

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2004 at 7.30 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.**

**PRESENT**

Chairman: Councillor F.J.Hiscocks  
Councillors: Mrs.Getgood, Mrs. Irving, Mrs. Keeley, Gerrard, Langston,  
Moore, Sandle and Spiers.  
District Councillors James, Pemberton & Slaughter  
County Councillor Barnes

The Chairman welcomed W.C.Cllr. Mrs. Jill Dill- Russell who is a member of the Police Authority who reported to the meeting after her previous meeting as follows:

- The Depot in a joint venture with the Youth Club will be bringing a mini-bus to Bidford.
- The CCTV camera is fully operative.
- S.D.Cllr. Slaughter added that he together with Insp.T.Bailey had met Chief Insp. A. Johnson. They are aware of the problems in Bidford which hopefully will be resolved.

The Chairman enquired if anyone had any questions for Mrs. Dill-Russell.

- Mrs. Losh stated that she believed that there had been a vast improvement in the village since the CCTV cameras .
- However, there are still boy racers on he Big Meadow
- Mr. Mark Smith agrees the High Street is much improved and added that 2 residents have also purchased their own CCTV cameras.
- Police are in the High Street on Friday and Saturday nights
- The Chairman confirmed that 2 new lights have been ordered for the High St.
- Cllr. Gerrard asked if there is an agreed approach to policing villages. W.C Cllr. Mrs. Dill-Russell confirmed there was, but added that Warwickshire is a very diverse county with large urban and rural areas which forces the Police to prioritise This can cause villages to feel isolated, although this is not the intention. W.C. Cllr. Mrs. Dill-Russell gave as an example the fact that “hardened criminals” have recently moved into Rugby.
- Cllr. Gerrard added that there appears to be a general anti-social behaviour problem throughout the country and asked if the Home Office was applying itself to this.. W.C.Cllr. Mrs. Dill-Russell confirmed that anti-social behaviour orders are being used by the Police and that Chief Insp. Andy Johnson is aware of the situation.
- Cllr. Gerrard stated that the improvements that have been made must be maintained a sentiment seconded by W.C.Cllr. Mrs. Dill-Russell

The Chairman thanked W.C.Cllr. Mrs. Dill-Russell who then left the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ms. Deacon and P.C.P.Gateley

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

All members of the Council are respectfully 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 personal or prejudicial they should declare so and leave the room.

3. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON:**

28 <sup>th</sup> June 2004	Prop: Cllr. Gerrard.	Sec. Cllr. Langston
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Prop: Cllr. Spiers	Sec. Cllr. Langston
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Prop: Cllr. Langston	Sec. Cllr. Spiers
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Prop: Cllr. Mrs. Keeley	Sec. Cllr. Moore
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Prop: Mrs. Getgood	Sec. Cllr Spiers

4. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. M. Smith advised the meeting of the following:

- The 10 new bins are unsatisfactory.
- The RADAR key has not yet been delivered.
- The flaps to the exit of Big Meadow gateway are broken.
- The Fishing Club has dug out their pegs at the far end of The Meadow too deep which he considers to be dangerous.
- Mrs. J. Houghton mentioned the bad road surface on Victoria Road near Steppes Piece and the footpath in Grafton Lane. – what is being done?  
W.C.Cllr. Barnes advised that he would speak to Mr. Sampson to resolve the situation.
- A further speed count on Grafton Lane has been undertaken. There are still a number of H.G.V's using the Lane early mornings and late nights. Cllr. Mrs. Keeley queried what is being done.  
W.C.Cllr Barnes is to follow it up

5. **POLICE MATTERS**

Apologies had been received from P. C. Gateley.

- Special Constable Jill Houghton advised there is a new Special Constable for Bidford making a total of 3 with a further 7 officers in the community beat unit van covering many areas.
- The Chairman advised that as from October, parking will be decriminalized and taken over by the District Council. This was confirmed by S.D.C. James

## 6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) St.. Laurence Churchyard has been mowed twice by A.J. Wilkes (Services) since being taken over from S.D.C.  
Cllr. Langston asked if it can be cut and also swept. S.D.Cllr. James advised this was in order and that there was no need for this to be put out for tender.
- b) ACT – no one had attended the meeting
- c) Letter of thanks received from Stop! Listen ... and Play.
- d) Letter of thanks received from Bidford Gardening Society.
- e) Cllr. Gerrard asked if the report received from Dis. Commander Andy Johnson could be passed on to the Press whilst they were there. S.D.Cllr. James, Pemberton and Slaughter agreed as this was in the public domain.
- f) Letter from Tom Coles, SWHA re Jubilee Close noted.
- g) Sutcliffe Play Design brochure received.
- h) Cllr. Spiers queried the terms School House. The Chairman confirmed it referred to all the old school buildings.
- i) Area Planning Committee noted.
- j) Marleigh Road Public Space circulated.
- k) S.D.C. (Mr. Nash) circulated.
- l) S.D.C. (Mr. Nash) re land at Millers Bank/Kings Lane, Broom circulated.
- m) S.D.C. Mr. Hardy, Robert Lunn & Lowth re Dugdale Ave. not circulated.
- n) S.D.C. (Mr. Nash) re St. Laurence Churchyard enclosing sealed Agreement signed and circulated.
- o) Letter of thanks for cutting The Bank, Marcliffe noted.
- p) Broom Village Hall re ongoing works circulated.
- q) Letter re Report by the Parish Remuneration Panel not circulated to Parish Councillors.
- r) Marleigh Rd. light – Cllr. Gerrard proposed and Cllr. Moore seconded the repair be authorized.

## 7 **AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED MEMBERS**

By request

- Viewpoint (WCC New Countryside recreation Magazine)
- Countryside Voice
- SDC Corporate Self Assessment
- Outlook. CPRE Warwickshire News
- Acorns Children's Hospice – Three Counties News

## 8. **TRAVEL TOKENS**

Cllr. Langston advised that a date needs to be set for the distribution of tokens.

## 9. YOUTH CLUB

- The Chairman talked about the Youth Club AGM which was attended by interested parties and during which it was understood that they needed a financial input to keep the club running. Various newspaper articles have highlighted the club's problems.
- A representative of the Bidford Community Group has met with the club.
- Cllr. Mrs. Keeley advised that the insurance costs were £1,991.95 and affiliation fees £579.19. It was mentioned that these costs were higher than those of Crawford Hall, the Tennis Club and the Bowling Club combined.
- The Youth Club have since provided a balance sheet. It shows that numbers in the Junior Sector have increase but those of the Senior Sector show a fall.
- The Canoe Club is now on a sound footing
- Cllr. Hiscocks has donated 3 ex-school computers.
- S.D.Cllr. Slaughter stated that the Youth Club needs encouragement both with costs and decorating.
- The Chairman asked if the Parish Council, as the Landlords, could take on the insurance. S.D. Cllr. Pemberton advised that this was not possible as the Parish Council has no insurable interest.
- The Parish Council can, however, inject cash into the Youth Club and the Chairman proposed a sum of £2,500 which was seconded by Cllr. Spiers. Cllr. Sandle believed this could not be carried out and more details were required. However, W.C. Cllr. Barnes said that as the item was on the Agenda the matter could be put forward.

An amendment was tabled and with a majority vote of 7 in favour.

Cllr. Langston proposed an increased figure of £3,000, which was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Irving. Cllrs. Gerrard and Hiscocks abstained.

- Cllr. Moore asked both the District and County Councillors if any other organization could be approached for funding. S.D. Cllr. James said the District Councillors are pursuing other avenues.  
The County Council and the Depot may also offer support.  
W.C. Cllr. Barnes will also try to get help.
- The Chairman realizes that, although the Youth Club building is not the most suitable, we have to do all we can.
- Cllr. Mrs. Keeley is to liaise between the Youth Club and the Parish Council.
- S.D. Cllr. Slaughter pointed out that the Parish has a responsibility towards the young in the village and that the Parish may need to employ and outreach worker.
- S.D. Cllr. James added that Cllr. Trevor Russell, a District Councillor for Champion of Youth will be visiting Bidford.

## 10. WARWICKSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The questionnaire will be circulated together with the Community Newsletter, sometime in October.

## 11 LIGHTING

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council has asked for better quality lighting to replace those situated near Frog Cottage and The Frog and Bulrush, both in the High Street. He added that this could take up to 2 months.

## 12 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Chairman advised that we have not yet finalised the Financial Regulations and await the RFO

## 13. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- The Chairman announced that Cllr. Sandle has set out new agendas. Terms of reference still to be agreed
- Cllr. Mrs. Keeley is now chairing the Planning Meetings which are to be held monthly.
- The Chairman then read out all planning outcomes:
- Cllr. Sandle proposed copies of the planning minutes to be attached to meeting minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Gerrard.
- S.D. Cllrs. James added that in future we must state fully the reasons for support or otherwise.
- Amenities
  - a) The Chairman advised that he and Cllr. Mrs. Irving have met a representative of SNP for a presentation regarding the basketball court. They would be prepared to commence work immediately. Two further quotes are awaited.
  - b) Separate quotes for the tarmac works are also awaited.
  - c) We have received quotes for the half shelters for The Meadow. Still awaiting quotes for full shelter for Saxonfield.  
Cllr. Gerrard asked whether the above could be undertaken by September – no answer was given.
  - d) It was agreed that the Amenity Play Areas Committee would meet on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August, after the Planning Meeting, to discuss the matter of quotes for the Basketball Park and Youth Shelters which should have been received.
- The other Committees will set dates for their first meeting in due course.
- Jill Houghton asked if the Youth Shelters will be in place before the start of the dark nights – no answer given
- S.D. Cllr. James confirmed the money is in place for a total of 3 shelters

## 14. ACCOUNTS

The following receipts were noted:

Philip Tomlins	£145.00
L.D. Dodwell	£235.00

The Chairman read out the list of cheque payments as per the attached list  
Resolved that Cllrs. Langston and Moore should sign  
(Proposed by Cllr. Hiscocks and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley)

## 15. CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

To be resolved

## 16 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

District Council Officers Tim Berwick and Paul Harris have now met with officers at the County Council to discuss the situation.

The following course of action was agreed as representing the most appropriate way of taking the matter forward in the circumstances:

SDC to pursue a Footpath Creation Order (FCO). Officers are discussing the implications of doing this with SDC Legal Services but it will require close consultation with local parties, i.e. those who have an interest in The Bank as well as local residents, including occupiers of adjacent properties.

SDC also need to make further enquiries on ownership rights with the Land Registry. The process may well involve a Public Inquiry and could take around 12 months to complete.

WCC to carry out the design of the scheme and work up a contract for its implementation on the understanding that SDC commits itself to the above course of action. WCC will undertake this work concurrently with the FCO procedure with a view to implementation in April 2005. WCC know that the Section 106 monies have to be spent by May 2005.

It was agreed that the FCO should only extend to St. Laurence Way, as the section to the north up to Hill View was not used by the public as a route.

Lee Marshall, Head of Street Scene in SDC Operational Services, to look into the boundary between the open space and The Bank with a view to finishing it off properly.

One option here might be to lay grass right up to the highway edge, although defining the edge of The Bank in some way, and for SDC to be responsible for mowing it.

We would need to get the agreement of the MacDonald's to do this but it would be a lot cheaper and would not affect their services.

There appears to be no reason why this shouldn't be done in the near future if all parties, including Lee's section, are willing.

### **Sustainable Parking Strategy      Avon Area Community Committee 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

The Draft Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review acknowledges that some of the Main Rural Centres of the District (Bidford on Avon) may be facing parking problems, which could be exacerbated by the objective of enhancing the functions of these centres.

Any strategy to deal with such problems should seek to achieve the following key common objectives, recognising that each settlement will have specific local problems to resolve.

The proposed objectives are:

The need to provide car parking facilities that meet the needs of those who live, work and visit the Main Rural Centres, especially the needs of residents, in an effective, efficient an environmentally sustainable manner without compromising the attractiveness and economic viability of the settlement;

The need to prioritise the provision of short stay parking at the core of the settlements;

The need to create a safe, and welcoming environment that carefully considers the needs of pedestrians, public transport and cyclists; and

The need to preserve and enhance the amenity of the Main Rural Centre.

It is anticipated that any strategy will seek to explore solutions covering the following broad topics.

It should be emphasised that specific proposals can only be set out when a thorough investigation has been completed:

- The use of parking charges, where appropriate, and existing parking spaces to meet objectives.
- Resident parking schemes, particularly at the central areas of the settlements.
- Appropriate Signage.
- New parking provision.
- New Parking Orders for on-street restrictions to support an effective parking enforcement.
- Implications of decriminalisation of parking enforcement.

**Ward Members comments made at the meeting:**

- **Resist the introduction of parking charges**
- **Call for more signage for Courtway Car Park.**
- **Instigate residents parking lower end of High Street & Grange Road Area**
- **Enforcement of current parking restrictions**

**Wasp Nests**

Due to the large numbers of requests to destroy wasp's nests that SDC has recently received we have had to suspend this service for a short while.

The District Council are advising that people contact one of three local private pest control companies. The council has spoken to all three companies and they promise to carry out the work within two days at costs similar to the council.

As soon as the council is able to, we will reintroduce the service.

**No Fouling Signs – Removal from BT Poles**

Over the past 10 years the council has erected No Fouling signs around the District on the request of various parish councils.

Since January BT has been actively inspecting their poles and demanding removal of all illegal articles such as these signs they cite health and safety issues as their reason for this.

Failure to remove the sign within 24 hours of notification will result in it being done by BT and a recharge of £115 being made.

Council officers have formally requested permission from BT to continue using their poles but this has been refused.

To date the council have had 11 such removal requests.

### **Ward Visit by Mervin Hancock Warwickshire County Council**

#### **1) The Bank (B439) Bidford on Avon**

To make good footway surface into Saxonfields from crossing / cut back vegetation for free passage for disabled persons using wheelchair/scooters etc.

#### **2) Saxonfields Car Park**

Footway next to entrance to be made good / drop kerb required at entrance.

#### **3) High Street Bidford on Avon**

BT Man-hole in front of 3 High Street / Gordon's The Butchers very loose.

#### **4) 89 High Street Bidford on Avon**

Overhanging gutter discharging over footway, pedestrians have to step into the road to avoid getting wet.

Householder: Mr. Mark Gibbins

#### **5) Broom Lane C103**

Waterworks Corner clean out drain covers / clear ditches and roadside grips to prevent flooding grips need edge protection.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Simon Hagely at SDC stating that we do not wish charges to be made in our two car parks – Saxonfields and Wards Lane.

The Parish should write to the residents in respect The Bank to obtain their permission to alter the kerb for disabled access. The Parish to pay all costs incurred

## **17 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- Drains in High Street have been cleaned, albeit provisionally. Full work will be carried out.
- Pelican Crossing on Waterloo Rd. has been cleared of vegetation with the assistance of S.D. Cllr. Pemberton
- W.C. Cllr. Barnes referred to last week's SCAN meeting held at the Jolly Teapot, Church Hall following a talk by W.C. Cllr. Neil Clark who, along with Cllr. Spiers, visited various problem sites regarding kerbs
- An ash tree situated in Kings Lane, Broom has been deemed unsafe and will be felled at the end of the season



- Barton – holes on the Parish Boundary to be re-surfaced and the village itself to be re-surfaced next year
- Re-surfacing of both Westholme and Waterloo Roads to be carried out in October
- There will be road reconstruction near the Golden Cross
- Cllr. Mrs. Getgood says she had visited several sites relating to footpaths, kerbs and cambers last November with Richard Elborne, from WCC, who took relevant photographs. Action still awaited

## 18 YOUTH MEETING POINTS

Matters regarding this point dealt with above

## 19 BIG MEADOW

Previously dealt with

## 20 MATTERS, IF ANY, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN TO BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

The Chairman requested that a loan of £30,000 for replacement of windows at Crawford Hall be discussed, as he felt this could best be done whilst work is currently being carried out. This loan to be repaid in April when £50,000 is received from SDC ..

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Langston and Hiscocks left the room whilst the matter was discussed. Cllr. Gerrard took the chair.

S.D. Cllr. James advised that this matter should be tabled for the next meeting and the Clerk should be asked for a Statement of Account.

Cllr. Gerrard asked for a motion which was proposed by Cllr. Sandle and seconded by Cllr. Spiers – the motion was carried.

## 21 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Planning Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2004
Parish Council	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2004

The meeting closed at approx. 9.25 p.m.