

# Bierton Parish Council

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 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 Feeney, Cllr L Harridge, Cllr J Ward (BC), 4 members of the public & the Clerk Mrs Wendy Tomlinson

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr S Knowles, Cllr C Monticolombi, Cllr S Kennedy & Cllr K Gibbon (BC)
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
3. **MATTERS/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - Cllr Knowles has put the Deep Water sign up at St Osyth's Well.
  - Planning Training – Buckinghamshire Council will be organising some training sessions in the future and will invite Parish Councillors to attend.
  - Open Gardens – **Cllr Feeney & Cllr Harridge are dealing with.**
  - St Osyth's Well – The information plaque has been refurbished. The duckweed has gone from the pond. Quotes for pruning the apple trees have been received. **Cllr Cotton will arrange for this to be carried out in December/January.**
  - Jubilee Hall – Community Payback have been to clear around the Jubilee Hall again. It was not possible to clear all of the ivy from the fence as it could damage it.
  - Cllr Harridge provided Cllr Cotton with the new Scout Leader's contact details at the end of the meeting.
4. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the chair.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM**
  - The owner of Bierton Coffee House explained that they have applied for an alcohol licence as they are looking to put on more events including small weddings. They will possibly be looking to provide Sunday lunches. Also, they are looking to provide essential items such as bread, milk etc for the community to buy.
  - A Parishioner questioned the bus shelter being painted. Cllr Cotton advised that the Parish Council had previously agreed that it would be painted.
  - **REGULAR UPDATE FROM CLLR J WARD – BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL** –
    - Cllr Ward reported that she recently attended a resilience presentation. It is suggested that Parish Councils should have a community emergency plan in place.
6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS** –
  - PL/25/4218/KA Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area 1 Pecks Farm Close, Bierton, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5FJ, T2 Cherry Plum - reduce height and lateral spread by 1.5m, T3 Cherry Plum - reduce to ground level. **No comments or objections. Clerk unable to register on portal as decision was issued on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 even though the consultation expiry date was 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025.**
  - Application Ref: 25/02293/VRC Appeal Ref: 25/00058/REF Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/W/25/3374068 Site Address: Aylesbury Golf Centre Ltd Hulcott Lane Bierton Buckinghamshire HP22 5GA Proposal: Removal of condition 5 (electric charging points) relating to application 21/03644/APP (Mini golf and additional car parking). **No comments to be made.**
  - PL/25/3311/FA Full Planning Permission 2 Base Close, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 2UY Replacement of existing conservatory roof with flat roof and roof light, replacement of cladding and insertion of Bifold doors to rear. Insertion of side door to garage and existing rear patio replaced with decking. **No comments or objections.**
  - Hallam Land – Public consultation for up to 60 new homes off Burcott Lane. **Cllr Feeney reported that she has sent in personal questions. Cllr Cotton listed some possible objection reasons. A Parishioner from Broughton Crossing provided detailed information. A discussion took place and it was suggested to apply for a Tree Preservation Order on one of the old trees. Cllr Cotton, Cllr Fisher and the Clerk, will prepare a response to the consultation and circulate to councillors before submitting.**
7. **CLERKS REPORT** –
  - The external audit was completed on 19<sup>th</sup> September and the Notice of Conclusion duly published.
  - There have been issues with changing the Gas contract over to UGP due to SSE. There is still an issue with the billing on the portal. **Clerk to contact SSE again.**
8. **FINANCE & ORDERS** – Clerk reported 2 additional payments and an amendment to an SSE payment. 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.
  - **YEAR TO DATE BUDGET** – No questions or comments were made.
  - **BUDGET 2026/2027** – **Cllr Grieves and the Clerk are meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October to prepare the first draft.**
  - **DONATION TO ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FOR POPPY WREATH** – All agreed £100 donation to be made.

9. **MEETING DATES 2026** – All agreed.
10. **LOCAL PLAN** – Cllr Cotton advised that we need to respond to the consultation. Cllr Fisher provided information on searches she had made. Cllr Ward suggested we may want to consider using the wording 'Priority should be given to repurposing and redevelopment of towns such as Aylesbury and High Wycombe as mentioned in Buckinghamshire Economic Growth plan'. **Cllr Fisher will draft a response and circulate.**
11. **SOUND ABSORPTION PANELS – SPORTS CENTRE** – A discussion took place as to whether it is needed or not. All agreed that it is very noisy in the Sports Centre especially when it rains. All agreed that something needs to be done but thought the cost was expensive. It was suggested that other options could be explored such as adding a suspended ceiling, or some sort of covering on the existing roof. **Cllr Cotton will ask Cllr Knowles to look at alternative options.**
12. **REMEDIAL WORKS TO PLAYGROUND** – All agreed to go ahead. **Clerk to organise.**
13. **MOBILE PHONE SURVEY** – Cllr Cotton suggested it should go out with the newsletters as well as be posted online. Cllr Fisher suggested a link could be included in the newsletter for those who do not want to complete a paper copy. A return address will need to be included for the paper copies.
14. **HGV FEASIBILITY STUDY** – Cllr Cotton reported that she had discussed this with somebody at the Buckinghamshire Highways Conference and she had circulated a checklist for self assessment prior to the meeting. Cllr Ward suggested that we wait to see the outcome of the safety audit and then approach Buckinghamshire Council for assistance. Cllr Cotton reported that the study is costly and any remedial work to implement it would have to be funded by us. A conversation took place about the safety audit. It is not known when it will be carried out and we do not have to be provided with a copy of it. Cllr Ward will receive some feedback from it.
15. **ONE UNIFORM** – When the Clerk forwards planning application notices to Councillors, they are unable to be read. The Clerk has reported the issue and it is with the digital planning team to look into. Cllr Cotton advised Councillors to note the planning reference number and search for the application through public access.
16. **ASSERTION 10 – CHANGES TO 2025/2026 AGAR** – Cllr Fisher gave an overview of the changes and recommendations. **Cllr Fisher and Clerk to plan next steps. Cllr Fisher will prepare a list of areas to be looked into.**
17. **LOGO** – A discussion took place around the two logos and the possibility of using the word 'Community' or just 'Bierton'. All agreed to use the Bierton Parish Logo.
18. **INCREASE IN FOOTBALL HIRE FEES** – Cllr Cotton proposed that football fees be increased from £70 to £75 with effect from January 2026. All agreed. **Clerk to advise football team.**
19. **FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS – JUBILEE HALL & SPORTS CENTRE** – Quotes have been received for £300.00 for each hall. All agreed to proceed. **Clerk to instruct company.**
20. **UPDATES – To receive any updates on the following (if any) ;**
  - Bierton Events Group –
    - Over 200 people have signed up for the annual run. Cllr Grieves said that marshals are still needed.
    - The Events group are now planning for the Christmas event.
  - Jubilee Hall & Sports Centre/Playground –
    - Cllr Cotton reported that we are collecting quotes for the redecoration of the Sports Centre.
    - The Pavilion roof has now been replaced to a very good standard.
    - The guttering at sports centre was leaking every time it rained. There were several tennis balls stuck in it. Cllr Cotton reported that it will be cleared tomorrow.
  - Outside organisations virtual meetings attended by any Councillors –
    - Cllr Cotton attended Parish Liaison meeting and the slides from the meeting have been circulated. Cllr Cotton and the Clerk attended the Buckinghamshire Highways conference. The next Barratts stakeholder meeting will be in November.
  - Highways/Footpaths –
    - There is ivy growing at the footpath at the end of the dairy. Cllr Cotton has asked the Parish Manager at Kingsbrook to look into.
21. **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 Smith expressed the need for a crossing on Burcott Lane for the children going to and from Kingsbrook school.
  - Cllr Feeney attended the Community Climate Action workshop and will be circulating information. **Clerk to add to next agenda.**
  - Cllr Grieves mentioned the use of the bottom gate at the recreation ground for the fireworks as it gets very muddy and affects the annual run. **Cllr Harridge will mention at the Scouts meeting.**
  - Cllr Cotton asked for Councillors check their emails on a regular basis.
  - Cllr Cotton requested that Councillors make the Clerk aware if they are away.
22. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025, commencing at 7pm at the Jubilee Hall.