

Bierton Parish Council

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF HELD ON Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.00pm at the Jubilee Hall, Bierton

Present: Cllr S Cotton in the Chair, Cllr L Fisher, Cllr S Knowles, Cllr M Grieves, Cllr N Hyre, Cllr S Feeney, Cllr A Brierley, Cllr H Smith, Cllr J Ward (BC) the Clerk Mrs Wendy Tomlinson & 13 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES** – None
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
3. **MATTERS/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - Cllr Knowles stated that item 13 from the previous meeting should state that the church referred to is the Wesleyan Chapel, now Bierton Coffee House.
4. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the chair.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM**
 - **REGULAR UPDATE FROM CLLR J WARD – BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL** – see item 14. Community Climate Action.
 - Traffic Calming – Parishioners still have several issues/complaints which Cllr Ward always feeds back to the project team. Cllr Ward reported that the Safety Audit was carried out before Christmas but she has not seen the report. The report will go to Barratts. The exact criteria for the Safety Audit is not known. Cllr Ward and Cllr Cotton have a meeting with the project team later this week and hope to know more then. Completion of the project is still showing as Easter 2025 on the website. Cllr Ward reported that the timetable could move if the Safety Audit warrants any changes and depending on the changes, it could even go back to consultation (not public consultation). Cllr Ward will feedback the findings from the Safety Audit at the next Parish Council meeting.
 - Cllr Ward has also raised the state of the surface of the road. Cllr Hyre asked about a road sweeper and Cllr Ward confirmed that this has been ordered.
 - A parishioner asked about the sweep analysis. Cllr Ward will look into this.
 - A parishioner reported that when emptied, bins are not being returned to outside residents' houses. Cllr Ward will report this.
 - A parishioner asked if the police speed camera is working. Cllr Smith confirmed that she saw the film being changed in it recently. Cllr Cotton confirmed that the Parish Council speed device is in place near the entrance to Dunsham Farm on the Aylesbury Road.
 - Cllr Ward reported that she is trying to get a temporary reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.
6. **NOTICE OF VACANCY** – Cllr Cotton asked if Councillors are in favour of co-option before the election process. A discussion took place. Cllr Cotton proposed not to co-opt with the elections being so close. Cllr Smith seconded and the motion was carried. Cllr Fisher suggested that the induction process for new Parish Councillors is put in place ready for after the elections. **Cllr Fisher will work on the induction process and circulate.**
7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS** –
 - 10/B2649/POA - Land East Of Aylesbury Broughton Crossing Bierton Buckinghamshire Application to modify S106 agreements pertaining to planning permission 10/02649/AOP **Comment submitted 7th January 2025 - Bierton Parish Council have no comments.**
 - 24/03507/APP - The Kingsbrook School Armstrongs Fields Broughton Buckinghamshire HP22 7BR Extension to existing secondary school to accommodate 10FE expansion, including extension of multi-use games area (MUGA) and bin store, additional vehicle and cycle parking, amended drop off area and associated landscaping **Comment submitted 13th January 2025 - Whilst Bierton Parish Council have no objection to the provision of education, Armstrong Fields is the only access road to this school, a proposed primary school and the proposal to build 115 houses and a sports field. Increasing to a 10fe will mean an additional 120 pupils each year for five years (years 7 to 11) travelling to and from the school each day, many by car. This will undoubtedly have further impact on an already busy road at school times.**
 - 24/02285/APP - Kingsbrook Primary School Armstrongs Fields Broughton Buckinghamshire HP22 7BR Erection of 3FE (630 place) primary school, 90 place nursery and a 12 place Special Educational Needs (SEN) Unit with vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access points onto the approved road to the east, staff car parking including electric charging points, drop off bays, minibus parking, motorcycle parking, cycle storage, grass sports pitch, all weather pitch, multi-use-games-area (MUGA), trim trails, external bin store, sports equipment storage, substation, sprinkler tank and associated landscaping and external works – **The main issue is the path/cycleway to/from Burcott Lane. However, this does not form part of the planning application. Cllr Ward and Cllr Cotton have spoken to Barratts directly. Barratts have said they have no problem with not building it. This will be**

brought up at the next Stakeholder meeting. Cllr Cotton will feedback from the stakeholder meeting at the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk to reiterate comments made on 20th September 2024 and also include further comments referring to the indicative bus route through Burcott Lane and concerns regarding the lighting from the school especially out of school hours.

- 24/03787/AOP - Land South Of Aylesbury Road Berton Buckinghamshire Outline planning application for the erection of up to 47 dwellings, including means of access into the site (not internal roads) and associated highway works, with all other matters (relating to appearance, landscaping, scale and layout) reserved – **All in agreement to object. Cllr Feeney suggested to add in objections relating to Biodiversity. The developers only need to demonstrate that there will be a 10% net gain in Biodiversity. Cllr Knowles pointed out that Buckinghamshire Council is under immense pressure to build more houses. Cllr Ward reported that there has been a change to the National Planning Policy Framework. It was agreed that Cllr Fisher will prepare an objection document and circulate to Parish Councillors for feedback before comments are submitted. There is also a residents action group who are preparing an objection. Residents are not in favour of this planning application.**

8. CLERKS REPORT –

- The grit bin on Oldhams meadow has been moved to the correct place.
- Quote for new cricket net received - £312.54 inclusive of VAT (£260.45 exclusive). All agreed to go ahead. **Clerk to order. Cllr Grieves will arrange for it to be fitted.**
- The baby swings and new gate buffer have been ordered from Kompan. Waiting for engineer to let us know when they are coming and they will also look at the tunnel if someone can meet them there. **Cllr Smith will meet with them.**
- The Clerk is in the process of ordering a defibrillator for Berton Coffee House. Griffin Trust have approved a grant.

9. FINANCE & ORDERS – Payments and receipts which had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting were agreed upon with the financial receipts, payments, and proposed payment schedule.

10. BUDGET – 2025/2026 – A few minor changes were agreed to be made and all agreed the budget. **Clerk to make amendments and re-circulate.**

11. PRECEPT – A discussion took place around the increase. All agreed a 5% increase for 2025/2026. **Clerk to update budget and submit precept by 31st January 2025.**

12. DEVOLVED SERVICES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – A discussion took place around how much we receive from Buckinghamshire Council and how much we pay Aylesbury Town Council. Cane End Lane was discussed and Cllr Cotton reported that Aylesbury Town Council will cut it and advise us of how much it costs. The uplift we received from Buckinghamshire Council for 2024/2025 will not cover the cost fully. Cllr Brierley asked what would happen if we decided to not sign the Devolved Services agreement and also what the benefits would be for the Parish Council in signing a four year Devolved Services Agreement. **Clerk to ask further questions and report back.**

13. COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME – Cllr Cotton and the Clerk met with the Community Payback Placement Co-Ordinator regarding the cutting back and siding out of the pathway between Rowsham Road and Cane End Lane. This is something the Community Payback Scheme would be able to help with. All agreed to go ahead. **Clerk to contact Placement Co-Ordinator to arrange.**

14. COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION – Cllr Ward reported that Kingsbrook are not interested in being involved. A discussion took place around how much each Parish should contribute. All Councillors agreed that we are keen to participate but it should be calculated on a pro rata basis based on the size of each Parish. Our Parish is smaller than some of the others. Cllr Ward suggested that it may be better to work with the Community Board. Cllr Ward will contact the Community Board Manager to request she works with Weston Turville Parish Council's Chair to submit a proposal and hopefully reach an equitable way forward. **Clerk to add to agenda for next meeting.**

15. POLICIES – The Clerk has been working on some of the Policies. It was agreed that the Clerk should send individual policies to Councillors to review as and when each is completed ready for adoption at Parish Council meetings. They will then be reviewed annually. Cllr Cotton offered to look at the Communications Policy. It was suggested that Cllr Fisher look at the Code of Conduct. The Health and Safety policy also needs to be reviewed. **Clerk to forward completed policies.**

16. CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS – The list of Contractors/Suppliers should be reviewed annually. **Clerk to schedule for after the May Elections.**

17. PAVILION ROOF – Cllr Cotton reported that part of the roof came down in the storms over Christmas. A local roofer came out to make the roof safe. Cllr Cotton and the Clerk met with him and he said that is very likely that the roof needs completely replacing. He estimated that it will cost approximately £40K. A discussion took place around the use of the building and if we could justify spending £40K to replace a roof on a building that is used for storage only. Some Councillors felt it would be better to demolish the building. The history of the building was also noted. It was suggested that we could ask Scouts if they have access to any grants. **Cllr Smith will ask Scouts.**

- 18. BUS SHELTER** – Cllr Cotton reported that a revised quote of £5,500 has been received. The Mike & Claire Griffin Trust have agreed to fund the refurbishment but have asked if the Parish Council can contribute. All agreed to contribute £1,000 from Parish Council funds.
- 19. REPAIR SHOP** – A Parishioner is keen to set up a Repair Shop in the Jubilee Hall. Cllr Cotton asked for a volunteer to help. **Cllr Feeney volunteered and will talk to the Parishioner.**
- 20. NEW MATS FOR BIERTON BOWLERS** – Cllr Hyre has requested new mats at an approximate cost of £2,800. It was suggested that Bierton Bowlers apply to the Mike & Claire Griffin Trust or Sport England as part of the Community Investment Fund. If not entirely successful, the Parish Council will discuss further.
- 21. WINDOW CLEANING – JUBILEE HALL & SPORTS HALL** – All agreed to change from every 6 weeks to every 8 weeks. **Clerk to contact cleaning company to arrange.**
- 22. POP-UP-PUB – HALL HIRE FEES** – All agreed to waive the fee for December 2024 and May 2025. **Clerk to advise organisers.**
- 23. THE STORY OF BIERTON BOOK** – A Trustee from the Mike & Claire Griffin Trust is investigating reprinting the book at a cost of £5 per book. They have suggested providing a copy of the book with a welcome pack to new people moving into the village. All agreed a good idea but do not feel that the books should be given away. It was suggested that there maybe people who already live in the village who would also like to buy a copy. The logistics would need to be discussed further as it would be difficult for the Parish Council to administrate. **Cllr Cotton to feed back to the Trust.**
- 24. UPDATES – To receive any updates on the following (If any) ;**
- Bierton Events Group – Cllr Knowles reported that a film night is planned for March. A Summer event is planned for June and the Annual Quiz is planned for 26th April 2025.
 - Jubilee Hall & Sports Centre/Playground -
 - Scouts have sent a suggestion of using artificial grass for reinstating the bonfire site. A discussion took place. All agreed that artificial grass is not appropriate. Cllr Knowles suggested that it is reinstated before Easter and that going forward the ground is reinstated by the end of November each year. **Clerk to email Scouts to advise.**
 - Playground Inspection Training – Cllr Knowles and Cllr Smith attended Playground Inspection training provided by The Play Inspection Company. They discussed the concrete around the tunnel with the trainer and they suggested bonding rubber be put around it. Cllr Smith will discuss with Kompan when they come to fit the swings and gate buffer. It was also suggested that we obtain a quote from this company for the annual inspection as a comparison to ROSPA. **Clerk to arrange.**
 - Jubilee Hall – Cllr Knowles reported that the sound absorbing panels will be installed on Monday 27th January at a cost of £5,300.
 - Jubilee Hall Fees – Cllr Cotton reported that the Jubilee Hall Hire fees have been reviewed and agreed by the Trustees now the refurbishment is complete. **Clerk to circulate new fees.**
 - A carpenter has been to look at the access to the loft at the Jubilee Hall and suggested an alternative to the existing ladder. He will send a quote to the Clerk.
 - Outside organisations virtual meetings attended by any Councillors –
 - Cllr Cotton has been attending the Kingsbrook Parish Council meetings.
 - The next Wendover Community Board meeting is on 25th February. Cllr Cotton is unable to attend. **Cllr Smith will check to see if she is able to attend.**
 - Highways/Footpaths – Nothing to report.
 - Neighbourhood Plan – A clarification note was received from the Examiner. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group responded on 13th January 2025.
- 25. 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 Knowles will be away for most of February and March. He will be closing down his email account for this period of time.
 - Cllr Feeney reported she met with Chiltern Society regarding St Osyth's Well. A working party is set up for 6th February. They are going to put a hedge by the apple tree and various bulbs have been ordered. Cllr Feeney reported that we can get up to £500. It has been suggested that we purchase bird and bat boxes from the Chiltern Society. Cllr Cotton mentioned that the Asda Foundation are providing grants for Community Outside Spaces. **Clerk will forward the email to Cllr Feeney.**
 - Cllr Feeney reported that a free Community Energy event is arranged for Monday 10th February at the Jubilee Hall 7.30pm to 9pm which will be run by Buckinghamshire Community Energy. She has posted the event on Bierton Families Facebook page. **Clerk to post on Bierton Parish Council Facebook page.**
- 26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The meeting closed at 9.45pm. The next Parish Council meeting date will be Monday 24th February 2025, commencing at 7pm at the Jubilee Hall.