

BICTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm Bicton Village Hall.

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

SC Cllr Ed Potter; Interim Parish Clerk-Maxine Baker and 6 parishioners

A - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1 Annual Parish Council report. Chairman's report - [Appendix 1](#)

2 Report from Shropshire Council – Overview of the Past 12 Months:

Cllr Ed Potter gave the meeting an overview of the past year. He explained that Shropshire Council had applied to the government for special permission to increase council tax by 9% in order to avoid issuing a Section 114 notice.

Shropshire Council has an ageing population, and around 80% of council tax income is spent on adult social care. He also noted that the new council has been restructured.

Several ongoing service issues were highlighted: street bin collections, where there appears to be a breakdown in communication between the previous contractor, Shropshire Council, and the new contractor; and highways and potholes, where many repairs are being carried out, but the scale of the problem means progress is slow and more work is still needed. Improvements to both services are hoped for shortly.

Central government has provided funding to help councils tackle potholes, but councils must provide evidence that repairs are being completed. Cllr Potter encouraged everyone present to report potholes using FixMyStreet and said that, if they shared the report number with him, he could follow it up.

3 Police Report – none was provided.

4. Representations from Parishioners. (Open Forum) - Residents raised questions on the appropriateness of the recent CIL expenditure on the Village Hall and Bowling Club.

5. Any comments, views, or requests – none.

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B - ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2026-May. Following from the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. BICTON PARISH COUNCIL (BPC) APPOINTMENTS

1.1 Elect BPC Chairman. The meeting **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Blackmore, who signed the acceptance of office.

1.2 Elect BPC Vice Chairman. The meeting **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Swain as Vice Chairman.

1.3 Appoint BPC Press Officer. It was **RESOLVED** not to elect a press officer.

1.4 Confirm BPC representative to Bicton Village Hall. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Stephen Griffin would be the council's representative.

1.5 Appoint BPC representative to Bicton Primary School. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Wendy Horan would be the council's representative.

1.6 BPC Trustee for St Chad's Charity. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would make enquiries to ascertain if the charity still functioned.

1.7 SALC representative. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mandie Lee would be the council's representative.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the agenda – Cllr S Maddox – item 9 a pecuniary interest.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - none

4. VERIFY DRAFT MINUTES dated 14/4/26. It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING from the last meeting:

5.1 Village Hall Car Park – the meeting considered to approve the extra costs for the works on the car park relating to manhole rebuild, soft ground issues, & extra fuel costs due to the Iran War of £6,250.00. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the addition cost of £6,250.00.

Councillor Maddox asked Cllr Swain if a date had been provided by Severn Trent on their volunteer day. It was agreed that the group could weed around the village. Cllr Maddox also advised the meeting that the area by the 4 crosses had been weeded, and the nursery has promised to keep the flower containers watered.

6. PARISH MATTERS

6.1 Muriel's Little Wood - Cllr Stephen Griffin advised that the area is tidy. The meeting also acknowledged that the bluebells were providing a good display.

6.2 Lengthsman report and instructions. The meeting was advised that our MP Julie Buckley had been contacted by a resident regarding overgrowth blocking the pavement at the Crescent. Our Lengthsman dealt with the issue the next day.

6.3 Best Kept Village Competition report. The meeting was advised that the Parish had been entered into the competition. The posters are to be displayed at the bus stop at Montford Bridge, in the Parish Noticeboards, in the Church porch, book kiosk, and at the school. The meeting **RESOLVED** to hold a community meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The clerk would design a poster and Cllrs Mandie Lee and Sally Maddox would put the poster on appropriate local What's App groups.

6.4 Village Hall Entrance & Pavement – consideration was given for approval of works to dig out and resurface at a cost of £2,080.00. Cllr Mandie Lee asked why just this pavement and not others. The meeting discussed that the works were connected to the Village Hall Driveway works, permission had been given by Shropshire Council. It was **RESOLVED** approval of the works at a cost of £2,080.00.

6.5 Church Clock –

6.51- the meeting considered to approve payment of £200.00 to the church clock fund. **RESOLVED** approval.

6.52 - consideration was given for the Parish Council to issue a community award to Paul Roberts in recognition of over 40 years in winding the church clock. It was **RESOLVED** approval for the Parish Council to present a community award to Paul Roberts in gratitude for his long service winding the church clock.

7 OFFICIAL MATTERS

- 7.1 Monthly Audit of Accounts; Received: precept £15,250.00; CIL Monies £57,609.50. **RESOLVED** approval. Bank Balances: current acc: £110,180.62 deposit: £ 64,552.48. **RESOLVED** approval.
- 7.2 Insurance for Bicton Parish Council is due for renewal on 01 June 2026; premium is £300.00 including tax. (£300.00 last year). It was **RESOLVED** approval to renew the Parish Council insurance with Zurich.
- 7.3 Standing Orders were received. It was **RESOLVED** approval of the circulated standing orders without revisions.
- 7.4 Financial Regulations were received. It was **RESOLVED** approval of the circulated Financial regulations without revisions.
- 7.5 Asset Register –consideration for approval of the circulated Asset Register. It was **RESOLVED** approval.
- 7.6 Casual Vacancy - The meeting was advised that Councillor R Brett has resigned as councillor effective from the April 28<sup>th</sup>. Shropshire Council has been advised, and a Casual Vacancy notice will be issued. The meeting thanked Cllr Brett for his tenure as Councillor. **Matter of report.**
- 7.7 Co-option – Consideration was given to the co-option of Mr Shaun Quigley. Mr Quigley advised the meeting that his family had had connections with Bicton for eight generations. He said that he would bring a fresh perspective to the Council and that he had the energy and enthusiasm to help guide Bicton as the village continues to evolve. In response to a question from Cllr Maddox, Mr Quigley confirmed that he currently lives 2.97 miles from Bicton, as the crow flies, but that his intention is to return to live in the village. It was **RESOLVED** that Mr Shaun Quigley be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Mr Quigley will sign the declaration of acceptance of office before the formal commencement of the next meeting.
- 7.8 Hire Hall Charges – the meeting was advised that the room hire fees are to be increased from £10.00 per hour to £12.50 per hour. **Matter of report.**

8 PLANNING

- 8.1 To note planning decisions made since the last meeting: - none.
- 8.2 To consider the following planning applications:  
26/01366/FUL Address: - Land Adjacent To Units 8 8A And 9, Bicton Business Park, Isle Lane, Bicton, PROPOSED - Erection of new building for additional B8 store for Morris Joinery plus Morris and Company Ltd Sport and Social Club plus associated landscape. It was **RESOLVED that** the parish council’s response would be neutral but raise concerns regarding the safety of pedestrian especially with the care home being close and the lack of a pavement. Cllr Blackmore would speak with applicant regarding they put in their proposal to lower the speed limit to 30mph past the industrial estate.

9 PARISH ACCOUNTS for payment: **RESOLVED** approval of the following payments:

Bicton Village Hall – Car Park CIL	£6,250.00
Sally Maddox (Planters for village planters)	£42.75
Maxine Baker (Wages April)	£352.44
K Williams Lengthsman duties	£391.00
Bicton Village Hall (Room Hire)	£225.00
SALC (Annual Membership fee)	£592.26

- 10 EXTRA INFORMATION - Cllr Griffin was willing to paint the bus stop, provided that the Parish Council purchased the paint. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would approve reimbursement for the cost of the paint. It was further agreed that the bus stop would be repainted in British Racing Green / National Trust Green.
- 11 NEXT MEETING to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026. at 7.30pm in Bicton Village Hall. A Community Meeting will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7.00pm.

[Meeting closed at 21.24pm].

Thank you to all residents who turn up to Parish Council Meetings and take an interest in the village

Many Thanks to all councillors who have helped over the last 12 months

Councillor Richard Brett has decided to retire so would like to thank him for 16 years of service to Bicton Parish Council and time spent as Chairman. On behalf of myself our Clerk and fellow councillors would like to wish him Jackie and family the very best of health and happiness for the future

The last 12 months has been a very challenging time.

At the end of last years May meeting our Clerk Peter made a comment to me and after a few days I decided to act

I had intended to visit 6 local Parish Council meetings observing their Clerks unfortunately only managing one due to a family member terminal cancer

I subsequently met with Mrs Maxine Baker who is Clerk to Ryton X1 Town and Codsall

Peter Anderson our clerk of 19 years took his final meeting in August 2025

Maxine eventually took over as Interim Clerk in September and became permanent on 1st May 2026

The changeover was not easy but Maxine took on the role and with her vast experience was able to make it look simple but I know it was far from that.

With her help we have accomplished many projects that would not of happened before. So Would like to thank Maxine for bringing us into the 21 century and spending more time than paid for in achieving our goals

We have been very fortunate to have Ed Potter as our County Councillor being very knowledgeable and enthusiastic

Best Kept Village competition We decided to enter last year and Sally had a trying time registering our interest and also organised everything We are extremely grateful for all her hard work We ended up getting Highly Commended at Shropshire Awards ceremony evening in Shifnal that Sally and I attended Receiving a voucher for £250

Finding out Points were lost for a few areas such as bus shelter and Community involvement

We have registered again to take part this year.

The School are going to participate but we need more residents to volunteer and take an interest

Muriel's little wood continues to be well used and enjoyed by many

Our Defib in the village hall foyer has never been used but is checked monthly

A pump track for teenagers is much needed and do hope a space can be found in a future development

Calcott Lane change to a cul-de-sac is a regular request from residence's but it was agreed to wait for a decision on the Oxon Link Road

Dog-poo is a recurring problem over the parish and the playing field

Village Hall Play park was in danger of been closed down unless urgent repairs were not carried out so the Parish Council stepped in and used Cil money for refurbishing play equipment and replacing both gates and minor repairs to fencing

Our old laptop was not fit for purpose, so a new one was purchased

We applied for a .Gov.uk domain and to upgrade the Parish Council website

Having VAS (vehicle activated signs) installed last year we encountered few problems which have been rectified We are very grateful to Andrew Leighton for collecting the generated information and providing a spreadsheet each month

Whilst tidying the old Church graveyard 16 years ago we made enquiries of local landowners and the Land Registry and established that Bicton Pool had no ownership so applied and received an LJC (Local joint council) grant to overhaul the pool and have maintained the area since from the Length Man's Account

A few years ago, installing a Park Bench and last September digging out silt and installing a new field fence

Having cared for the Pool for all these years It was decided to apply for adverse possession

We must be very grateful To Councillor Sue Llewellyn for going back through the archives to gather information and our Clerk Maxine for all her work applying to the Land Registry

MP Julia Buckley attended a public meeting in the village hall on 4th October with many subjects discussed

At the close of session Sally and myself took many questions from residents

For over 12 months I was very concerned that Shropshire Council would declare themselves Bankrupt and issue a 114 If that happened our CIL Money of over £100,000 would of been taken The day after January meeting I met with Councillor Ed Potter and it was decided to produce a survey to find out what residents priorities were.

Our Clerk Maxine was contacted next day and by late afternoon she had produced a draft that was tweaked

With Ed delivering a copy by hand and engaging with households in the area

The Bowling club applied for CIL money to tarmac the perimeter footpath to make it more accessible, and it was carried out a month ago

The Village Hall car park was a top priority for CIL funds

Easter Monday started with tackling the flooding issue and 48 underground storm cages installed giving 12 cubic meters of storage. The Island in the middle was removed stoned and tarmac laid. The play area hedge was removed and powder coated railings installed. We encountered a few problems with the project but eventually the White Line markings took place on Thursday May 7th giving us 60 spaces including 3 disabled and 2 Staff

The Village Hall were awarded a CIL grant to refurbish the toilets with other projects in the pipeline

The Plymouth Brethren have again been good neighbours providing assistance in litter picking and other projects

Finally, being on the edge of the county town we are susceptible to house planning applications and this year is no exception having recently received a number of housing developments on the Holyhead Road and Bicton Lane with one being rejected and the outcome of the others awaiting a decision

With All these proposed developments any storm water will put pressure on Bicton Brook and the threat of flooding will be a major problem for the village