph!) out of its CIL money.

0. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

0.1 Cllr Brett, 7, he maintains the website. Cllr Llewellyn, 7.2, she organised and paid for the shredder and this is a refund.

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

2. **MINUTES** 2017-Oct of previous meeting held on 10/10/17 were confirmed and signed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 Grove Farm drive. Cllr Blackmore has spoken to Nicola and she is agreeable to the idea of painting give way lines in order to control the speed of vehicles exiting the drive.

3.2 There is a footpath gate by Grove Farm that is still tied up and difficult to use. Tom Llewellyn will be asked to repair it.

3.3 Nothing has been heard from Mathew Mead about getting a contractor to look at the footpath on Grange Bank; the clerk will contact him. Cllr Blackmore has spoken to the Wingfield agent and it appears that they would be amenable to having the hedge altered in order to widen the footpath.

4. **PARISH MATTERS**

4.1 Bicton Primary School *Standing Agenda Item*

4.2 Lengthsman, report and instructions *Standing Agenda Item* Martin is asked to effect repairs to the Bicton bus shelter lower panels.

4.3 Parish footpaths, *Standing Agenda Item* The Severn Way is swampy, the other footpaths are OK.

4.4 Defibrillator in the old phone box a progress report. It is possible to adopt the box and to install a defibrillator. Cllr Llewellyn is researching the process and the implications and costs. The clerk was asked to contact the British Heart Foundation and ask about its grants to pay for a defib. The only way to find out was to apply for the grant. This was very quickly awarded to BPC. The catch is that BPC has to contribute £600. BPC has one year to take up, or decline, this offer. Also, under the terms of this grant, BPC is expected to encourage CPR training within the community. A full training kit has been sent to BPC. If BPC does not take up the offer of the defib it is to return the CPR kit.

4.5 60th anniversary Open Day, Preston Montford Field Centre, 18/11/17, 10am to 3.30pm. Noted.

4.6 Questionnaire from SC about the effectiveness of the lengthsman's grant. There was a deadline for this so the clerk filled it in. He made it very clear that the grant is essential for Bicton and in fact it saves SC a lot of money because BPC is so efficient at getting vital maintenance completed.

4.7 Sodium oxide (SOX) street lights are to be phased out, Highline Electrical can quote for replacement. The clerk will enquire about this.

4.8 Bicton Primary School; the school will henceforth provide a report for the Bicton newsletter so it will no longer be a standing agenda item. The pre-school is now part of the school. The other day some children were being walked up Bicton Lane in a 'crocodile' this was observed to be not well managed and to be potentially dangerous for the children. Cllr Horan will mention this to the headmistress.

5. **PLANNING**

5.1 The Coppice 2 illuminated signs and 2 non illuminated signs. 17/04615/ADV. BPC objected to this; as a result it has been amended again so there will be no illumination. The planning officer, Jane Raymond, has told the clerk that she is minded to approve this amended application because it has answered all of BPC's objections. Noted.

5.2 North West Relief Road, the SC 'consultation' which was really just a progress report of the old plans and a statement of intent to build it if a grant of £83m can be obtained. Noted; see the report above.

5.3 Oak tree crown reduction, churchyard, 17/05107/TPO. This tree overhangs a neighbour's garden and he has put in the application. The tree looks safe with no dead branches. It may cause some shade and bird droppings in the garden. The clerk will contact the SC tree officer and find out what is going on.

6. **OFFICIAL MATTERS**

6.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts Bank Statement number 333 £54,069.41 verified by Chairman.

6.2 Muriel's Little Wood, Safety Report, *Standing Agenda Item*. The road side fence needs some repairs. A hedge could be made from existing plants, Cllr Warren will start this process. Cllr Llewellyn arranged for brush to be shredded and Cllr Warren had a fire to clear up. Cllr Llewellyn has the wording for legal disclaimer notices which she will arrange to be put up.

6.3 Annual Place Plan Review, this requires the signature of the chairman and SC Cllr. The present plan will be sent to Cllrs before the next meeting, when it can be updated and signed.

7 **PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment**

- 7.1 Richard Brett, Maintenance of the BPC website, June to August, £90.00 chq1085
- 7.2 Sue Llewellyn, hire of shredder for Muriel's Little Wood, £60.00 chq 1086
- 7.3 Smith of Derby, 7 years advance payment for the church clock servicing. £1550.40 (This attracts a 10% discount plus a price freeze.) chq1087
- 7.4 Street light repair (2 lights) £292.80 chq 1088
- 7.5 Payment of the above accounts 1er Cllr Blackmore 2er Cllr Grennan and agreed.

8. **EXTERNAL ITEMS**

- 8.1 BPC is invited to the Citizens Advice Bureau AGM, 6pm, 23/11/17 Hayden Smith Room, Theatre 7. Noted.
- 8.2

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

- 10. **NEXT MEETING** to be held on Tuesday 12th December 2017. at 8.00pm in Bicton Village Hall

DRAFT