

BITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 14th October 2025. 7.30pm Bicton Village Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs: Elliott Blackmore (Chairman), Richard Brett, Stephen Griffin, Sue Llewellyn, Mandie Lee, Wendy Horan, Sally Maddox, Edward Swain, SC Cllr Ed Potter; P C Margaret Keeble; Parish Clerk-Maxine Baker and 5 parishioners

Before the meeting began the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council congratulated Cllr Edd Potter on his recent nuptials.

Neighbourhood Alert – P.C. Keeble reported few incidents, with a single suspicious burglary noted. Speed checks show most drivers slightly exceed limits, but the VAS helps reduce speeds. Inappropriate parking at schools persists due to limited patrols covering 19 schools.

P.C. Keeble urged residents to secure homes during the darker months, as burglars often target rural areas.

Councillors expressed concern about speeding, especially in the early morning, mostly by local drivers. The officer also noted ongoing police understaffing.

Open Forum - A resident inquired about weed spraying near pavements. Councillor Ed Potter stated Highways avoids spraying if chemicals could reach the water system, though this policy may change if Shropshire transfers street scene responsibilities to the Parish Council.

Another resident raised concerns about speeding along Calcott Lane and the need to address the situation with some road improvements - they handed over a signed petition to Cllr Ed Potter.

A resident recommended adding another VAS sign for data collection.

Report from S.C. Ed Potter:

Cllr Ed Potter reported visiting Bicton School, where the school council discussed road safety, including a 20mph speed limit and a pelican crossing near the school—potential projects for Parish Council CIL funding if not supported by Shropshire Council. He also noted that Shropshire Council's Chief Executive has recently left, with an interim replacement appointed. Additionally, he highlighted concerns about the lack of a 5-year land supply, which puts all areas at risk of development.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – none.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Blackmore – a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.i. Cllr Maddox – agenda item 5. ii.
3. **Verify draft Minutes dated 9th September 2025** – with an amendment the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising**
 - I. **Lengthmans** – last cut of the season has been undertaken. Cllrs mentioned

the clearing of weeds on Church Lane, the close and the Oval.

II. Bicton Village Hall – Play Park Lease: The meeting was advised that this would be put on hold.

III. Shropshire Council – Memorandum of Understanding - (a copy of the Memorandum of Understating had been circulated prior to the meeting).

RESOLVED that permission is given for the chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Blackmore to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Parish Council

IV. Gov.Uk – Domain - (the Clerks advisory note was circulated prior to the meeting). **RESOLVED** approval for the interim clerk to apply for a. Gov.uk domain and seek quotes to upgrade the Parish Council website to WCAG 2.2AA standards.

1. Julie Buckley MP – The Chairman reported that at a recent meeting with MP Julie Buckley, concerns were raised about uninformed road closures and malfunctioning traffic lights on the Welsh Bridge, which have now been resolved after one phone call. Other topics discussed included bus timetables, storm water issues, train services, and fibre optics.

5. Parish Matters

i. Village Hall –

a. Play Park – New Equipment – Consideration was given to awarding a grant for £6,650. To Bicton Village Hall for refurbishing play equipment and purchasing new gates. **RESOLVED** approval.

b. Village Hall projects – Consideration was given to other projects that the village Hall wants to undertake like extending the car park and modifications to the kitchen. **RESOLVED** to prioritise the outside play area and recommend the Village Hall seek suitable funding sources.

1. Bicton Pool – Councillor Blackmore provided an update, noting that the pool excavation has been completed and wildlife has already begun to inhabit the area. The meeting acknowledged that the Parish Council had been actively maintaining the area since at least 2010, and that as agreed at September's meeting qualifies for adverse possession claim.

ii. Defibrillator- an update was given by Cllr Sally Maddox who advised that the defibrillator is coming to the end of its warranty. **RESOLVED** approval for Cllr Maddox to purchase two replacement sets of pads and battery sticks.

iii. Best Kept Village Competition – competition result - Bicton was awarded Highly Commended. Points were lost on a few areas such as the bus shelter and community involvement. A more detailed breakdown of the results will be released. The Parish council was awarded a voucher for £250.00. **RESOLVED** approval for the money to be used for improvements to the bus shelter.

iv. Environment Grant Scheme - **RESOLVED** approval to applying for funding. **v. Police Priorities** – **RESOLVED** that Bicton's Police Priorities to be Speeding, road Safety and Rural Crime.

vi. Residents Correspondence – Consideration was given to an email from a local resident requesting CIL funds, if the proposed 18 homes on Holyhead

Road are approved, to replace the poorly lit VAS device on the northwest carriageway of the B4380. **RESOLVED** approval to the request.

6. Planning Decisions & Planning Applications

i. To note planning decisions made since the last meeting: None. ii.

Consideration was given to planning applications:

Reference: 24/04563/FUL

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land to The North Of, Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath

Proposal: Erection of 283 Class C3 dwellings, means of access, landscaping, public open space and associated infrastructure.

- **RESOLVED** that, as the land is part of the Urban Extension, individuals are encouraged to submit a response if they wish to do so.

7. Reports

- Muriels Little Wood; Safety Report – the higher kissing gate needs to be looked at.
- VAS – Speed indicator Devices, Progress report was received and noted. iii. Clerks Report was received and noted.

8. Financial Reports

- RESOLED** approval to the following list of payments:

Kevin Williams	£128.00	Lengthmans duties
Cllr Mr E Blackmore	£866.40	Bicton Pool - Bill Brown Digger Hire (£600.00 inc VAT); Wilds Plant Hire Ltd – Dumper (£266.40
Maxine Baker	£288.84	Wages – September
HMRC	£91.56	Tax & N.I – Tax Period 6
Maxine Baker	£445.92	Laptop; Microsoft 365 subscription and MacAfee subscription
PKF Littlejohn	£252.00	External Audit Fees

- RESOLVED** approval to the latest reconciliation of banking statements. iii.

Consideration was given to the circulated External audit certificate and opinion for 2024/25. **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the external Auditors' opinion and indicate that measures will be implemented for the following year.

9. Extra Information – none

10. Date of the next meeting - to note that the next meeting shall be held on November 11th, 7.30 pm at Bicton Village Hall