



BIDFORD-ON-AVON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13



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Message from Cllr. Gerrard, Chairman of Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

Last year, I was able to present a report which was in effect The Last Will & Testament of the Parish Council elected in 2008, and which with relatively few changes in personnel conducted the Council's business for the four intervening years. That council had a clear commitment to progress along the lines proposed in the B50 Parish Plan approved in 2003/4 and to redressing some of the gaps in provision created in the parish by its spectacular growth in housing (and therefore population) during the preceding decade. By and large, this was not a matter of controversy within the council, and the watchword of the parish was extension and improvement in the quality of the services provided, on which its members were substantially agreed.

However, it was subjected to attack in the run-up to the 2012 election, and several new councillors were elected, while some serving members lost their seats. I have not previously had an opportunity to thank ex councillors John Sandle, Chris Hill and Rob Williams formally for their services to the council during their membership. I wish to do so now, and to use this occasion to acknowledge the contribution that they made as councillors.

It is said that every loss begets a gain, and as you are no doubt aware, we have gained a number of new members of the Council, namely (in alphabetic order) Councillors

- Joe Harvey, elected to represent the Broom polling district,*
- Lee Pound,*
- Mrs. Charlotte Randell – in a council which twelve years ago included four ladies, it is good to see another lady taking membership,*
- John Squires.*

All of you are welcome, and it is well within the bounds of possibility that some of you will make a distinguished contribution to the Parish Council in the course of your council membership. It has taken us a while, but I am confident that the new council has begun to operate more as a unit and I look forward to the coming year.

I trust that, once again, you will find this Annual Report informative

*Cllr. M Gerrard
Chairman of Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council*



**BIDFORD-ON-AVON PARISH COUNCIL
2012/13**

1. THE PARISH COUNCIL

• **Parish Councillors**

- ❖ Michael Atkins, 16 Waterloo Road, B50 4DL
Tel. No. 772402
- ❖ Bill Fleming, 3 Queensway, B50 4BA
Tel. No. 772590
- ❖ Michael Gerrard, 10 Holland Close B50 4BE
Tel. No. 778493
- ❖ Joe Harvey, 18 High Street, Broom, B50 4HJ
Tel. No. 07778 650275
- ❖ Fred Hiscocks, 38 Victoria Rd., B50 4AR
Tel No. 778 464
- ❖ Joy Keeley, 30 Icknield Close B50 4BZ
Tel. No. 773011
- ❖ Lee Pound, 2 Paddock Close, B50 4PJ
Tel. No. 772123
- ❖ Charlotte Randell, 26 Crompton Avenue, B50 4DG
Tel. No. 778026
- ❖ John Squires, 15 Ebsdorf Close, B50- 4FQ
Tel. No. 772506
- ❖ Frank Spiers 2 Bryan Mews B50 4BF
Tel. No. 772740

• **Parish Council Office**

The Parish Council has an office, which is situated in Bramley Way, B50 4QG (next to the library). The office is open to members of the public 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 1.30 to 4.30 pm on Thursday, subject to meetings and site visits. If these times are inconvenient, the Clerk can be contacted and a suitable day and time can be arranged. The Parish Council Meeting Room, where the Council holds its meetings, surgeries etc. is also situated in Bramley Way.

❖ **Clerk to the Parish Council : Mrs. Elisabeth Uggerløse**

Postal address only:

C/o Post Office
30 High Street
Bidford-on-Avon
B50 4AA
Tel. No 778653/07718 628925
email: info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk



- **Meetings**

The Council meets regularly twice a month:

- ❖ Planning Committee Meeting, which has its own Chairman and Vice Chairman, is held the second Monday of each month
- ❖ Parish Council Meeting, is held the fourth Monday of each month – except Bank Holidays.

Public Notices of meetings held by the Parish Council are posted on the various notice boards 4 clear days prior to the meeting

- ❖ Bidford (notice boards are outside the school and by the bus stop in the High Street by the churchyard)
- ❖ Barton (opposite the Cottage of Content)
- ❖ Broom – by the Village Hall, High Street
- ❖ Marlcliff – Cleeve Road

The Agenda, giving full details of the business to be transacted, is available

- ❖ on the notice board by the Parish Council Office on Bramley Way,
- ❖ the website www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/meetings.htm
- ❖ By contacting the Clerk.

Members of the public are invited, and welcomed, to attend these meetings: the Agenda always has a Public Forum and Youth forum item when those attending can address the Council and raise issues. It is important to note that the Council cannot make a decision unless the item is included on the Agenda. Copy of the Guidance Notes on Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings is available on www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/procedures.htm or by contacting the Clerk

For those who prefer a less public forum; the Parish Council arranges regular surgeries every two months, two of which take place in Broom Village Hall. These are well publicised on the notice boards and on the website, as well as the press

Attendance by Councillors to the monthly Planning Committee and Parish Council Meetings was very good – there were only 11 Planning Committee meetings as none was held in December 2012

Name	Planning	Parish Council
Cllr. Atkins	8	12
Cllr Fleming	11	12
Cllr. Gerrard	11	11
Cllr Harvey	8	10
Cllr Hiscocks	7	12
Cllr. Mrs Keeley	10	10
Cllr. Pound	10	10
Cllr Mrs Randell	9	11
Cllr Spiers	10	11
Cllr Squires	11	10



- **Membership and activities**

- ❖ **Alcester/Bidford Local Community Forum**

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council continues to take an active part in the Alcester/Bidford Community Forums which take place quarterly. The Clerk attends agenda preparation meetings and, together with the Clerk to Alcester Town Council, shares the note taking responsibility at the meetings.

You can find details of outcomes of these meetings on the Parish Council's website: <http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/news.htm>
Bidford and Alcester Community Forum

- ❖ **Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC)**

WALC represents and works alongside the parish and town councils in Warwickshire and the West Midlands and is affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils.

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council is a member of WALC and of its County Committee, where it is represented by the Clerk. The County Committee, which represents the interests of local councils in a wider context, meet quarterly in Leamington Spa

- ❖ **Quality Status Reaccreditation**

Members are pleased and proud to be able to confirm that on 8th September 2012 Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council was re-accredited as a Quality Council, effectively confirming the status originally achieved 4 years ago.

The aim of the Scheme is to provide benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils. The scheme was reviewed in 2008 to better reflect the increased professionalism of Parish and Town Councils who, in order to achieve this accreditation must demonstrate that they have attained the standard required by passing several tests:

- ❖ **Clerk's Qualification**

The Clerk achieved her Foundation Degree (with Merit) in Community Engagement and Governance from the University of Gloucestershire in June 2012 – the knowledge obtained from this course has greatly benefited the Parish Council and local community



❖ **General Power of Competence (GPC)**

This was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and gives power to the Parish Council to do anything that individuals of full legal capacity may do, thus giving it the power to take reasonable action needed for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or persons in its area..

The GPC gives local authorities the opportunity to develop new and innovative business models in ways that were previously not allowed. However, a Parish Council must fulfil certain requirements:

- ✓ At least 75% of its members must be elected
- ✓ The Clerk must be qualified, and have passed Section 7 of the Certificate in Local Council Administration

Bidford on Avon Parish Council fulfils these requirements and resolved to adopt the General Power of competence in September 2012.

❖ **Planning Committee (West)**

The Parish Council is also very conscientious in attending Planning Committee Meetings at Elizabeth House when it has either opposed or supported a Planning Application which comes before the Committee for a decision.

During 2012/13 it attended on 5 occasions;

- ✓ Land to the East of Waterloo Road (objecting) – September and October 2012
- ✓ Alamo Group, Salford Priors (supporting) – September 2012
- ✓ Land to the North of Bramley Way (objecting) March 2013
- ✓ Farmington Farm, George Elms Road (supporting) March 2013

It also attended 2 Public Hearings

- ✓ **Old Railway Yard/Greenacres** – October 2012. The Parish Council was successful as this appeal was dismissed by the Inspectorate
- ✓ **.Land to the rear of 18 Salford Road** – October/November 2012. The Parish Council was successful as this appeal was dismissed by the Inspectorate on the grounds put forward by the Council, namely Highway issues



- **Information**

The Council's award winning website was redesigned in August 2011 to make access and navigation easier. The address remains unchanged: www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk.

Apart from Parish Council notices and information, you will also find details of:

- ❖ Parish Council information, including:
 - ✓ Minutes
 - ✓ Procedures
 - ✓ Contact information
 - ✓ Planning
- ❖ Notices
- ❖ Upcoming events
- ❖ Newsletters (Police, Alcester/Bidford Community Forum etc)
- ❖ Groups and People (with links where available)
- ❖ Minerals Plan – with updates regarding the current consultation
- ❖ Planning 2011-2028 – with updates regarding the current consultation
- ❖ Campaigns (Save our Fire Station; library)
- ❖ Bidford – your pictures (photos sent by residents)
- ❖ Parish Village Halls
- ❖ Parish Churches (with links to their websites)
- ❖ Young Bidford
- ❖ Bidford Rural Cinema
- ❖ Bidford Businesses
- ❖ Links to County and District Council websites, as well as other useful sites

Information regarding updates, forthcoming events, weather etc. is sent regularly by email to those residents that subscribe. Email addresses are **NOT** disclosed: so if you want up-to-date information and to be notified of village events, why not email the Clerk info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk and ask to be added to the email list.

The Parish Council also publishes a monthly Newsletter in The Connection magazine, which is free and distributed to all households in the Parish.

Please do read it as it gives details of any forthcoming meetings as well as important notices.

It also prepares and edits the quarterly **BIG Paper**, which stands for **Bidford Inter Generation**. This publication is for the local community: an opportunity to:

- ❖ Let others read some of your thoughts or ideas,
- ❖ Tell them of your successes,
- ❖ Encourage membership of an association, group or society
- ❖ Advertise future events
- ❖ Report on events that have taken place in the village



2. VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS 2012/13

• Big Meadow

❖ **Sports Pavillion refurbishment**

The Parish Council was successful in bidding for a £50,000 Award from Sport England under their Olympic legacy Funding “Inspired Facilities Fund.

This amount was match funded by:

- ✓ Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council
- ✓ Bidford Cricket Club
- ✓ Bidford Juniors FC
- ✓ Charity Estate of Alice, Duchess Dudley

Despite some setbacks due to the inclement weather, the refurbishment, which was carried out by a local building firm, was completed in early spring. It is the hope of all those involved that it truly will be an **Olympic Sporting Legacy for the young of Bidford-on-Avon**

❖ **Ladies and Disabled Toilets**

These facilities were fully refurbished for this summer. Again, the weather interfered with the completion date, but they were open not long after the Big Meadow started its season.

❖ **Trees** – the replanting and maintenance of the trees along the Big Meadow continues.

• Street/Road improvements

❖ Continuing with its programme of replacing old and/or damaged streetlights, 5 new columns, which cost a total of £5,512.26 were installed in

- ✓ Court Way x 1
- ✓ Trafalgar Court x 2
- ✓ Wilkes Way x 2

The Streetlights on Trafalgar Court and Court Way have been transferred to County Council

❖ Grass and verge maintenance contract in place to ensure the village always looks its best

❖ Open space area by Paddock Close was transferred to the Parish Council by Persimmons

❖ Clearing of the ditch along Honeybourne Road as a flood alleviation scheme

• Dugdale Avenue Sports Field

To celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee, the Parish Council successfully applied to have Dugdale Avenue Sports Field established as a Queen Elizabeth II Field, protecting the land from development and guaranteeing this land as an open space area for sport and other activities for the local community. A commemorative plaque has been installed to that effect



- **Other**

- ❖ **Bidford Community Library Ltd (BCL)**

Following the Parish Council's successful bid to keep Bidford Library open, Bidford Community Library Ltd., set up as a Not for Profit Social Enterprise, opened its doors on 2nd April 2012.

IN order to ensure its viability and help it become a sustainable company, the Parish Council is continuing to support it financially: however, it wishes to make clear that the library is now an independent company, run by a Board of Directors, who are all volunteers, and staffed by a large number of volunteers from within Bidford-on-Avon Parish and surrounding villages.

The Parish Council wishes them all the best.

- ❖ **Broom Flood Alleviation Scheme**

This was completed in April 2012 and, so far, has stood the test.

- ❖ **Marlcliff Flood Alleviation Scheme**

This work commenced in the autumn. Regrettably, it was not entirely completed before the bad weather arrived in November, which resulted in some dwellings being damaged, not so much from the river but back up. Since then, the Parish Council has provided Marlcliff with a portable pump, which local volunteers will man when required

- ❖ **New Open Space Area** – in March 2012 a small area of open space at The Paddocks was transferred from Persimmon Homes to the Parish Council, who will now be responsible for its maintenance.

- ❖ **Maintenance** The Parish Council maintains the following areas:

- St. Laurence Churchyard;
- Grange Road and Salford Road Cemeteries
- Grass and hedge maintenance in Bidford-on-Avon and Broom
- Grass cutting of:
 - The Big Meadow
 - Dugdake Avenue Sports Fields
 - Hill View Road
 - Millers Bank
 - All the play areas :
 - Jubilee Close
 - Kings Lane, Broom
 - Marleigh Park
 - The Leys
 - Youth Shelter site to the rear of the fire station
- Flower boxes
- Weekly visual inspection of all the play equipment
- Monthly inspection and maintenance of 167 street lights



- **Amenities**

- ❖ **Bidford Rural Cinema** – this is a partnership between The Crawford Memorial Hall and the Parish Council and its aim is to offer entertainment to the local community at an affordable price. Tickets remain at £2.50. Films are screened at 7.00 pm on the first and fourth Fridays of the month, except August. The aim is to cater for all ages and tastes!

Films are well advertised in advance and posters are placed on:

- Parish Council’s notice boards
- Crawford Memorial Hall
- Local shops, Post Office and St. Laurence Church rooms
- Library
- Parish Council website under Events and its own site Bidford Rural Cinema
- Evesham Journal

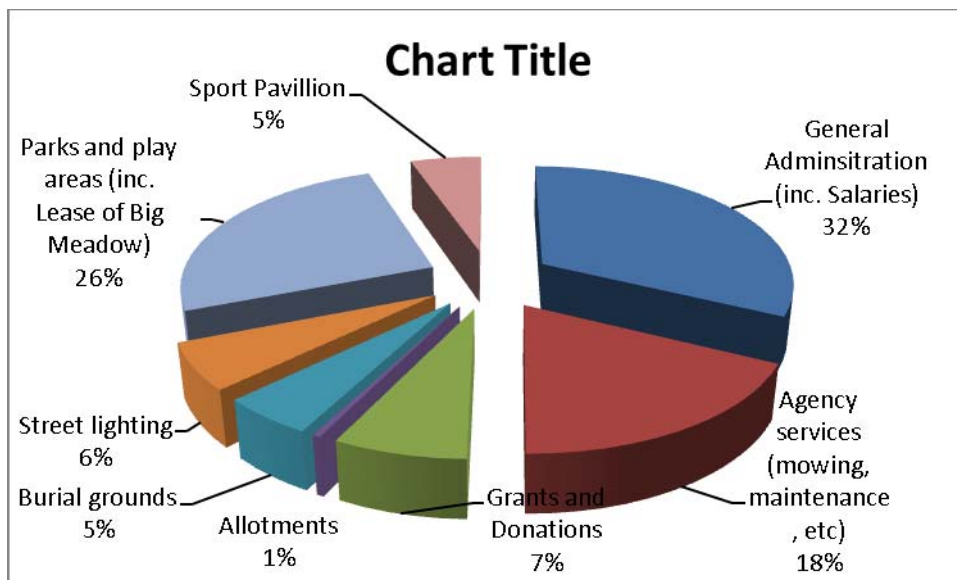
Refreshments, which are available before the film and during the interval, are sponsored by Warner’s Budgens and are very reasonably priced

3. **ACCOUNTS**

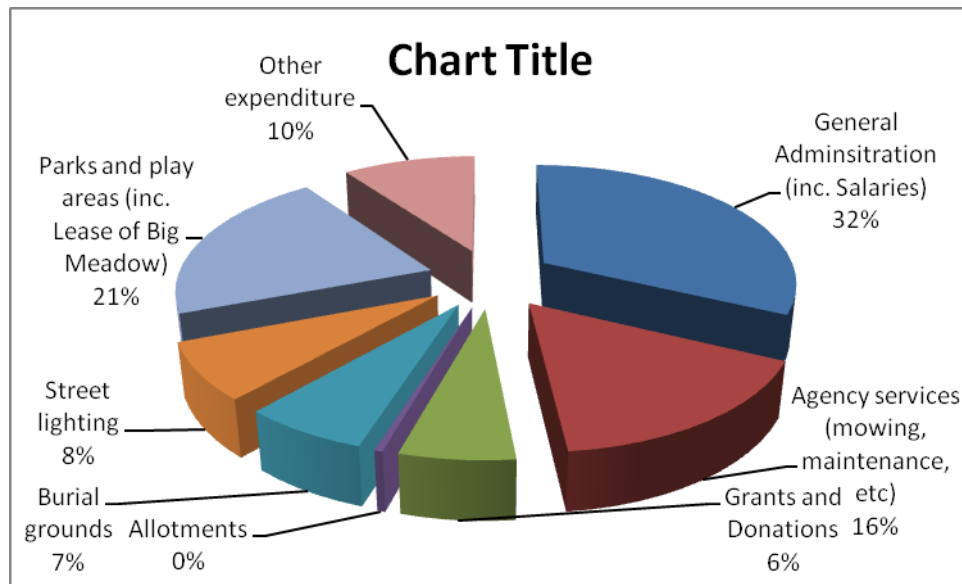
The Precept – funds raised from parishioners through the Council Tax and paid to the Parish Council to cover its expenditure. The 2012/13 Precept was set at £210,900 and approved by the Council at its meeting held on 18th December 2011.

The Parish Council spent the precept as follows:

FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/13



FINANCIAL YEAR 2011/12



- ❖ **General Administration** is one of the main expenditures. It includes the salary of a full time Clerk (37 hours a week) and a part time Responsible Financial Officer, as well as insurance, rents, telephone, internet, maintenance of the website, and other administrative expenses as well as training courses attended by Councillors and the Clerk
 - ❖ **Agency Services** – this includes mowing and maintenance of the 6 play areas/Open Space Areas, namely:
 - Big Meadow/Monie Meadow
 - Dugdale Avenue Sports Fields
 - The Paddocks
 - Jubilee Close
 - Kings Lane, Broom
 - Marleigh Park
 - Millers Bank, Broom
 - The Leys
- And
- ❖ Flower boxes
 - ❖ Grass/Verge cutting and maintenance in Bidford and Broom



❖ **Donations and Section 137** – these are the donations and grants given by the Parish Council to charities and social groups working for the benefit of the local community and this year it included the following local associations:

○ Regular annual donations	£735.00
○ Jubilee event – St. Laurence Church	100.00
○ Jubilee event – Broom	350.00
○ Alcester Café	50.00
○ Community Links	744.00
○ Vintage Gathering	300.00
○ Jubilee event – Home Farm Trust	200.00
○ Jubilee event – The Leys	150.00
○ Jubilee event – Coins for children	278.00
○ Poppy Appeal	50.00
○ Buy in Bidford event	200.00
○ Bidford Community Library	5,000.00
○ Citizens Advice Bureau	3,909.00
○ Bidford on Avon Primary School	350.00
○ Bidford Youth Club	1,100.00
TOTAL	£13,516.00

❖ **Allotments and Burial Ground** –maintenance costs

❖ **Street lighting** – main costs include

○ Replacement of 5 columns	£5,030.86
○ Annual maintenance contract	1,204.56
○ Unmetered electricity supply	5,725.68
TOTAL	£11,961.10

❖ **Parks and Play areas** – includes :

○ Lease of the Big Meadow	£10,000.00
○ Running costs of the Big Meadow	£ 20,555.00
○ Grass/verge maintenance	14,744.00
○ Maintenance of open spaces	5,200.00
TOTAL	£50,499.00

- **Miscellaneous** – includes new street furniture, general maintenance and repairs etc

A copy of the Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2013 is available upon request.

Report written and published by Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council
June 2013

