

# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon. The meeting took place after the Planning Committee Meeting and started at 8.10 pm**

**PRESENT:**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Hendey

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

All members of the Council are reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2002, if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have Declared an Interest which could be prejudicial, they should withdraw from the room and not seek to improperly influence a decision about that matter

*Cllr. Mrs., Keeley declared a non pecuniary interest in item 9*

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY MEETING OF 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

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

**4. RENEWAL OF THE NOTIFICATION UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT**

The cost of £35 was agreed and a cheque raised and signed.

**5. APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTING DATA SERVICES LTD AS THE PARISH COUNCIL'S INTERNAL AUDITOR**

Members expressed satisfaction with the work that Accounting Data Services Ltd. Had been carrying out to date as the Council's internal auditor, and agreed to continue its appointment as internal auditor. In this respect, the clerk was instructed to sign the letter of engagement.

**6. JUBILEE CLOSE – APPROVAL OF QUOTATION RECEIVED FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT**

As had been agreed at the June Parish Council Meeting, the Clerk had requested firm quotation for play equipment based on the preference shown by residents and for a maximum of £30,000, this being the amount approved.

The Clerk had discussed the issue of fencing off the area with the play equipment company's representative, who had inspected the site prior to quoting. In his opinion, which he confirmed in writing, there is no immediate need for a fence and the cost of installing this would diminish the value of the play equipment that could be installed. However, at the clerk's request, the cost of the fence was quoted for, separate from the cost of the play equipment.

The Council considered the issue and agreed that it should maximize the value of the play equipment and budget for the fence to be installed in the next financial year.

**7. SOLAR STREET LIGHTING**

The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee had looked at how this could be financed from the reserves. However, the Clerk had received an email from WCC, who have the contract to maintain the Parish Council's street lights, expressing concerns regarding the output and reliability of solar powered street lights. These were read to councillors and, after some consideration to the points raised, it was agreed that recommendations should be sought from customers of the two companies that had sent in quotes to enable members to compare these findings with those points raised by WCC and ensure Best Value.

**8. CCTV**

The SDC officer in charge of the above had visited members and advised them of the improvements being carried out to the CCTV service throughout the district. During the meeting, she also requested members look into the possibility of contributing to the running costs which, in the case of Bidford, amount to approx. £4,500 pa.

The Council concluded that it was neither the Highway Authority nor the Police and it could not therefore find any justification in contributing. Furthermore, to date, the system has been found wanting although members did agree that some improvements had been made recently.

**9. WEST WARWICKSHIRE SCOUTS**

The Centenary celebrations are taking place between 29<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August and a fund raising appeal letter had been received.

Members agreed that the scouts performed an important service for the youngsters of the community and it was proposed that a donation of £300 - £10 per family with a scout member – should be made. This was carried.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm