

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Thursday 29th November 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.

PRESENT:

Chairman : Cllr. Gerrard
Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Hendey, Hiscocks, Langston,
Mrs. Keeley, 0m Sandle Spiers and Ms. Varga

Also present the RFO and the Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

None

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 20th August 2007 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

There were none

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY MEETING OF 8TH OCTOBER 2007

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley as being accurate and signed by the Chairman of the Committee after the interest rate figure, which was missing, was added.

4. REVIEW OF SECOND QUARTER 2007/08

The figures had been circulated. They included the £5000 spent on the Barton Speed Limited Review.

The RFO clarified that “general expenses” included such items as the updating of the website, the cost of the monthly broadband invoices.

The RFO also pointed out that the income from the Big Meadow was very reduced compared to other years due to the bad weather suffered this summer.

5. PREPARATION OF THE BUDGET 2008/09

The RFO asked whether there were any further major expenditures for the current financial year that would take place.

- Lighting – replacement of 5 street lights as per the council’s programme would take place at a cost of £5,581.12
2 solar powered street lights were being installed on the footpath by Broom Bridge as agreed at the Parish Council Meeting in August.
- Play equipment - £5,000 on senior swings
- The cleaning up of Dugdale Avenue playing fields

The Council then proceeded to prepare the 2008/09 budget

- Lighting
 - The Maintenance contract had been received and showed a large increase from the previous year due to new health and safety regulations. It was agreed the Council should accept it for this year and that the Amenities Group should review the situation for future years.
 - The replacement programme to continue with a further 5 street lights to be replaced. An amount of £1,250 each was budgeted.
 - Electricity costs: it was agreed to increase it by 6.5% to cover the extra streetlights and any increase in the cost of electricity.
- Play equipment: it was agreed that £15,000 from this year should be transferred to reserves and a further £5,000 added.
- Lengthman project – although still in its initial stages, the council agreed to budget £10,000 under the heading Agency/Lengthmans. The Clerk advised she and the Clerk to Salford Priors PC were meeting with WCC on 11th December to discuss this issue and see what WCC could offer in financial terms.
- Cemetery: £5,000 for contingencies were agreed
- Section 137 - £10,000 were agreed
- Beautiful Bidford : £4,000 were agreed
- Street furniture : £6,000 agreed
- War Memorial £500 agreed
- Village Improvements : £5,000 agreed
- Tree Maintenance : £3,000 agreed
- Elections (these will take place in May 2008) £2,000 agreed this figure was based on the communication sent by SDC.

- Maintenance and repairs: £2,500 agreed.

The RFO to prepare a budget on the above basis to present to the Council

6. EXPENDITURE – BROOM PLAY EQUIPMENT AND STREET LIGHT

- Quotations had been received based on the preferences of Broom residents, as well as for the basket ball court and £50,000 were agreed to cover, this amount to come from the Section 106 commuted sum in respect of Millers Bank.
- It was also agreed that the fencing of the Kings Lane play field should not be funded by Section 106.
- Street lights – this item was already agreed upon in point 5

7. REQUEST FOR GRANTS

- Sports Association: A proposal for £1,000 had been put forward at the October Parish Council meeting, when it had been agreed that the chairman of the Finance and Strategy committee would look into it and report at this meeting. The proposal was carried.
- Warwickshire Fire Fighters Fund - £500 was proposed. A second proposal for an increased amount of £1,000 was agreed and this was carried.
- CAB – a proposal for a grant of £500 towards its new building was carried.
- Bidford Youth Action – this new group which is being formed to forward improvements for the youth in Bidford, needs to set itself up with a new constitution and carry out a feasibility study. The cost of this is envisaged at approx. £5-6,000. It was proposed the Council would give the amount currently in the Ex Carnival bank account (which the Carnival Constitution permits) plus a further £600 to make it up to £2,500. This was carried.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm