

Bierton Parish Council

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 19th June 2023 at 7.00pm at the Jubilee Hall, Aylesbury Road, Bierton

Present: Cllr S Cotton in the Chair, Cllr L Fisher, Cllr N Hyre, Cllr S Knowles, Cllr N Roberts, Cllr B Dewis, Cllr A Webber, Cllr M Grieves, the Clerk Mrs Wendy Tomlinson & one member of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES** – PCSO's
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Roberts had previously declared an interest in Planning Application 23/01542/APP - 182 Aylesbury Road Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5DT Erection of 1no. dwelling
3. **MATTERS/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - Zipp Scooters – Cllr Knowles registered interests in parking bays but it has not progressed any further. Cllr Knowles has been advised that there are several applications going through and has not been given a time frame for when his application will be dealt with. Cllr Fisher suggested putting in a Freedom of Information request asking how correspondence is being dealt with from Bierton Parish Council. Cllr Fisher also offered to contact the person at Buckinghamshire Council that Cllr Knowles has been dealing with. **Cllr Knowles to provide Cllr Fisher with contact name.**
 - Street Light William Hill Drive – Quotes received from CU Phosco (£2,352) & UK Power Networks (£1802.40). UK Power Networks will only carry out the work if we have an Unmetered Supply Agreement with them. **Clerk to contact UK Power Networks to find out if we have an agreement in place.**
 - Notice Boards – Cllr Roberts has had a look at possible new notice boards and found recycled plastic versions which cost around £1,500 each. Cllr Roberts needs to know exactly what is required. Cllr Knowles suggested one closer to the road at Jubilee Hall but this is not viable. Cllr Hyre suggested putting one inside the bus shelter opposite Rowsham Road but the bus shelter is not used very much now. It was agreed that the new notice boards should not be wooden. **Cllr Roberts will look into further and report back at next meeting.**
 - Cane End Lane - Cllr Cotton reported that the vegetation at Cane End Lane has grown up again and that she has emailed our Local Area Technician.
 - Dogs at Express Travel – Cllr Roberts reported that the issue with the dogs has now been resolved.
4. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th May 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the chair.
5. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR** – Cllr C King has resigned. A Notice of Vacancy has been issued and finishes on Thursday 29th June 2023. If an election is not required, the vacancy will be advertised again in preparation for Co-Option.
6. **PUBLIC FORUM** – No questions
7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS** –
 - 23/01518/APP - 2 Grendon Way Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5DD Householder application for single storey rear extension, loft conversion incorporating two pitched dormer windows to front and flat roof dormer to rear **Comments submitted 8th June 2023 - The Parish Council resolved that it has no comments and no objections.**
 - 23/01527/AAD - Red Lion PH 68 Aylesbury Road Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5BU Display of illuminated and non-illuminated signs **Comments submitted 8th June 2023 - The Parish Council resolved that it is in support of this application and would be keen to see the Red Lion brought back into use.**
 - 23/01535/ALB - Red Lion PH 68 Aylesbury Road Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5BU Listed building application for display of illuminated and non-illuminated signs **Comments submitted 8th June 2023 - The Parish Council resolved that it is in support of this application and would be keen to see the Red Lion brought back into use.**
 - 23/01542/APP - 182 Aylesbury Road Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5DT Erection of 1no. dwelling **Comments submitted 14th June 2023 - Bierton Parish Council objects to this application for the reasons given below:**

The development is in a Conversation Area. The proposal does not protect the character, nature or history of the local environment. There is a large amount of nature and wildlife in this area which will be severely impacted especially as existing mature trees will need to be removed or heavily cut back. The size of the dwelling is considered by the Parish Council as an excessive development. The construction will have a direct impact on the outlook of neighbouring houses and will also overlook neighbouring gardens, affecting their privacy. Whilst point 3.8 of the Design and Access Statement states that the proposed dwelling can be seen from the public footpath, the question 'Can the site be seen from a public road, public footpath, bridleway or other public land?' on the application form has the 'No' box ticked.

In view of planning application number 23/01176/APP, the Parish Council are concerned with the total number of vehicles that will be accessing and egressing the three sites on to the already busy A418 which will also increase noise levels.

- 23/01666/APP - 19 Grendon Way Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5DD Householder application for front and rear dormers with new windows to side and rear elevations and internal alterations – **It was resolved that there are no objections and no comments.**
- Cllr Cotton reported that a Barrett David Wilson will be holding a Public Exhibition regarding the land adjacent to Orchard Green, Kingsbrook on Tuesday 27th June from 4pm to 8pm at the Jubilee Hall.

8. CLERKS REPORT – The Clerk reported the following:

- Clerk attended a Financial Regulations meeting with Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils and enquired about how we obtained quotes for playground. The Financial Regulations state that it requires councils to use the Contracts Finder website to advertise contract opportunities. Cllr Fisher has had experience with this website before and offered to help. **Cllr Fisher and the Clerk to liaise and advertise on the website.**

9. FINANCE & ORDERS – 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.

10. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW & ANNUAL RETURN

The Clerk had previously distributed the reports:

- Annual Internal Audit Report was received and noted.
- Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Council and duly signed by the Chair and RFO.
- Annual Accounting Statements were approved by the Council and duly signed by the Chair and RFO.
- The Explanation of Variances were approved by the council.

The Clerk will now submit the Annual Governance and Annual Return to the external auditor.

11. POLITICAL MAP FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE – Cllr Cotton reported that Buckinghamshire Council have published their ward recommendations. Our recommended ward will be Bierton, Kingsbrook and Wing (also including Wingrave with Rowsham, Aston Abbots & Cublington. There will be two Councillors. It will come into effect in May 2025 at the Buckinghamshire Council elections.

12. GREAT LANE ALLOTMENTS – Cllr Cotton has been contacted by owners of the allotments. They are currently designated as a community asset although the northern part of it cannot be accessed. The owner has asked for the Parish Council to remove the unaccessible (northern part) of it as a community asset. Cllr Fisher reported that the Parish Council nominated it as a community asset last year and it is currently covered until December 2027. It was discussed that it is very overgrown and could be a hazard. The owner has contacted Buckinghamshire Council but they have not responded. A discussion took place and Councillors agreed that the whole site should remain as a community asset.

13. FOOTPATH AT BACK OF WILLIAM HILL DRIVE – Cllr Cotton reported that the pathway has been completely landscaped. The works have been carried out by a resident of William Hill Drive and another resident of Bierton without the landowner's permission. The Clerk has reported it to Buckinghamshire Council with no response.

14. GIB LANE SOLAR FUND GRANT – All agreed to apply for notice boards once quotes have been obtained. The deadline for applications is September 23.

15. WEBSITE – Cllr Knowles asked if the website is up to date, user friendly and who is responsible for it. Is it doing what we want it to do or what our residents want it to do? Cllr Grieves reported that there are less than 30 visitors a month to it. If Bierton is entered into Google, it's at the top of the search. Cllr Hyre asked if we get feedback on it from residents and it was felt that we don't. It was agreed that not much more can be done but it should be kept as up to date as possible. Cllr Fisher suggested getting together to look at it and compare it to other village websites. Cllr Grieves reported that it is on a par with other village websites. **Cllr Fisher and Cllr Knowles to discuss and report back at next meeting.**

16. UPDATES – To receive any updates on the following (If any) ;

- Bierton Events Group –
 - Cllr Fisher reported that Gate to Front Door has been cancelled due to lack of interest.
 - Annual Run – Cllr Knowles reported that Kingsbrook were unhappy with an 11am start due to it being Remembrance Day, so the race will start at 11.10am.
- Jubilee Hall & Sports Centre/Playground –
 - Jubilee Hall – Cllr Cotton reported that we still do not have definite dates for the work. **Clerk to contact contractors re dates and how long work will take.** Cllr Cotton suggested that once the repairs are complete, that a project group be formed for the refurbishment including the trustees of the hall, a trustee from the Griffin Trust and also a user.
- Outside organisations virtual meetings attended by any Councillors –
 - Kingsbrook Stakeholder Meeting – Cllr Cotton & Cllr Hyre attended. Traffic calming is now estimated for Spring 2024. It is still with Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr Hyre suggested that Buckinghamshire Councillors could share the plans with the Parish Council once they are agreed.
 - Eastern Link Road – There is still no date for the remainder of the ELR being completed.

- Highways/Footpaths –
 - Cllrs Cotton & Fisher together with two parishioners have looked at map of the local footpaths and have put together a plan to change many of the stiles to gates.
 - Cllr Cotton has asked for Burcott Lane to be mowed from the houses to the Dog House.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Cotton, Cllr Knowles, Cllr Ward (BC) and J Fisher met with Buckinghamshire Council. Councillors agreed to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan without Kingsbrook. The area will need to be redefined and it will need to go back to regulation 14. **The Clerk needs to send a letter to Buckinghamshire Council.** It will also need to go out to consultation. Cllr Knowles pointed out it will be difficult to do but it will be a better plan in the long run. Cllr Roberts asked about the call for sites land being within the Neighbourhood Plan and if the land owners had put sites forward in protest of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Cotton explained that call for sites land is put forward by Buckinghamshire Council and that it is likely that not all of it will be approved.

17. 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.

- Hulcott Nursing Home – Cllr Cotton reported that Hulcott Nursing Home has an events co-ordinator and invites Parish Councillors to events. The invitations will be circulated should any Councillors wish to attend.
- Cllr Cotton reported that the Clerk's list of jobs is getting very long and requested help. Cllr Cotton agreed to deal with Parrott & Coales regarding the trustees of the Jubilee Hall and to also amend the wording in the hire agreements regarding recycling. Cllr Dewis agreed to look at the Fire Risk Assessments and update them.
- Cllr Knowles reported that he is in receipt of a letter from Network Rail detailing several maintenance works on the Aylesbury to London line .**Cllr Knowles will email and copy for other Councillors.** Cllr Dewis suggested adding it to the website but as it does not affect the A418 it was felt that it was not needed.
- Cllr Webber wished to thank Cllr Knowles and his wife for their hard work with the setting up and running of the Warm Social Hub. It has been a big success. Cllr Knowles also pointed out that he could not do it without the help of the other volunteers who help to run it.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Meeting closed at 8.15pm. The next Parish Council meeting date will be Monday 17th July 2023 commencing at 7pm at the Jubilee Hall.