

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd August 2004 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

PRESENT

Chairman : Cllr. F.J. Hiscocks
Councillors: Mrs. Getgood, Mrs. Keeley, Gerrard, Langston, Sandle and Spiers

District Councillors: James and Slaughter
County Councillor Barnes

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received, and accepted, from Cllrs. Ms. Deacon and Mrs. Irving and Cllr. Moore.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman read out the following declaration:

All members of the Council are respectfully reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 29th 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 MEETING HELD ON 26TH JULY 2004

Proposed by Cllr. Langston

Seconded by Cllr. Spiers

4 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present at the meeting

5 REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Letter regarding parking charges has been sent to Stratford D.C.

b) Repairs to lights authorized

c) Drains on High St. have now been cleared

6 POLICE MATTERS

None raised

7 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Derek Harman Marriage Hill Nurseries requested hard standing pull ins at the bus stops near Harbour Close.

The Council decided that the number of buses did not warrant the cutting of the verges which are an attractive part of the Village

b) Letter from S.D.C. requesting name for the Old School Development. The name "Old School Mead" was suggested and approved and the Clerk was instructed to advise S.D.C. accordingly.

c) Needham & James Solicitors re license application for Bridge House

- d) W.C.C. letter re Pole 3 Mill Lane, Broom which requires replacement. The light is currently atop a BT pole and BT has demanded it be taken off. Clerk instructed to ask for quote.
- e) John & Angela Stanley enquiry regarding current status of Millers Bank land
S.D.Cllr. James advised there are ongoing matters between the legal and technical departments of the District and a meeting is being arranged in the next few weeks to try and resolve this. Until then there is nothing the Council can do.
- f) W.C.C. letter re sockets in light pole 11 High St. – instructions already given
- g) W.R.C.C. (Charles Barlow) amended questionnaire, It was confirmed that this would be distributed in October
- h) S.D.C. Report by Parish Remuneration Panel. Although no councilors to date have received an allowance, the Chairman felt that perhaps members of the Council should consider more participation in events. Cllr. Gerrard proposed that Councillors should consider this further and a decision be taken at the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs., Keeley.
- i) S.D.C. Council Year Planner 2004/2005 – circulated
- j) NALC – Induction Course. The Chairman advised that the new Clerk would attend together with himself and Cllr. Moore
- k) The Planning Inspectorate re MRW Ltd. – circulated
- l) Prime (Part of Grimshaw Group) Letter offering their services was read out by the Chairman.
- m) S.D.C. Planning Notification No. 04/02374 has been declared invalid – circulated and read out by Chairman
- o) S.D.C. Planning No. 04/01763 (19 Icknield St.) circulated
- p) S.D.C. Planning No. 04/01460/Ful – 41 The Meadows – circulated. Meeting on 19th August to discuss the fate of this had been well attended and satisfaction at the outcome – refusal – was expressed by all. The Chairman expressed thanks to the W.C. Cllr and the S.D. Cllrs. for their support.
- q) Letter from Rev. Hall re clock winder – circulated. Concern was expressed as to how the Parish Council could assist in a matter that does not affect it and is outside its control. It was agreed that a meeting with the Vicar should be arranged to discuss the matter further.
- r) Letter from Mr. D.C. Willets, Broom re willow trees Millers Bank – circulated. The same applies to this as with Mr. and Mrs. Stanley. We await result of meeting between legal and technical departments at S.D.C.
- s) The Chairman read out thank you letters for donations sent to:
 - Breakthrough Breast Cancer for crocus order
 - Country Air Ambulance
 - Acorns Children's Hospice
 - Stratford-upon-Avon Citizens Advice Bureau
 - WRVS
 - Bidford-on-Avon Tennis Club
- t) NALC – Notification of Annual General Meeting – circulated
Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Sandle expressed a wish to attend
- u) NALC – Nomination Form – circulated
No nominations.
- v) NALC - PC Profile 24 questionnaire - circulated
- w) Letter from Mercia Canoe Club asking for permission to use Big Meadow on 7th November 2004. Permission granted.

- x) Letter from Central Networks – circulated. The Clerk advised that an up to date inventory had been forwarded to Central Networks requesting the Certificate be issued on that basis.
- y) S.D.C. regarding street cleaning Bidford High St.
The Clerk has sent letters to the shops in question as advised to do so by SDC.
- z) Campaign to Protect Rural England – invitation to Seminar on 25.09.04 – no Cllrs. available on that date.
- a1) S.D.C. re Grounds Maintenance Contract – The Chairman expressed satisfaction at the work in general/
- b1) The Countryside Agency regarding changes to the Agency – circulated.

8 AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED MEMBERS

- a) The Countryside Agency – Planning for vial communities
- b) Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils Annual Report
- c) Heart of England Way Association – Walks Programme August 2004
- d) WCC – Doorstep Selling Campaign information sent by Warwickshire Trading Standards

9 TRAVEL TOKENS

Dates for the distribution of the tokens were agreed.

Thursday 26th August at The Jolly Teapot between 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Cllr. Hiscocks to attend.

Thursday 2nd September at The Jolly Teapot between 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. Cllrs. Mrs Getgood and Mrs. Keeley

The Clerk to make arrangements to ensure tokens are available.

10 LIGHTING

The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotation for 5 street lights that require attention and to ensure that they can be repaired.

11 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS MEETING

Date for this meeting was agreed for Tuesday 31st August at the Parish Meeting Room at 7.30 p.m.

12 REPORTS

Amenities and Play Area Working Party have had their first meeting on 9th August 2004 and Cllr. Mrs. Irving has been nominated Leader.

Allotments, Burials and Churchyard – the Chairman suggested Cllr. Langston as Leader to be decided and confirmed at their first meeting.

13 ACCOUNTS

The Chairman read out the list of cheque payments as per the attached list

Purchases 44,809.90

Donations 3,060.00

Wages 2,832.95

Resolved Cllrs. Mrs. Getgood and Keeley should sign

Proposed by Cllr. Sandle and seconded by Cllr. Spiers.

14 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

S.D. Cllr. Slaughter mentioned that letters had been sent to a number of households pretending to be in regarding Data Protection Act business and involving requests for money. He advised that the press were aware of this hoax.

S.D. Cllr. James read out a number of planning decisions taken at SDC

1. 4 Albion Terrace, Broom. Single storey extension to form granny flat annex granted – Council had objected.
2. 38/40 High St. change of use from shop to dwelling – granted against officer's recommendation
3. Plans for a children's nursery at Bidford Bridge House, High Street, rejected against officer's recommendation..
4. Bidford Grange Golf Hotel – granted against official recommendation
5. 41 The Meadows – rejected against officer's recommendation
6. 19 Icknield St. Bidford – two storey extension to rear of property – rejected
The Council had supported this.

Concern regarding the threat of the felling of the Willow Tree was expressed. S.D. Cllr. James advised that this tree had been the subject of discussion for a number of years. No one claims to be responsible for the tree though it was pruned at the time the Hotel was converted. The new residents claim to have concerns about it and the County Council has looked at it in respect to highway safety – no work required. The District has informed the residents some time ago that they can apply to the SDC to have works undertaken to the tree and they could place a notice on the tree informing any owner of their intentions. SDC have also advised that they are seeking legal advice on this matter as the tree stands within the Conservation Area and consent would be required from SDC prior to any works being undertaken. The latest available news was that a notice had been pinned to the tree by a housing committee that has been formed, advising that the tree was going to be felled. They appear to believe that this is all they require to do under the Conservation Act. S.D. Cllr. James stressed that this could not be done and that Planning Enforcement are monitoring the situation. Concern remained that nothing could be done to reinstate the tree once it was felled even if it was an illegal act.

S.D. Cllr. enquired whether the Council had received a copy of the changes that are being carried out under Licensing Act to which he received an affirmative answer. He read out the various items that come under the Act and advised that the change meant the licenses would be granted by S.D.C. He reminded the Council that the deadline for any comments was 1st October 2004.

Regarding CCTV, the notices stating that there is CCTV on the High Street have been ordered and will be put up

S.D. Cllr. Slaughter advised that the litter in the Anglo Saxon Carpark had been monitored. However, the Council stated that bags of rubbish were still left there. These cannot be seen by the CCTV situated on the corner. S.D. Cllr. Slaughter reiterated that it had been monitored by officers of S.D.C. but that it is difficult to see if people dump rubbish when there are a lot of vehicles parked.

All investigation regarding garages being used as dwelling places had been carried out and the result was that they are within the Planning Act as all dwellers were members of the immediate family. It appears that no proof of this is required; the investigation simply enquired and took the answer at face value. If there was any suspicion of this not being the case then it was suggested that appropriate action be taken.

The Review magazine had been sent round to the District households.

The Chairman asked S.D. Cllr. James to pass on the Council's thanks to Eric Mitchell, Parish Clerk of Salfords Prior for his assistance to the new Parish Clerk.

15 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

W.C. Cllr. Barnes mentioned again that the MRW were appealing to Secretary of State John Prescott regarding the decision not to allow the recycling plant on the Waterloo Ind. Est.. He added that there is general concern regarding waste recycling in industrial estates, mentioning the example of Nuneaton where two applications have been received for such a site. It has been decided to ask Mr. J. Degan to look at the impact waste recycling technology will have on industrial estates which are termed employment areas.

Drains - a concentrated effort has been made to clear the drains.

Youth Club – The meeting which W.C. Cllr. Barnes attended together with Cllr. Mrs. Keeley with Helene Toogood was very useful and Mrs. Toogood. Had given some good tips. The Liaison Officer, James Bennet took some notes and it was agreed to meet later in September to pursue the business plan. The Youth Club will be holding a meeting in September to discuss how to move forward and Mrs. Toogood has offered to assist with the Business Plan.

Following a request by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, W.C. Cllr Barnes . has looked into the matter of the width of Grafton Lane. He has been advised that it would not be feasible to widen the footpath to allow buggies etc. as there is too much HGV traffic on this road. They suggest the Council ascertain whether the land owners would be prepared to give some land to carry this out.

The ditch in the Anglo Saxon car park has been filled in preparation for the youth shelter. The Police Dept. are waiting for a reply as it is in County Council land. Cllr. Mrs. Keeley advised that she would be meeting Lee Marshall.

Broom – further speed checks had been carried out on the High Street and Bidford Rd. the results show the same tendencies as the last speed checks that were carried out previously. In the case of the High St. there was a clear indication of cars traveling faster from the Bridge end to Bidford Rd. that the other way round. W.C. Cllr. Barnes left the graphs with the Chairman. It was decided that the Council should look at some proposals for the High Street and revert end of September to arrange a meeting before it went to consultation.

There have been a large number of approaches for grants. Broom is requesting money for the Hall and, following a meeting with Helene Toogood, it would appear they are still in with a chance.

16 YOUTH MEETING POINTS

Cllr. Mrs. Irving contacted Tom Lambeth and agreed a meeting regarding safety issues at the Anglo Saxon car park. Cllr. Mrs. Getgood asked when they would be meeting Mr. Lambeth again. The money for the shelters has been granted and should be utilized.

Basketball court – SMP's quote accepted. Proposed by Cllr. Sandle and seconded by Cllr. Spiers.

Members of the press asked for details and were advised that it was 20 x 12 M fully enclosed and would also be used for 5 a side football. There would also be half a youth shelter.

Mention was made that the Police (P.C. Peter Gateley) had suggested it would be a good idea if the area were lit, However, this was rejected as it is thought the lights could attract vandalism.

17 CRAWFORD HALL

As requested at the last Parish Meeting, a quotation for the windows and patio for the Crawford Hall were given – approx. £25k (less than had been indicated).

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Hiscocks and Langston declared their interest and left the room.

Cllr. Gerrard took over the chair.

Certain doubts were expressed regarding the work being carried out at Crawford Hall being put through the Parish accounts. S.D. Cllr. Slaughter stated that the Parish Council are the Trustees of the Crawford Hall. S.D. Cllr. James further explained that the Parish Council are the Custodians of the Hall and Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Hiscocks and Langston re the Managers. He added that as long as the Parish Council ordered the work to be carried out, they could be invoiced directly as they were responsible and could reclaim the VAT. S.D. Cllr. Slaughter explained further that the Crawford Hall was left to the Village but, as the Village has no entity, the Parish Council acts as Trustees and Custodians on behalf of the Village.. It was mentioned that VAT had been claimed before for work carried out to the Crawford Hall with no problems. S.D. Cllr. James informed of changes to the law due to money laundering but reiterated that as long as the Parish Council had ordered the work, it could claim the VAT.

The extra cost was proposed by Cllr. Sandle and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Getgood. All voted in favour.

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Hiscocks and Langston returned to the room and Cllrs. Hiscocks took the chair.

18 BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club has advised that the quotations they have received for the alterations being carried out to improve their facilities is higher than expected. They have received a grant of £70k from SDC and have raised a further £10k themselves in the last 6 months. However, they are still £20k short and have approached the Council for assistance. It was decided that the Council should arrange a meeting with the SDC VAT to assist with a business plan and obtain clearance to reclaim the VAT. The Chairman will meet with the club and obtain a statement by end September.

Various mentions were made regarding the exclusivity of the bowling club. However, the Council was advised that they have made efforts to recruit new members by targeting the new homes but the response had been poor.

19 NALC ANNUAL CONFERENCE - EXHIBITION 1-3 OCT. 2004

S.D. Cllr. James is attending the above with all of Salford Priors Parish Council.

It was agreed that it is a good place to share new ideas and next year the Parish Council should consider attending.

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

None raised.

21 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Planning Committee:	13 th September 2004
Parish Council	27 th September 2004

The Meeting closed at approx. 9.30 p.m.