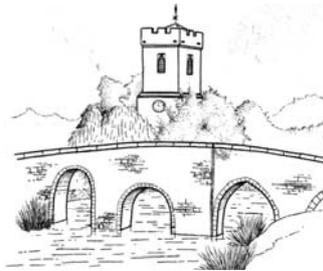


# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. Gerrard – Chairman

Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Mrs. Keeley, Hendey, Hiscocks, Langston, Spiers and Ms. Varga and the RFO

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Smith. Cllr. Sandle was absent

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

Proposed by Cllr. Hiscocks as being accurate and signed by the Chairman

### **3. BUDGET 2006/07**

Cllr. Smith, who had sent his apologies for not being able to attend, had sent his comments by email and these were distributed to all councillors and the RFO prior to the commencement of the meeting.

- Details of the projected budget, based on the “wish list” discussed at the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, were presented by the RFO and all councillors given a copy.
- Before starting to discuss the figures, the Council clarified their objectives as follows:
  - The unilateral withdrawal of Section 136 by SDC, effective from April 2006 means that the precept will have to increase by at least £13,000 just to stay even.

- It was again pointed out that SDC had misled the Council with regards to the “grant” of £250,000 towards the improvement of the Crawford Hall and Social Centre, which had resulted in the Council’s reserves being reduced by £50,000 – this matter would have to be addressed when discussing the precept.
- The Council wishes to continue the improvement to the village
- The additional costs that will have to be incurred for the playing fields at the rear of Dugdale Avenue, the extra street lights of Midsummer Gardens and the future adoption of Old School Mead, 1 Waterloo Rd. and Friday Furlong.
- Cemetery – it was agreed that although the costs are low, specially in comparison to other Parish and Town Councils, the recently agreed increase of £15.00 effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, should remain. It was further resolved that a further increase of £15.00 should be made in April 2007.
- The Big Meadow/Monie Meadow – it was realised that it does not break even. However, it was agreed that the parking charge of £2 should not be increased as it would result on fewer visitors and hence less revenue. This had occurred when the rates had been increased last time and it was remarked how full the Anglo Saxon car park is in the summer with visitors preferring to park there than on the Big Meadow.  
However, it was resolved that the contract for the Gate Keeper’s Duties should be reviewed when it falls due on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006.
- Cemetery Drive and Grange Rd. wall – it was agreed that the amounts of £15,000 and £5,000 respectively should be earmarked for these eventualities.
- Dugdale car park. It was agreed that this expenditure should be removed from the budget and a specification for a hardcore car park obtained, with approx. costs. The possibility of a grant to meet this cost to be investigated.
- Village Hall – the amount towards this item to be reduced to £5,000
- Street lights maintenance – it was agreed to reduce this item to £3,750 – the approx. cost of 5 street lights
- Playground equipment – it was agreed to remove this item
- Village Appraisal – it was agreed to reduce this to £1,000 which the Chairman believed would be sufficient to cover the Village Design project
- Twinning and Transport Tokens – it was agreed to remove both this items.
- Amount of Precept – it was agreed that, however painful, the Council had to ensure it was able to carry out its commitments of both maintaining and improving the village. It was proposed that the sum of £71 per Band D household be levied. A second proposal was for £69. The Chairman asked for a voting on the second proposal of £69 – for which 7 voted. The first proposal of £71 was then withdrawn and it was resolved that the precept should be based on £69 per Band D which would raise a precept of £134,000.  
The RFO was then asked to amend the budget accordingly and let the Council have the necessary details for approval at the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

FM 10 Jan 2006