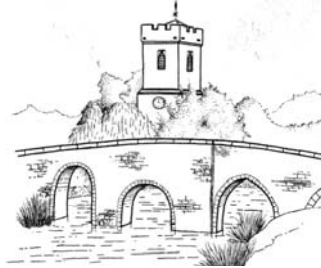


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



**Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 28th November
7.30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

PRESENT:

Chairman : Cllr. Gerrard
Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Hendey, Hiscocks, Mrs. Keeley,
Langston, Sandle and Spiers

Also present the RFO

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. Smith and Ms. Varga

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY
MEETING OF 10th JULY 2006**

Proposed by Cllr. Langston as being accurate and signed by the Chairman of the
Committee

3. REVIEW OF THE ESTIMATES 2006/07

- The Chairman opened this session by advising the RFO there could be some expenses involved in the Calor Village Competition, and proposed that these expenses could be covered by the money that had been allocated in the budget to B50. It was agreed that £1,000 be put aside for the competition and it was noted that a further £1,200 was also available from money allocated to Beautiful Bidford.
- The Chairman also advised the RFO that the purchase and installation of a single goal post for the Jubilee Close play area had been approved at the November Parish Council meeting, and that a figure of £350 should be allocated for this.
- The RFO was then asked to give his report:

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- He advised that he was not aware of any funds forthcoming from the Millers Bank development and noted these funds had now been received under S106 and that they were to be allocated to the upkeep of Broom's Kings Lane playing field; the open space at Millers Bank and the play equipment at Broom.
- He advised that, as at November 2006 the Parish Council's accounts showed a surplus of £86,000 and the projected surplus for the end of the financial year would be approx. £78,000 to be kept as reserve, to which members agreed. There had been some concern at the depletion of the reserve and the Chairman noted that it was good practice to have a reserve equivalent to 9 months' precept value.
- Following the RFO's report, the following issues were discussed::
 - It was proposed that £450 be allocated to the Village of the Year event being held on Saturday 9th December – this was unanimously agreed
 - That the £10,000 donation to the Broom Village Committee, which was to be spread over the years 2007/08 and 2008/09 be given during this financial year – this was unanimously agreed.
 - Quote to be obtained for the pruning of the trees along the Big Meadow path, following requests by the Fire Brigade
 - That the contract for the work to the Monie Meadow fence be finalised

4. PREPARATION OF BUDGET FOR 2007/08 – INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS AND GRANTS

- Electricity – the clerk has been advised that it was hoped next year's contract would be 10% lower than the current year's. However, it was proposed that, as this was still in negotiations and that 60 extra streetlights from the Midsummer Garden was still a strong possibility, the allocation for the forthcoming year should remain unchanged.
- To continue the street replacement project, allocation should be made for a further five streetlights to be replaced next year, and a quote to be obtained
- Allocation for two new streetlights, one by the telephone box in the High Street and a possible second @ £900 each.
- Allocation of £1000 to be made for the streetlight by the War Memorial to have "Victorian" cladding.
- Electricity maintenance fee to be increased by 5%
- Play area servicing to be allocated £3000
- Play equipment – there is a reserve of £5000, a further £5,000 to be added to the reserve and there is also a balance of £3,500 from the grant received for play equipment for Marleigh Rd.
- £50000 to be allocated to new equipment
- £5000 to be allocated as reserves for improvements to Dugdale Ave. playing fields.
- Village improvement to be allocated £5000
- Cemetery has £15000 reserve (for road improvement) this to be increased by 10%
- Trees - £3000 to be allocated

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- Grange Rd. reserve for the wall improvement to be increased by £5000
- Big Meadow winter car park to be repaired and £5000 allocated for this
- Street furniture (dog bins, litter bins etc) to be allocated £6000. Sponsorship for dog bins etc. to be looked into to help reduce costs.
- Office furniture allocated £1000
- Salaries – as per the adopted scale LC28
- Section 137 – the normal list of donations to various local charities to continue
 - The following local associations had requested grants:
 - ❖ Bowling club – grant towards a new fence. Members were reminded that the grant given to the Bowling Club for improvements was for £90,000, whereas the payments made were for £92,620, leaving deficit of £2,620 of which the Bowling Club was aware. In view of this, the Parish Council agreed that no grant should be forthcoming.
 - ❖ Bidford Sports Club had written requesting assistance to continue their improvements and a grant of £250 was agreed to help them start the ball rolling in the fund raising efforts.
 - ❖ The clerk suggested that, as it appeared that many local organizations failed to send in their requests within the requested time, i.e. by 31st October each year, but continued to send them around spring, that perhaps a sum of money could be allocated to cover for this. The suggestion was accepted, and a sum of £10000 was allocated.
 - ❖ The Twinning Association had suggested that the Chairman and another members of the Parish Council, with spouses/partner attend the celebrations in Ebsdorf in 2007, as they were celebrating their 1100th anniversary. The suggested date was in May and £500 were allocated.
 - ❖ £300 had already been agreed for Stop! Listen...Play

The meeting closed at 9.45pm