

Bierton Parish Council

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 16th June 2025 at 7.00pm at the Jubilee Hall, Bierton

Present: Cllr S Cotton in the Chair, Cllr L Fisher, Cllr M Grieves, Cllr H Smith, Cllr S Knowles, Cllr S Feeney, Cllr L Harridge, Cllr S Kennedy, Cllr J Ward (BC), Cllr K Gibbon (BC), the Clerk Mrs Wendy Tomlinson & 2 members of the public

1. **ELECTION VICE CHAIR** – Cllr Cotton proposed Cllr Fisher as Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Grieves.
2. **APOLOGIES** – None
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Knowles declared an interest in Planning Application 25/01459/APP.
4. **MATTERS/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - Cllr Knowles has researched ladders for the loft. He has spoken to a company who advised it is not possible to buy a telescopic ladder with a hand rail. Options were discussed and all felt a telescopic ladder would be the best option. **Cllr Knowles will research further and report back at the next meeting.**
 - Cllr Feeney reported that she has spoken to Rachel Blackmore regarding attending the Community Climate Action Planning workshop.
 - The surfacing around the tunnel at the playground has been rectified. A discussion took place regarding the heat and or friction on the inside of the tunnel. **Cllr Knowles will check the heat of the surface inside.**
 - The wood on the monkey bars is not in warranty. **Cllr Smith will monitor the wood.**
 - **Cllr Knowles will be looking at the ROSPA report in more detail and will liaise with the Clerk.**
5. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th May 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 Aylesbury Road resurfacing is well underway and is looking very good.
 - Cllr Knowles reported that the 'Priorities Changed' sign by Star Cottages is blocking the footpath. Cllr Ward will look into.
 - Cllr Ward will ask Barratts if they can straighten the right of way signs by Star Cottages whilst the road closure is in place. Subsequent to the meeting, the poles have now been straightened.
 - Cllr Fisher reported that there is a drain at the bottom of Great Lane that has been tarmacked over. Subsequent to the meeting, this has been rectified.
 - Buckinghamshire Council has issued a fine to a driver for littering from their vehicle whilst driving through the village.
7. **PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY – OLDHAMS MEADOW WARD** – One application has been received. Carlo Monticolumbi was co-opted to the Parish Council – Oldhams Meadow Ward, proposed by Cllr Cotton and seconded by Cllr Grieves.
8. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS** –
 - 25/01459/APP- BIERTON 127 Aylesbury Road Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5DW Householder application for proposed dropped kerb and vehicular crossover – **No comments and no objections.**
 - Storey Homes Proposed Residential Development – Land off Barnett Way, Bierton - residential development of up to 60 dwellings – Cllr Ward fed back from the meeting held with Storey Homes. The location is outside of the Neighbourhood Plan Development Boundary. It appears that they are going to submit the planning application. The development will take about two and a half years to build. Cllr Ward advised Storey Homes that we will be objecting to the application.
9. **CLERKS REPORT** –
 - The internal audit for 2024/2025 is complete and the external audit documents are now due to be submitted.
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. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW & ANNUAL RETURN**
 - 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.
12. **STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** – All agreed to adopt. **Clerk to upload to the website.**

- 13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM** – Cllr Cotton reported that the referendum will take place on Thursday 17th July 2025 in the Jubilee Hall. The Parish Council cannot promote or encourage voters to vote 'Yes' or 'No'. Parish Councillors and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are able to attend the count. There is no public access to the count. John Fisher will be appointed as the Count Observer. **Clerk to advise Buckinghamshire Council Electoral Services of who will be attending the count.**
- 14. OLD CRICKET PAVILION ROOF** – The Rothschild Foundation grant application was unsuccessful. The Clerk has applied to the Mike and Claire Griffin Trust for a Grant of £20,000 to replace the roof. All agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the cost.
- 15. JUBILEE HALL – FACIAS & GUTTERING** – Cllr Cotton reported that these need replacing. There has been water leaking into one of the emergency lights inside, which is due to be replaced this week. **Cllr Cotton will obtain some quotes and report back at the next meeting.**
- 16. ST OSYTH'S WELL** – Cllr Feeney reported that the Chiltern Society have donated pond plants and they have been planted. They have offered another visit in the Winter months. The apple trees need pruning. Cllr Feeney and Cllr Harridge are obtaining quotes. Cllr Knowles questioned if there is anything we need to do with regards to Health & Safety because of the water. **Cllr Knowles will research signs.**
- 17. OPEN GARDENS SCHEME** – Cllr Feeney said that somebody had mentioned it as it had been held in the past. Cllr Grieves reported that the Birtton Events Group attempted it but it was not successful. **Cllr Feeney will put a notice on Facebook to see if there is an interest in holding an event.**
- 18. KINGSBROOK LIVE** – The Parish Council have been given some free tickets for Kingsbrook Live. Cllr Cotton offered them to Parish Councillors. **Councillors to advise Cllr Cotton by the end of this week if they would like any tickets.**
- 19. UPDATES – To receive any updates on the following (If any) :**
- Birtton Events Group – Cllr Fisher reported that they are preparing for the Annual Run and Santa's float.
 - Jubilee Hall & Sports Centre/Playground –
 - Cllr Cotton reported that a toddler group is starting in the Jubilee Hall on 7th July and that some tuition groups have booked over the Summer. **Cllr Cotton will advertise the hall is free on Wednesday & Friday mornings.**
 - Sports Hall Acoustics – Cllr Feeney and Cllr Harridge highlighted that the acoustics are very bad and that the hall is not just used as a Sports Hall. It was agreed that it is worth investigating further. **Cllr Knowles will contact the company who provided the sound boards at Jubilee Hall.**
 - Hand Dryers – Jubilee Hall – Cllr Feeney reported that they are very noisy. The hand dryers were only installed three years ago. Cllr Knowles suggested automatic door closers but it was felt that this might not be a solution because of the steps down into the toilets. It was agreed that the only solution is to keep the toilet doors shut.
 - Outside organisations virtual meetings attended by any Councillors –
 - Cllr Cotton attended the Kingsbrook Parish Council meeting. Cllr Ward gave some information about the Sports Field that is not yet open regarding how much it is likely to cost to run.
 - Cllr Cotton and the Clerk met with Cllr Kathy Gibbon (BC) to discuss Birtton Parish and the current challenges we are facing.
 - Cllr Cotton attended the Mayor's inauguration.
 - A Kingsbrook Stakeholder meeting will take place on Friday 20th June. Cllr Fisher will attend with Cllr Cotton.
 - Highways/Footpaths – It has been reported that the footpath between Barnet Way and Brick Kiln Lane is subsiding.
- 20. 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 has a schedule of regular meetings which she will share at the next meeting.
 - Cllr Knowles & Cllr Smith looked at the bonfire site today. Several options were discussed including putting bark over it and replace as necessary, moving the basket ball surfacing to where the bonfire site is so the bonfire is not on the grass, rotating the bonfire around four sites where is currently sited, putting a trampoline in the ground on the site, putting artificial grass over the site or making a feature of it. It was agreed that nothing will be done between now and November and it should be addressed again nearer the time.
 - Cllr Feeney enquired about the padel courts which had been suggested. Cllr Cotton reported that there is not currently enough room to put them on the recreation ground. Cllr Grieves reported that Padel Courts are part of the planning application off of Gib Lane which is still yet to be decided on.
 - Cllr Kennedy attended the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils Place Shaping Conference today and reported that it was very good with much useful information. **Cllr Kennedy will bullet point the notes she took from it and will send to the Clerk to circulate.**
 - Cllr Knowles had previously circulated an email with a photograph of a litter picking sign with attached litter pickers and bags encouraging residents to do a 2 minute litter pick. All liked the idea. **Cllr Smith will contact Weston Turville Parish Council to find out more about it.**
- 21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 21st July 2025, commencing at 7pm at the Jubilee Hall.