

# Bierton Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BIERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.00pm at the Jubilee Hall, Bierton

**Present:** Cllr S Cotton, Cllr H Smith, Cllr S Knowles, Cllr S Feeney, Cllr L Harridge, Cllr S Kennedy, Cllr J Ward (BC), the Clerk Mrs Wendy Tomlinson & 8 members of the public

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR** – A discussion took place around the role of Chair and the delegation of jobs. Cllr Knowles proposed Cllr Cotton as Chair, seconded by Cllr Feeney. As not all Parish Councillors were present, it was agreed that the election of Vice Chair be deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Cotton welcomed Cllr Harridge and Cllr Kennedy to the Parish Council.
2. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr L Fisher, Cllr M Grieves, Cllr K Gibbon (BC)
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
4. **MATTERS/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - Loft Ladder – Cllr Cotton reported that the caretaker would prefer to have a handle on the ladder. **Cllr Knowles will keep looking for a ladder.**
  - Dog Waste Bin – Hulcott Parish Council will be discussing this at their meeting this evening and will let the Clerk know if they are in agreement to pay half towards a new bin.
  - Community Action Planning – Cllr Feeney reported that the Action Group have applied for Lottery funding. The Workshop is booked for Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2025. Cllr Feeney and Cllr Kennedy are happy to attend. **Cllr Feeney will contact the Action Group to confirm attendance.**
5. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the chair.
6. **PUBLIC FORUM**
  - **REGULAR UPDATE FROM CLLR J WARD – BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL** – The traffic light sequencing has been changed.
  - Cllr Knowles asked if there was any update on the resurfacing of the Aylesbury Road. Cllr Ward is tracking it and will chase. It is looking like it will be carried out overnight.
  - Another safety audit will be carried out for the traffic calming by independent auditors with representatives from Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Council and Barratts.
  - No points were raised from members of the public.
7. **PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY – OLDHAMS MEADOW WARD** – Cllr Kennedy is happy to represent Oldhams Meadow ward. All agreed and wish to advertise a vacancy for Bierton Ward. **Clerk to contact Electoral Services to confirm if we need to publish a Notice of Vacancy or if we can advertise the vacancy to co opt.**
8. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS** –
  - 25/01349/APP- 5 Barnett Way Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5DN Householder application for proposed dropped kerb and vehicular cross over – **No comments and no objections.**
  - Response from Obsidian Strategic Ltd to Objections on Planning Application 24/03787/AOP - 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. | Land South Of Aylesbury Road Bierton Buckinghamshire – **Cllr Cotton met with Cllr Ward and two members from the action group. It was agreed that we would respond that our position remains unaltered.**
  - Storey Homes Proposed Residential Development – Land off Barnett Way, Bierton - residential development of up to 60 dwellings – **Cllr Ward is arranging a closed meeting with Storey Homes with people attending by invitation only. Hulcott Parish Council have been invited also. Nobody is in favour of the development. We are not aware if the land has actually been sold yet. Cllr Knowles suggested that we form our objections for if/when a planning application is submitted and also consider Section 106 money options should the application go through. A previous application was withdrawn in 2015. Cllr Cotton advised that the Parish Council will keep residents informed. Cllr Ward reported that she is keen to get the local parishes working together.**
9. **CLERKS REPORT** – Nothing to report.
10. **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.

11. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** – Cllr Knowles reported that the much revised plan has been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council and has been examined. A few additional changes have been made and it has now been passed by the inspector. It is hoped that a referendum will take place in June or July. A discussion took place around spreading the word and encouraging residents to vote for the Neighbourhood Plan.
12. **REPAIR SHOP** – Cllr Feeney reported that our insurance will not cover a Repair Shop but that there are companies that will insure Repair Shops. Volunteers are needed to carry out the repairs. **Cllr Feeney will discuss further with Aston Clinton & Weston Turville.**
13. **ST OSYTH'S WELL** – Cllr Feeney reported that the Chiltern Society are going to donate some pond plants. A working party is organised for Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend to help. Cllr Feeney also reported that the refurbishment of the water pump is still being looked into.
14. **DITCH MAINTENANCE – PARSONS LANE** – Cllr Feeney reported that currently volunteers from the church carry out the clearing of the ditch. The church have asked if the Parish Council will carry out the maintenance in future. Cllr Cotton reported that when the hedge was recently cut, the ditch was cleared at the same time. Cllr Cotton also reported that the land is not owned by the Parish Council.
15. **PLAYGROUND** – All agreed to go ahead with the quote to rectify the concrete around the tunnel. **Clerk to instruct contractor.** The ROSPA annual report was discussed. **Clerk to find out if the wood on the Monkey Bars is in warranty.** Cllr Cotton suggested that Cllr Smith and Cllr Knowles go through the report and decide what needs to be done.
16. **UPDATES – To receive any updates on the following (If any) ;**
  - Bierton Events Group – Cllr Knowles reported that the annual run and the Santa Float are being planned.
  - Jubilee Hall & Sports Centre/Playground –
    - Cllr Cotton reported that we have received some quotes for maintenance work to be carried out around the village. **Cllr Cotton will ask the contractor to carry out the work.**
    - The bonfire site has not been reinstated. Cllr Harridge suggested that the area just be left as it is rather than spend money on a small piece of land that does not affect the football pitch. Cllr Harridge reported that it is the only place that the bonfire can be due to safety. Cllr Knowles suggested that the patch of ground be used for something else the rest of the year. A suggestion was made about a fire proof membrane but it is expensive. Scouts will look into further solutions and report back. It will remain as it is this year.
    - Cllr Knowles has ordered some new signs for the Jubilee Hall Car Park for disabled access and parking for hall users.
  - Outside organisations virtual meetings attended by any Councillors –
    - None attended
  - Highways/Footpaths – Cllr Cotton reported that two more gates have been installed – one between Lounge India and Burcott Lane and one in Rowsham Road.
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.
  - Cllr Cotton requested that all Councillors check emails on a regular basis
  - Cllr Kennedy wishes to attend the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils Place Shaping Conference. **Clerk to book a ticket.**
18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The meeting closed at 8.25pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025, commencing at 7pm at the Jubilee Hall.