

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 10th March 2026. 7.30pm Bicton Village Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs: Elliott Blackmore (Chairman); Richard Brett; Stephen Griffin; Wendy Horan; Sue Llewellyn; Sally Maddox; Edward Swain.

SC Cllr Ed Potter; Interim Parish Clerk-Maxine Baker and eight parishioners

Neighbourhood Alert - there was no report received this evening.

Open Forum - A member of the public expressed concern regarding the smart water issued to individuals at Montford Bridge, noting that it has a lifespan of only five years and requires renewal, but residents may not be aware of this. The resident requested that this matter be addressed in the Village Magazine.

A Village Hall Management Committee member informed the meeting that the following improvements are needed to the village hall: kitchen extension and refurbishment, toilet modernisation, replacement of two or three windows that cannot open, car park extension with better drainage, a more updated website for online bookings, and an air conditioning unit. The committee hopes the Parish Council can help fund these upgrades with CIL monies.

A representative of Bicton Bowling Club expressed gratitude to the Parish Council and its Chairman for their ongoing support regarding pathway improvements. The representative further noted that the installation of a permeable tarmac pathway, designed to promote inclusivity, will be the final enhancement needed to establish Bicton Club as a top-class facility.

Report from S.C. Ed Potter – Councillor Ed Potter provided an update regarding the financial position of Shropshire Council, noting that a government loan totalling £200 million has been approved. Interest will be charged only on amounts drawn down, which can be accessed in stages; nonetheless, further cost-saving measures are required. The ongoing fuel crisis may lead to additional financial challenges, particularly affecting Social Care services. The Northwestern Relief Road project has been officially cancelled, although the Oxon Link remains under consideration and will be reviewed at an appropriate time. The cancellation is expected to impact the A5 road, as Highways England has determined it is operating at capacity. This development is likely to influence any future housing developments, specifically those concerning Welshpool Road.

There is currently no progress on planning applications for substantial developments in Bicton. Councillors expressed concerns about an unresolved pothole outside the school; Councillor Potter indicated that this may be attributable to staff shortages in the area.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – were received from Councillor Mandie Lee.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Councillors R Brett and S Maddox declared a pecuniary interest in item 8.i.
3. **Verify draft Minutes dated 10th February 2026** - the minutes were approved and signed as a true copy.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - i. Lengthsman duties: none
 - ii. To receive any updates from Februarys meeting – The Chairman advised that he is encouraging a local landowner to assist with a camera to locate a restriction in the outlet pipe at Bicton Pool.
5. **Parish Matters.**
 - i. **BKVC** –the marking criteria and village map were considered. The meeting identified the following areas where work was needed:

- Involvement of the school – e.g. school planting; posters; noticeboards need attention; areas around the church, The War Memorial, bus shelter; benches; red telephone box needs some maintenance - (Cllrs Swain & Griffin would look into replacing the skirt and possibly the Plexi glass; village gateways - (Cllr Blackmore said he would look at the space and the gateways that Cllr Maddox will send him); improvements to the Four Crosses area, to request the garage to put out planters - Cllr Blackmore said he would ask; improvements to private gardens and open spaces. The Clerk would complete the application form and submit the fee on behalf of the Parish Council.
- ii. **Members' Interest Register** – Members were reminded to check and confirm the accuracy of their Register of Interests on Shropshire Council's website. The Clerk will assist councillors who need help uploading their entries.
- iii. **CIL Funded Projects** – The following project details and costings, were received and consideration was given for approval of CIL expenditure being awarded as a grant, for the projects to proceed:
 - a. **Bicton Bowling Club - Pathway:** Accessibility improvement through installation of a tarmac pathway. (CIL Eligibility: Infrastructure improvement supporting community participation and accessibility). The council reviewed three quotations for the above improvements. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would award a grant for £4,700.00 plus VAT to Bicton Bowling Club.
 - b. **Bicton Village Hall - Kitchen:** Refurbishment of Kitchen. (CIL Eligibility: improvement to community infrastructure). The Chairman advised the meeting that the Village Hall Management Committee have struggled to get three quotations in time for the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to defer this to the next meeting of the council.
 - c. **Bicton Village Hall - Carpark:** Improvements to the car park surface and layout. (CIL Eligibility: Infrastructure enhancement to a key community asset). The council reviewed three quotations for the above improvements. Cllr Swain raised concerns regarding surface drainage. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would provide a grant of £25,000.00 for the proposed works. The responsibility for executing the works and securing all necessary permissions and regulatory approvals remains with the Village Hall Management Committee.

6. Planning Decisions & Planning Applications

- i. To note planning decisions made since the last meeting:
 - 25/02946/OUT Address: Land To The North of Holyhead Road Bicton – Pending consideration.
 - 26/00352/FUL Address: The Haven Shepherds Lane – Pending consideration.
 - 25/04181/OUT Address: Land To The West Off Bicton Lane Bicton – Pending Consideration.
 - 25/04420/OUT Address: Land Off Bicton Lane, Bicton - Pending Consideration.
 - 25/04590/FUL Address: Glenford Bicton Lane, Bicton - Refused
- ii. To consider and agree responses to planning applications:
 - [26/00013/FUL](#) Address: The Bungalow, Calcott Lane, Bicton, SY3 8EX. Proposed: replacement self-build single storey bungalow, following the demolition of the existing bungalow and outbuildings – It was **RESOLVED** to not submit any comments on this application.

7. Reports

- i. Muriel's Little Wood; Safety Report: A tree is down by top gate. Cllr Griffin said he would deal with the fallen tree.
- ii. VAS – Speed indicator Devices, Progress report was received and noted.
- iii. Clerks Report was received and noted.

8. Financial Reports

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments and note any income received:

Maxine Baker	£332.96	Wages (February 2026)
Sally Maddox	£12.00	Wildflower seeds (reimbursement)
Richard Brett	£120.00	Old website maintenance - up to end of January 2026

Shropshire Council	£225.54	2025/26 - 4 th Quarter Energy Costs
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ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements as at 28/02/2026:

Lloyds Bank - Current account £63,974.95

Lloyds Bank - Instant Savings account £64,264.77

9. **Extra Information** – The bus stop bin is collected weekly, but it frequently overflows and needs more regular emptying. The Clerk will ask Derek Furlong from Shropshire Council about increasing collection frequency. Cllr Maddox confirmed that the defibrillator had been checked.
10. **Date of the next meeting** - to note that the next meeting shall be held on April 14th, 7.30 pm at Bicton Village Hall

[21.05 pm - meeting closed]

*Bicton Parish Council 14/04/26
Minutes 10th March 2026*