

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Participatory Budget Meeting of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Monday 4th January 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.

PRESENT:

Chairman : Cllr. Gerrard
Cllrs. Mrs. Getgood, Mrs. Keeley, Hiscocks, Langston, Sandle, Spiers and Williams

In attendance: Vaughan Hully, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to the Parish council and Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received, and accepted, from Cllrs. Hendey and Hill

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

None declared

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY MEETING OF 7TH DECEMBER 2009

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present

5. TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF 2 INVOICES FROM WALC IN RESPECT OF TRAINING – cost £60

RESOLVED to approve payment and cheque to be signed by Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Langston

6. TO CONSIDER THE REPLIES FROM THE RFO

These had been circulated and it was **RESOLVED** to note the response

7. PREPARATION OF BUDGET 2010/11 – TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET PREPARED BY THE RFO BASED ON THE PROPOSALS MADE AT THE MEETING OF 7TH DECEMBER 2009

The Budget figures, including precept calculations and other comments made by the RFO, had been circulated to members.

The Chairman made an initial statement pointing out that this budget represented mainly capital spending, not revenue, and that it was to continue the Council's efforts of improving the appearance and quality of life in the village. After a short discussion, the following proposals were made:

- To reduce the budget by £10,000 by removing the gateways, the speed activated signs and 1 First Responder Unit.
RESOLVED to reject the proposal by 4 votes against and 4 in favour, with the Chairman casting the decisive vote against.
- To proceed with the remedial work to the avenue of trees on the Big Meadow and start the replanting process with 7 trees. Total cost £6,500
RESOLVED to approve this proposal
- Income: **RESOLVED:**
 - Burial costs to increase by £5
 - Big Meadow parking costs to remain at £2
 - No increases in the allotment rents
 - No increases in the agreements with local groups in respect of use of land (Bidford Youth Club, Bidford Sports Association, Bidford Juniors FC and the Angling Clubs)
- The Chairman proposed to approve the Break Even Precept, as this would allow the Council to continue the much needed village improvements, including the refurbishment of the Big Meadow play area and the skate park (it was noted that the only members of the public that had attended the Participatory Budget Meeting had been youngsters in support of the skate park) both of which were capital expenditure.
RESOLVED that the Chairman should propose a Break Even Precept at the Parish Council Meeting of 25th January for approval by the full Council.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.30 pm