

Bierton Parish Council

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 15th September 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 (left meeting at 7.50pm), Cllr S Feeney, Cllr L Harridge, Cllr S Kennedy, Cllr C Monticolumbi, Cllr K Gibbon (BC), & the Clerk Mrs Wendy Tomlinson

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr H Smith
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
3. **MATTERS/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - Loft Ladder - Has been purchased and is in the store cupboard at the Jubilee Hall.
 - Kompan Quote - There has been no response from Kompan. **Clerk to follow up.**
 - The Deep Water sign at St Osyth's Well was vandalised and then removed. A replacement has been delivered. **Clerk to ask caretaker to put up in the noticeboard at the well.**
 - Open Gardens – No further information at the moment. **Cllr Feeney and Cllr Harridge to arrange a meeting.**
 - Litter Picking Station – Has been ordered and should be delivered in December.
 - The guttering, fascias and soffits have been replaced at the Jubilee Hall.
 - Planning Training – There has been no response from BMKALC. **Clerk to follow up.**
 - The hedge by the Red Lion Pub has been cut.
 - Great Lane Allotments – Clerk rescinded expression of interest. No further action.
4. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st July 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the chair.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM**
 - **REGULAR UPDATE FROM CLLR K GIBBON – BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL –**
 - Buckinghamshire Council have their Local Plan which will go out to consultation on 17th September.
 - Cllr Gibbon recommended that all including residents respond to the 'Your Bucks, Your Say on Buckinghamshire Council priorities and budget' online survey which closes on 9th October. The link is: [Your Bucks, Your Say on Buckinghamshire Council priorities and budget - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)
6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS –**
 - 25/02418/APP- BIERTON 12 Burcott Lane Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5AU Householder application for erection of single storey rear extension and part single storey side extension rear of existing garage **Comment submitted on 8th September 2025 - Bierton Parish Council have no comments or objections to this planning application.**
 - 25/02163/APP- Land Now Comprising William Hill Drive Burcott Lane Bierton Buckinghamshire Erection of 23 dwellings, with access from William Hill Drive and including landscaping and related SUDS **Comments submitted 9th September 2025. Comments are available to view on Buckinghamshire Council planning portal.**
 - 25/01867/AOP - Land Off Barnett Way Bierton - Sport and Leisure Contribution Suggestions – The previous suggestion is not possible on the actual site. New suggestion is **Acquisition of land and creation of padel courts and outside table tennis within Bierton Parish.** **Clerk to respond to Buckinghamshire Council.**
 - 24/03787/AOP - Land South Of Aylesbury Road Bierton - Sport and Leisure Contribution Suggestions –The previous suggestion is not possible. New suggestion is **Refurbishment, modernise and/or improvements to Bierton Sports Centre including sound absorption panels.** **Clerk to respond to Buckinghamshire Council.**
 - 25/02163/APP - Land West Of William Hill Drive And South Of Aylesbury Road William Hill Drive Bierton – Sport and Leisure Contribution Suggestions - **Replacement cricket net frame, nets and surfacing at Bierton Recreation Ground.** **Clerk to respond to Buckinghamshire Council.**
 - Cllr Cotton reported that a response was received from Buckinghamshire Council regarding comments not being visible on the planning portal. (Clerk forwarded the response to Councillors on 5th August 2025). The position will not change. Buckinghamshire Councillors should be able to see comments but are not permitted to share information. The number of comments received, number of objections and number in support of an application are still visible on the portal under the 'Comments' tab. All consultee comments are visible.
7. **CLERKS REPORT –**
 - We are still awaiting confirmation that the External Audit has been completed. A question was raised with the Internal Auditor's section of the AGAR which the Clerk has sent a response to.
 - The Electricity contract has changed over from SSE to Valda Energy with effect from today for 36 months. The Gas contract will be changing from SSE to UGP (United Gas & Power) with effect from 1st October 2025 for 36 months.

8. **FINANCE & ORDERS** – Clerk reported 3 additional payments. 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.
- **NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES (NJC) PAY RATES APPLICABLE FROM 1ST APRIL 2025** – Cllr Cotton reported that the pay rates have been published with effect from 1st April 2025. Cllr Cotton proposed that the Clerk's salary be increased by one salary scale point. All Councillors agreed.
9. **ST OSYTH'S WELL & REFURBISHMENT OF THE PLAQUE** – Cllr Knowles reported that the information sign at St Osyth's Well is very worn and areas of it are not readable. Impact Signs visited the site and applied a test area for repair. Cllr Knowles has received a quote for £356.22 + VAT. All agreed to go ahead. **Clerk to arrange.** Cllr Feeney reported that there is a lot of duckweed in the pond and it may be able to be cleared with a big net or by putting hay into the pond to dissolve it. **Cllr Feeney will discuss and organise with the caretaker.** Cllr Feeney also reported that the apple trees need to be pruned. **Cllr Feeney will look into.**
10. **SOUND ABSORPTION – SPORTS CENTRE** – Cllr Knowles reported that a site survey has been carried out by Sound Reduction Systems. It would require panels on the ceiling and on two of the walls. A quote has been received for £9,074.00 + VAT. Installation will take approximately a day and a half. The level of sound reduction should be similar to that of the Jubilee Hall. Cllr Grieves pointed out that when it rains, the sound is very loud at the Sports Centre and queried if the panels will help with that. **Cllr Knowles will ask the company.** The next step would be to look into how it could be afforded. Cllr Cotton suggested that this could be included within the Sports Centre Refurbishment. We had a £4,105 grant approved from Gib Lane Community Fund last year and will apply for another grant from them this year towards it.
11. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FUTURE ACTIONS** – Cllr Cotton reported that herself, Cllr Fisher and Cllr Knowles have put an action plan together of areas to be looked at from the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan based on comments from residents. The following areas were discussed:
- Buildings to be listed as Non-Heritage Assets - Cllr Cotton suggested asking a previous Parish Councillor to deal with this. **Cllr Cotton will contact previous Parish Councillor.**
 - Car parking on corners/grass verges and providing village car parks – Cllr Cotton reported that a land owner had previously offered land to lease for a car park. Buckinghamshire Council previously raised points about views, the conservation area and that the location would be next to a listed building. It would service the church, school and the Jubilee Hall. All agreed that if this is approved, it would need to be done professionally. **Cllr Cotton to look into further.**
 - Broadband and Mobile Reception – Several comments were made in the Neighbourhood Plan consultation about the mobile reception and broadband speed in the area. Cllr Knowles suggested a survey of residents to gather further information. Cllr Monticolombi reported that it is possible to search mobile reception online in an area using post codes. **Cllr Knowles will discuss further with Cllr Monticolombi and will bring a survey to the next meeting.**
 - Village BBQ and Beer Festival - Cllr Cotton suggested that this could be organised between Berton Events Group and possibly Bay 19.
 - Fitness & Heritage Trail - Cllr Fisher and Cllr Knowles are working on this together.
 - Healthcare – Residents say that it is difficult to get appointments. Poplar Grove surgery and Oakfield surgery are oversubscribed and not taking new patients. The Integrated Care Board are suggesting for new planning applications that residents would go to Mandeville Surgery but this is situated on the other side of Aylesbury. Cllr Kennedy suggested that we could implement some health initiatives such as blood pressure checks at Berton Coffee House. Cllr Harridge has some contacts and is happy to liaise with practice managers. **Cllr Harridge and Cllr Kennedy will work on together.**
- It was agreed by all that the Parish Council need to show that we are listening to our residents and trying to help where we can.
12. **OLD CRICKET PAVILION ROOF** – Cllr Cotton reported that work is starting on 23rd September. Some of the tree branches behind the pavilion need cutting beforehand which will cost £880.00. The Clerk and Chair have agreed this within their finance limit. Cllr Cotton proposed that rather than reusing existing tiles which will not last as long, it would be better to use new tiles on the whole roof. This will cost (approximately) an additional £1600.00. All agreed to proceed with new tiles.
13. **UPDATES – To receive any updates on the following (If any) ;**
- Berton Events Group – Cllr Fisher reported the following:
 - There is Sports Quiz at Bay 19 this Friday. To date, 11 teams have entered.
 - To date, there are 100 entries for the annual run. Entries will be capped at approximately 300.
 - Santa at Berton Coffee House is being planned for 7th December. There have been a few comments regarding the Santa Float not happening. Cllr Knowles reported that it is dangerous along the main road and it had to be cancelled at the last minute in 2024 due to bad weather. Cllr Fisher added that in recent years the donations have dropped off. It can be revisited another year but Berton Events Group felt it would be good to change the format this year.
 - The Pop-up Pub is arranged for 20th December at the Jubilee Hall.
 - Jubilee Hall & Sports Centre/Playground – The ground at the back of Jubilee Hall has been cleared by Community Payback. They will return to try to clear some of the ivy away from the fence once it has died off. **Clerk to arrange.**

- Outside organisations virtual meetings attended by any Councillors – Cllr Cotton reported the following:
 - The next Stakeholder meeting with Barratts will be on either the 7th or 14th November.
 - Cllr Cotton, Cllr Ward (BC), Cllr Gibbon (BC) and the Clerk will be meeting with the new Local Area Technician on 22nd September.
 - East Bucks Community Board meeting is being held at the Jubilee Hall at 6pm on 18th September. Cllr Cotton requested if some Parish Councillors can attend and also help with refreshments.
 - The Buckinghamshire Highways conference is on 29th September. Cllr Cotton and the Clerk will attend.
- Highways/Footpaths – Nothing to report.

14. 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 reported the dog bin has been installed in Rowsham Road,
- The bus shelter near Gib Lane is complete and we have had an offer to paint the inside of it.
- The Scouts bonfire is on 7th November. Cllr Harridge confirmed that the current Scout Leader is stepping down. **Cllr Harridge will get the new Scout Leader's contact details for Cllr Cotton.**
- Cllr Knowles reported that we have two logos – Bierton Village and Bierton Parish. All agreed that the Bierton Village would be used in future to ensure consistency.
- Cllr Feeney asked who the administrators are for Bierton Families Facebook page. Cllr Cotton informed her that it is possible to share information from the church page to Bierton Families.
- Cllr Feeney feels strongly about people putting photos of vehicles with registration numbers shown on Bierton Families Facebook page.
- Cllr Fisher reported that she is attending the GDPR webinar on 19th September.
- Cllr Kennedy wanted to know how we communicate with the village. We publicise in the newsletter and share information on Facebook and our website. Information as also put on noticeboards in the village. Cllr Knowles acknowledged that it is difficult to communicate with all residents. Cllr Feeney added that there is also a parish magazine issued by the church.
- Cllr Cotton reported that we have received an email from our contractor who mows the recreation ground asking if we would like to order Tulips to be planted around the village gates at a cost of £65.00 + VAT per 100 bulbs. All agreed to order 200 bulbs.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 20th October 2025, commencing at 7pm at the Jubilee Hall.