

Bierton Parish Council

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 20th February 2023 at 19.00 at the Jubilee Hall, Aylesbury Road, Bierton

Present: Cllr S Cotton in the Chair, Cllr L Fisher, Cllr S Knowles, Cllr B Dewis, Cllr N Hyre, Cllr N Roberts, Cllr C King, Cllr J Ward (BC), the Clerk Mrs Wendy Tomlinson, & 5 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr M Grieves, Cllr A Webber & Cllr M Collins (BC)
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
3. **MATTERS/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - Zipp Scooters - Cllr Knowles has been in touch with the Transport Strategy Officer at Buckinghamshire Council. He was unaware of the traffic calming in Bierton. Cllr Knowles believes that Zipp Mobility decide where the parking bays go and then Buckinghamshire Council approve them. No further information at present. **Cllr Knowles will forward the contact details to Cllr Ward who will chase.**
 - Grit Box – The Local Area Technician has advised that the grit box on Thorne Way is not an official one and he is trying to source how we get one. It will need to be maintained and filled by the Parish Council. **Clerk to chase if not heard back.**
4. **MINUTES** – Cllr Hyre pointed out that item 10 mentioned claiming VAT back on a pro forma invoice. This is not possible. **Clerk to rectify and change wording to 'tax invoice'.** The remaining minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the chair.
5. **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM** –
 - Two parishioners wanted to bring the Parish Council's attention to vandalism in the area, specifically the pre school garden and the park and also they have seen what appears to be drug dealing behind the sports centre building and the pavilion. They also reported seeing food being delivered to the recreation ground. They have reported drug dealing to the police and have been told that because the drug dealing unit is so far away, officers will not attend. Cllr Cotton responded that the Parish Council are aware of the issues and have also reported them. It was noted that there has also been vandalism to the field's stiles. The pre school garden now has anti climb paint on the top of the fence. The car park is going to be locked every night. A suggestion for cameras on the building was offered but it was felt that this was not the immediate solution and they are very expensive. Cllr Knowles suggested the situation be monitored with the gate being closed and to revisit at a future date if it does not improve. Cllr Cotton explained that lights are on the sports centre building in the evening and set to go off at approximately 12 to 1am. **Cllr Dewis will have a look around the back of the pavilion and sports centre to see if there is any evidence of drug taking. Clerk to send an email to Wendover Neighbourhood Policing Team to bring it to their attention again.**
 - Cllr Cotton mentioned the Neighbourhood Plan to Cllr Ward who responded that there is a new contact name in the last email sent and we await further information.
 - Cllr Ward reported that there is no further information on the Traffic Calming Measures. There were many responses to the consultation. Cllr Dewis expressed his concerns over the Parish Council having no further say in the plans. Cllr Ward will suggest a Local Member meeting before the stakeholders meeting.
 - Cllr Cotton reported that the school traffic in Parsons Lane is getting worse. The next meeting will be arranged with the school travel co-ordinator so that Cllr Ward can attend. Cllr Ward will contact Clerk with some available dates. **Clerk to arrange meeting.**
 - Cllr Dewis asked about the Eastern Link Road South. Cllr Ward reported that this is still tied up with Woodlands planning permission. It was felt that a more accurate picture regarding time scales is needed as the current one is unrealistic. Cllr Ward continues to ask about it. Cllr Dewis also raised concerns regarding the Traffic Calming Measures actually taking place. Cllr Ward assured that the money is in place for this project.
 - A parishioner asked about the sheep field on Burcott Lane being gifted to the RNLI. The sheep are no longer there. Cllr Cotton confirmed that she had also heard this. The stiles in that field will also belong on the RNLI.
6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS** -
 - 23/00406/APP - BIERTON 125 Aylesbury Road Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5DW Householder application for single storey rear extension – **Cllr Knowles reported that the Tree and Ecology report has not been completed. No objections but comment to be made on the Tree and Ecology report.**
 - 20/00779/APP - HULCOTT Hale Farm Hulcott Buckinghamshire HP22 5AX Ground mounted solar farm with DNO substation, point of connection, ancillary infrastructure and associated works, landscape planting and access tracks – **The original application went in 3 years ago. Cllr Ward noted that a lot more documentation has been submitted and questioned does it constitute a new application due to this rather than an amended one. Cllr Knowles questioned where the cabling will be going. Cllr Hyre noted that it should be clear what is exactly what is being proposed. Previously raised that it should not affect the footpaths or they be rerouted. Cllr Ward suggested that a new layout plan be provided showing the changes from the previous plan. Clerk to comment on points above.**

7. CLERKS REPORT -

- The Terms of Hire and Instructions for both halls have been updated together with the regular Hall Hirers Agreements. Two have been issued to new hirers and they will be issued to the current regular hall hirers ready for the new financial year.
- The Clerk has nominated Cllr Cotton to attend the annual garden party at Buckingham Palace.

8. FINANCE & ORDERS – The Clerk explained an additional two payments to the payment schedule. Payments and receipts which had previously been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting were agreed upon with the financial receipts, payments, and proposed payment schedule.

The Clerk explained that a business Amazon account has been set up for the Parish Council using the debit card as the payment method. Cllr Cotton and Cllr Knowles are additional users to the account.

9. COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION – The following documents that had previously been circulated ahead of the meeting were reviewed and approved:

- Standing Orders
- Safeguarding Policy

10. COMMERCIAL RECYCLING SERVICE – The Clerk reported the contamination cost. It was agreed that the service be tried for a year. Cllr Dewis suggested adding wording into the hire agreement that hirers may be charged if rules are not followed. Cllr Knowles suggested that wording should also include that rules are expected to be followed. **Clerk to arrange and add wording into hire agreements.**

11. STREETLIGHTING CONTRACT – The Clerk contacted another company and reported the fees to the Council. The Clerk has requested the company look at the streetlight in William Hill Drive. Currently awaiting to hear back from them.

12. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DOG BIN – A parishioner has requested an additional dog bin on the junction of Great Lane and The Close as the current dog bin is always full to overflowing. Cllr ward agreed that the dog bin is always full. Cllr King reported that she had seen wheelie type dog bins in Hampshire and wondered if they are available. It was suggested that a bigger dog bin be put in Great Lane instead. **Clerk to investigate and report back.**

13. JUBILEE HALL WARM SOCIAL HUB PROJECT

Cllr Cotton invited Maggie Knowles to contribute. Cllr Knowles reported that it's been a great success especially for older people and wants to express his thanks to all of the volunteers that have contributed so far. Cllr Knowles also wants to thank the Griffin Trust and Wendover Community Board for their financial contributions. Councillor Knowles proposed that it continue to run every Tuesday from 2pm to 4pm in March, April, May and June and then break in July, August and September; recommence in October, November and December. Cllr Knowles and Maggie are not able to commit every week after February. They feel it should be run by the Parish Council with a Designated Lead. Each week there will need to be a supervisor and three other volunteers to run it. It was felt that a formal rota may scare people off. Cllr Knowles and Maggie would be happy to ensure that somebody is there to be a supervisor if and when they are unable to attend. Cllr Fisher asked if it needs to be weekly. Cllr King & Cllr Knowles agreed it should be weekly because people may forget about when it is. Maggie reported that people very much enjoy it. Cllr King asked if the resources can be stored at the Jubilee Hall. All agreed to make space in the office to store. All agreed that it has been a great success. Cllr Hyre reported that it also raises the profile of the Parish Council. Cllr Cotton suggested that she could ask BS to put the tables out if the people running it some weeks are unable to. **Clerk and Councillor Knowles to organise space for resources.**

14. UPDATES – To receive any updates on the following (if any) ;

- Bierton Events Group – Cllr Fisher listed the events that are due to take place for the year.
 - Cllr Fisher reported that the Quiz is on 25th March and there has been good interest with a few spaces left. Proceeds will be donated to Florence Nightingale Hospice. Bierton Events Group are requesting raffle prizes from local businesses.
 - A Coronation Tea Party is planned for 7th May at the Sports Centre. Cllr Cotton is enquiring about entertainment.
- Jubilee Hall & Sports Centre/Playground
 - Sports Centre Flooring – Quote received for the corridor and disabled toilet at £2545 plus VAT. All agreed to go ahead. Cllr Cotton reported that there is wood under part of it which may need to be replaced and will incur additional costs.
 - Jubilee Hall Subsidence – The insurance company have approved the claim. A meeting is arranged with the surveyor on 24th February to assess. It is hoped that the work can be carried out during July/August.
 - The Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund grant that we applied for was refused as it is not available to Parish Council owned buildings.
- Outside organisations virtual meetings attended by any Councillors
 - Community Buildings – Cllr Cotton reported there was a talk about Solar Panels. The company offer a free survey. The inverter takes up a lot of space and the cost is £66k. It was agreed that the Parish Council may bear in mind for the future.

- Planning Forum – Cllr Cotton reported this was about Enforcement - what is being done and not done. Cllr Cotton mentioned there it still an issue with the Pits.
 - Wendover Community Board – Cllr Cotton reported that electric vehicle charging points were discussed. There is a scheme for individual cables to be put at kerb sides, on lamp posts or bollards and planning permission needs to be applied for through Buckinghamshire Council. Wendover Community Board have been unable to make contact with Berton School regarding the Smoke Free Playground campaign. The Parish Council are able to buy a banner to display at the park.
 - Local Heritage Lists – **Cllr Cotton will look into further.**
 - Kingsbrook Stakeholder Meeting – Cllrs Cotton and Hyre attended. Yellow signs are still directing traffic through the village. **Cllr Cotton to investigate and report back.**
 - Highways/Footpaths
 - Freight Strategy – Cllr Cotton reported that Phase 1 started on 13th February. We are hopeful this will help with Heavy Goods Vehicles as they should be diverted down the Eastern Link Road.
 - 7 trees outside 241 Aylesbury Road have been planted. It appears they have been put there by Barratts and once Barratts have handed over to Buckinghamshire Council, they should be maintained by Buckinghamshire Council.
 - Neighbourhood Plan
 - Awaiting further news.
- 15. MATTERS OF REPORT** - For Councillors to report any outstanding issues. Items not included on the agenda which require decisions will need to be included on the next agenda.
- Cllr Cotton & Cllr Ward have agreed to hold a Councillors Advice Surgery on 28th April. Cllr Fisher suggested inviting Local Area Technician. **Cllr Cotton will invite him.**
 - Aylesbury Garden Project has gone quiet. **Cllr Fisher to look into further.**
 - Cllr Roberts would like to tidy up the Notice Boards and suggested putting a newsletter in them. Cllr Knowles suggested adding information for the Warm Social Hub. **Cllr Roberts to liaise with Cllr Knowles and arrange.**
- 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next Parish Council meeting date will be Monday 20th March 2023, which will commence at 7pm at the Jubilee Hall.