

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 28th July, 2003, at 7.30 p.m., in the Parish Meeting-Room, on the School/Library site in Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.

Present: Chairman Councillor F. J. Hiscocks
Councillors Mrs. Blick, Mrs. Hodgetts, Mrs. Keeley, Langston,
Mrs. Owen, Smith and Spiers.
District Councillors James, Pemberton and Slaughter.

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs. Irving and Moore.
County Councillor Barnes arrived after the meeting had started.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Every Councillor present declared an interest in the Adopted District Local Plan and the First Deposit Draft (January 2002) and the Revised Deposit Draft (January 2003) of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review 1996-2011.

Councillor Mrs. Blick:

Bidford Christmas Lights

Councillor Hiscocks:

Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee

Councillor Mrs. Hodgetts:

School Governor – Bidford-on-Avon School and Alcester High School.

Councillor Mrs. Irving:

Bidford Community Group

Councillor Mrs. Keeley:

Bidford Christmas Lights and Bidford Luncheon Club.

Councillor Langston:

Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee & Bidford Christmas Lights.

Councillor Moore:

Bidford Christmas Lights, Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee and Friday Furlong.

Councillor Mrs. Owen:

Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee

Councillor Smith:

Big Meadow and M.G.S. Garden Services

Councillor Spiers:

Bidford Christmas Lights

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jim Rawlings of Victoria Road asked whether there was any news about the development of the old school site, in Victoria Road, as it looked “very run-down”.

The hedge was very overgrown and was encroaching onto the pavement.

The Chairman said that County Cllr. Barnes had been asked to pursue this.

District Cllr. Pemberton said he would raise this matter with Mr. Richard Elbourne WCC’s Divisional Surveyor’s office.

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED UNDER “ANY OTHER BUSINESS”

Councillor Mrs. Keeley – Icknield Close and Saxonfields –
Kerbstones being damaged by Biffa lorries.

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- Councillor Mrs. Blick – 1. Road and pavement sweeping in Bidford High Street.
2. Sign re. rubbish collection – Saxonfields Car Park.
3. CCTV cameras.
- Councillor Spiers Re-tarmaced road outside Health Centre.
Road has sunk, resulting in large puddles in wet weather.
- Cllr. Mrs. Owen Bidford High Street – There were still huge puddles in the road, by “The Frog and Bulrush”, whenever it rained.
- Cllr. Smith Bidford Bridge – Would this be swept before Gala Day?
County Cllr. Barnes to be asked to arrange this.
Brambles on the road traffic island –
Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Langston had raised this with WCC’s Richard Elbourne.
The footpaths at Broom and The Pleck, and the car park at Grafton Lane – all still overgrown.
The Clerk to chase.
- Cllr. Mrs. Hodgetts Broom Turn – hedge and footpath very overgrown.
The roadside hedge at Burnell House (corner of Bidford Road and Kings Lane, Broom) was also overgrown.
- Cllr. Mrs. Owen Historical items discovered in and/or relating to Bidford-on-Avon – Would it be possible for Bidford to have these on semi-permanent loan from Warwick Museum?

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

With one minor amendment*, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30th June, 2003, were approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true record. (Prop. Cllr. Langston, sec. Cllr. Mrs. Hodgetts)

* Page Two – Councillor Mrs. Keeley, not Councillor Mrs. Owen, had seconded the proposal to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th June, 2003.

The Clerk apologised for her mistake.

Ref: Min. 03/153 – Final sentence.

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley asked that it be recorded that since the Parish Council meeting held on 30th June, 2003, it had transpired that the mobile ‘phone had been stolen on Bidford Bridge, not in Marleigh Road.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2003, were approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

(Prop. Cllr. Mrs. Blick, sec. Cllr. Mrs. Owen)

POLICE MATTERS

Apologies had been received from P.C. Peter Gateley.

PLANNING

Please see next page.

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03/175 PLANNING

Min. 03/154 refers
03/01763/FUL
Mr. C. J. Chapman,
24, Millers Bank, Broom.
Single rear garage.

At the site meeting on 2nd July, 2003, (attended by Cllrs. Mrs. Blick, Hiscocks, Mrs. Keeley and Smith), the following response was AGREED:
“We think that the apex roof would be too high and would not be the right design for the location; the whole effect would be too imposing.”

AMENDED PLANS

03/01763/FUL
Mr. C. J. Chapman,
24, Millers Bank, Broom.

Change from pitched roof to mono-pitch roof of garage to reduce impact on neighbours (approx. 1 metre reduction in maximum height).

“Despite this amendment, we are still concerned about this application. Although we know that each planning application is considered on its own merits, if permission is granted for this garage, what grounds would there be for refusing a similar application in the same road? In time, there could be a line of garages in the location of Millers Bank and we think that this would be wholly inappropriate and have an overbearing effect on the area. These terraced houses were sold without garages and that is how we believe they should remain.

We are aware that there is local concern about possible drainage / flooding problems and we would draw your attention to the letters dated 30th June and 30th July, 2003, sent to you by Mr. Michael Smith of Hollybush House, 16, Millers Bank, whose concerns about this matter we share.”

APPLICATIONS

03/02196/FUL
Sharon Summers,
4, Marleigh Road, Bidford-on-Avon.

Proposed two-storey side extension with pitched roof. Proposed single-storey rear conservatory.

SUPPORT

03/02204/FUL
Mr. D. Houghton,
11, Jubilee Close, Bidford-on-Avon.

Proposed erection of pitched roof double garage and utility to side.

SUPPORT

03/176 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Min. 03/161 refers – St. Laurence Way – Motorbikes/Speeding
District Cllr. Pemberton to check the details and inform the Parish Council.

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Min. 03/172 refers – Big Meadow – Dogs Fouling the Area

Cllr. Pemberton to chase SDC's Dog Warden about this.

Min. 03/174 refers – SDC money set aside for Big Meadow toilet block.

(For the record, this was not discussed. The matter to be raised at the Parish Council meeting on 1st September, 2003.)

Min. 03/174 refers – CCTV cameras for Bidford-on-Avon.

The installation to be linked with Broadband because of the cost of fibre optics.

A further report was awaited.

Min. 03/174 refers – The Bank

Cllr. Pemberton said that there had been no reply from any of the known owners of The Bank and no adverse response from anyone, following the letters SDC had sent. If the situation on 8th August, 2003, remained the same, then SDC would go ahead with the work.

District Cllr. James said that a review of SDC's area planning committees was under way. A working group was looking at their effectiveness and possible options for change. Parish Councillors, District Councillors and people who used the planning system would be consulted and there would be training for all District Councillors and Parish Councillors. The working group's report would be completed by January 2004 and the new system would start in July 2004. Cllr. James said that SDC "go a long way to involve parish councils in making decisions. They have to notify parish councils of applications, they are not obliged to consult, but they do".

Options for change:

1. A single planning committee to deal with all types of development control would deliver consistent decision making across the whole district and would allow ward members to act as advocates on behalf of their local communities without the risk of potential conflicts of interest.
2. The four existing area planning committees could be divided into two area committees combining, for example, Avon and Arden into one meeting and Dassett and Stour into another.
3. To create three area committees:
 - Arden – with Bidford-on-Avon, Salford Priors, Temple Grafton and Welford-on-Avon.
 - Avon – Stratford only.
 - Dassett and Stour.
4. The status quo.

The working group would also be looking at: Delegation; The Role of Parish Councils; Training – District and Parish Councillors; Site Visits; Code of Conduct Member Involvement.

District Councillor Slaughter said that there had been problems with the water supply to Mill Lane in Broom and some houses in Icknield Close and he suggested that the Parish Council write to Severn Trent, expressing concern about this.

Cllr. Slaughter said that he and District Councillors James and Pemberton, together with County Councillor Barnes, wished to hold a surgery on Saturday, 20th September, 2003, at 10.00 a.m., in the Parish Meeting-Room. AGREED.

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03/177 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Barnes said that work on the traffic-calming measures in Bramley Way would start on Tuesday, 29th July, 2003, and it was anticipated that the School Patrol flashing lights would be installed at the same time.

There had been complaints about the state of the School garden and this matter was being pursued.

Proposed Waste Transfer Recycling Centre, Waterloo Industrial Estate –

Site visit by WCC's Regulatory Committee – no date arranged yet.

Next meeting of Regulatory Committee – Thursday, 4th September, 2003, at 10.00 a.m. in Shire Hall.

03/178 STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 1996-2011 – PUBLIC INQUIRY

Letter received from Mr. Bob Stokes, Programme Officer for the Public Inquiry, set out the procedure for dealing with unresolved objections. Objectors to ensure that their completed questionnaires were with Mr. Stokes by Monday, 15th September. The Inquiry would begin at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 25th November, 2003. The Clerk to liaise with Mr. Walter Stafford, Chairman of the Bidford Residents' Association, re. Marriage Hill Nurseries' site.

03/179 YOUTH EVENING AT THE CRAWFORD HALL (Min. 03/153 refers)

A report from Mr. Piers King was awaited.

03/180 SCHOOL BUSES – WATERLOO ROAD (Min. 03/156 refers)

Special Constable Jill Houghton had very kindly met WCC's Mr. Tony McKenna on Friday, 18th July, 2003, at 3.00 p.m., at the Marleigh Road/The Leys junction on Waterloo Road.

Mrs. Houghton said Mr. McKenna had agreed that this was a dangerous area for the school buses to use as a "picking-up and dropping-off" site. She said his preferred site was the large green area just before St. Laurence Way. A pull-in area could be made there for school and service buses and the bus time-tables could be changed, so that all the buses would pull in going towards Alcester; this would be an ideal site.

AGREED that the Parish Council seek the support of all the relevant schools.

All correspondence to be copied to County Councillor Barnes.

03/181 DAMAGE TO FLOWERS IN MARLEIGH ROAD

During the course of the discussion regarding school buses (please see previous minute) it was alleged that Bidford School had told their pupils to ask their parents not to walk them to and from School along Marleigh Road, because there had been a complaint(s) about damage to flowers.

AGREED that the Clerk write to the School and ask whether this was true.

03/182 GRAFTON LANE – WIDENING OF PART OF PAVEMENT

The Clerk to chase County Councillor Barnes again, to ensure that this work was included in WCC's budget for 2004/05.

The Clerk to write again to WCC, asking that this work be included.

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03/183 RESIGNATION – COUNCILLOR MRS. BLICK

The Chairman read out a letter of resignation he had received from Councillor Mrs. Blick, who was resigning because she was moving up north, to be nearer her family. Cllr. Hiscocks said he was very sad that Mrs. Blick was leaving; she had played a very active part in Village life and would be very much missed. Everyone agreed wholeheartedly with Cllr. Hiscocks' remarks.

AGREED that the Clerk post the necessary notices.

03/184 TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

Received from WCC, a copy of "Trading Standards News" and a notice warning about tarmac gangs operating in the area.

03/185 OVERGROWN HEDGE IN KINGS LANE, BROOM

Letter received from Mr. Edward Rogers of 5, Kings Lane, Broom, said that the hedge opposite his house had completely overgrown the footpath.

AGREED that the Clerk pass the letter to County Councillor Barnes.

03/186 SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Letter from SWCHC dated 4th July, 2003, received by the Clerk on Saturday, 5th July, gave details of a meeting to be held on Wednesday, 9th July, 2003, to discuss Physiotherapy services and the progress of the new hospital building in Alcester.

Mr. Mike Gerrard said he would ascertain the outcome of the meeting.

03/187 ST. LAURENCE WAY – SPEEDING (Min. 03/161 refers)

Letter received from Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Lockley of St. Laurence Way echoed the points raised by Mrs. Trudi Hoffmann re. speeding in St. Laurence Way.

AGREED that the Clerk copy Mr. and Mrs. Lockley's letter to P.C. Peter Gateley and District Councillor Pemberton.

03/188 DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Letter received from Mr. Keith Davenport, Traffic Management Team Leader, WCC, stated that WCC and SDC were working together on a proposal to decriminalise parking enforcement in the whole of Stratford-on-Avon District and it was hoped that the new system would come into effect in April 2004.

AGREED that the Parish Council supported the decriminalisation of parking enforcement and would welcome patrols in Bidford-on-Avon.

District Councillor James said that once the new system was working, wardens would patrol Bidford High Street on a regular basis. The SDC car parks in Bidford and Alcester would remain free, no charges would be introduced. In answer to a point raised by Mr. Jim Rawlinson, Cllr. James said that he would investigate the possibility of Bidford having more parking spaces for disabled people and also a sign indicating the location of a free car park in Wards Lane.

Time-limited parking would remain on the stretch of the High Street from the Post Office towards Lloyds Bank. It was possible that SDC might be able to introduce "Residents Only" parking in, say, Church Street.

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03/189 COMMUNITY POLICE SUPPORT OFFICERS

Discussion of the previous item led Special Constable Jill Houghton to suggest that the Parish Council ask Sgt. Stuart Wild whether Bidford could have the services of a Community Police Support Officer. Mrs. Houghton said that WCC employed CPSOs to work alongside regular officers. A CPSO did not have the same powers as a regular officer, but they had powers of arrest and they could issue parking tickets. Mrs. Houghton also suggested that the Parish Council ask P.C. Peter Gateley to book a CCTV camera van for Bidford.

03/190 “BACK AND 4th TRANSPORT”

Letter received from Judith Hill, Transport Brokerage Co-ordinator, Stratford Connexions Office, gave brief details of “Back and 4th Transport”, a new transport initiative set up by The Rural Transport Partnership, working in conjunction with WCC, CSWP Connexions and The Countryside Agency.

AGREED that the Clerk copy the letter to: Scouts, Brownies, KAOS, “The Willows”, St. John Ambulance, Bidford Young Firefighters, Darby and Joan, et cetera.

03/191 LOWER SEVERN FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Letter received from Mr. John Mills, Partnerships Team Leader, Environment Agency, enclosed a copy of the Lower Severn Focus Newsletter and a questionnaire. Cllr. Langston took the Newsletter and the questionnaire.

03/192 THE ANGELA COLBECK YOUTH AWARD 2003

Received from The Depot, a nomination form re. The Angela Colbeck Youth Award 2003.

AGREED that the form be passed to James Bennett of Bidford Youth Club, in case he wished to nominate someone.

03/193 “ALCESTER HOSPITAL – PLANS FOR THE FUTURE SECURED”

Received from South Warwickshire NHS Primary Care Trust, a copy of a press release entitled “Alcester Hospital – Plans for the Future Secured”.

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley had a copy of this.

03/194 OPERATION RAGWORT – 21st to 25th JULY, 2003

Letter received from WCC County Highways gave brief details re. Operation Ragwort.

03/195 STRATFORD-ON-AVON RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Received from Doug Henderson, Rural Transport Partnership Officer, ten copies of the second RTP Newsletter.

The Clerk gave one to Mr. Mike Gerrard, Chairman, Parish Appraisal Group, and there were copies available for Parish Council Members.

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03/196 ACCOUNTS

The following receipts were noted:

David Baker	£70.00
Bidford Golden Jubilee Celebrations	£131.09
David Burman	£55.00

The following accounts were approved for payment:

RESOLVED that Cllr. Mrs. Blick and Cllr. Mrs. Keeley sign the cheques.

(Prop. Cllr. Spiers and Cllr. Mrs. Owen)

Please see the last page of these minutes for details of the accounts paid.

03/197 PROPOSED YOUTH MEETING POINTS (Mins. 03/171 & 03/100IC)

District Councillor James advised the Parish Council to apply to SDC's Avon Area Community Committee and WCC's Community Development Fund for grants towards three youth meeting points.

N.B. For the record, each "Arena" meeting point would cost £7,757.50, i.e:

Meeting Point	£6,500.00
Installation	£845.00
Carriage	£162.50
Security Fencing during Installation	£250.00

All prices EXclusive of VAT.

03/198 PARISH PLAN MATTERS

Mr. Mike Gerrard, Chairman of the Parish Appraisal Group, said that the Group was still meeting. Work was progressing re. the publication version of the Parish Plan and it was hoped to have this ready by the end of August. It was possible that there might be a shortfall in funds to pay for producing and/or distributing this update and, if this was likely to occur, he would approach the Parish Council.

Mr. Gerrard said that, on the information available, WCC's Transport Strategy was more hopeful than realistic and while he recommended support for it in principle, (since it was consistent with the Appraisal findings), he had drawn WCC's attention to its weaknesses.

PAG members would be meeting WCC traffic officers in September, to look at various proposals for Bidford.

03/199 BIDFORD FIRE STATION

It was drawn to the Parish Council's attention that Bidford Fire Station had just started a "Young Firefighters" group.

The Fire Station would shortly be judged in the annual Dennis Lawrence Garden Competition; Bidford had won "Best Retained Station" for the last two years.

03/200 BIDFORD SCHOOL REUNION – CLASS OF 1980

Mrs. Jill Houghton said that she, and others, were arranging a reunion of all those who left Bidford School in 1980. The reunion would be held on 22nd November, 2003, and, so far, fifty-eight people had been contacted. Mrs. Houghton asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to make a donation towards the event and she was advised to put her request in writing to the Clerk.

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03/201 TRAVEL TOKENS

AGREED that the travel tokens and free long-life light bulbs be distributed from “The Jolly Teapot”, in the Church Rooms, on Thursday, 21st August, 2003, between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. Councillors Hiscocks, Mrs. Keeley and Langston, and the Clerk, to attend.

RESOLVED that the Council go into Committee, to discuss confidential matters.
(Prop. Cllr. Langston, sec. Cllr. Spiers)

Following discussion of the matters recorded in the confidential minutes, the meeting closed at approximately 10.40 p.m.

IMPORTANT – FOR THE RECORD

MINUTE REF. 03/AR

At the meeting held on Tuesday, 8th July, 2003, the Parish Council accounts for the period ended 31st March, 2003, were approved by the Parish Council.

(Prop. Cllr. Moore, sec. Cllr. Langston)

The Chairman, Cllr. Hiscocks, signed the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March, 2003.

This minute needed to be recorded in this set of “ordinary” (i.e. non-confidential) minutes and should also, of course, have been recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2003, and the fact that it had not been was due entirely to an oversight by the Clerk.

A note had been put with the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2003, directing the reader to this page.

BIDFORD-ON-AVON PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting on 28th July, 2003, the following payments were authorised:

SUPPLIERS:	£2,496.65
DONATIONS:	£755.00
WAGES:	£1,844.22
TOTAL:	£5,095.87