

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th October 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT

Chairman	Cllr. F.J. Hiscocks
Councillors:	Ms. Deacon, Mrs. Keeley, Langston, Moore Sandle and Spiers

Also present were:

District Councillor	Pemberton
County Councillor	Barnes
Four members of the public and members of the press	

The Chairman welcomed those present and advised that before opening the meeting, he was inviting Mr. Jerry Birckbeck and Mr. Ryan Murphy, from the Environmental Design Dept. at Warwickshire County Council to give a small presentation of their proposal for traffic calming measures for Broom.

They gave an overall assessment of the situation following 3 speed surveys in Broom and highlighted particular issues and left draft proposals to be discussed by the Parish Council.

The draft proposals included various measures such as:

- Painting parking bays on one side of the High Street where cars already park
- Putting chicanes on the other side of the High Street in strategic places and where lighting is already in place
- Placing gate entries, with speed limit signs, in strategic places

They mentioned that funds at County Council are limited and some contribution would have to be made by the Parish Council (25%) and the measures adopted would have to take the amount of funds available into account.

They suggested the lead time for full discussions and consultations could take up to 9 months whilst implementation could be carried out in about 3 weeks, but added the earliest this could be done would be late 2005/06.

The Chairman thanked them for their contribution and said the matter would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting that would be taking place in the Broom Village Hall.

The Chairman then opened the meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman advised that Cllrs. Mrs. Getgood and Gerrard were away. Their apology was accepted.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS OF 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 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

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Hiscocks and Langston declared an interest in the Bowling Club and Crawford Hall

Cllrs. Spiers declared an interest in the item on the Church Clock

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2004

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Rawlings, who lives on Victoria Rd., expressed his and other local residents' concern that the old school building, instead of being preserved and converted into 5 residential units, is going to be demolished on the basis that it is structurally unsafe. Furthermore, they feel no measures are being taken to prevent this happening and may be they are even exacerbating it. The Chairman said the Clerk had some information on this respect, which is that the Parish Office has been contacted twice in the last 3/4 weeks by Hunter Page Planning, advising that they believe the building to be structurally unsafe and have twice been requested to send the appropriate documentation. At the time of the meeting, no such documentation had been received. SDC Cllr. Pemberton added that he would contact the Stratford Planning Officer in charge to see whether he had heard anything about this, as Westbury's would be unable to carry out any changes to their original plans without planning permission. The Parish Council unanimously made it clear that they would vigorously oppose the demolition of the old school building as this had been one of the conditions applied to the original planning permission.

Mention was also made regarding the transplant of the Millennium Tree and again SDC Cllr. Pemberton said that the District Council was aware of this and keeping an eye on it and that any tree with a preservation order on it that died, would have to be

replaced by a tree of the same variety, quality etc.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

1. Repairs to Welford Rd.
2. Buxton Farm – have raised £150k. The local prisoners are repairing bicycles and young offenders are helping with repairs to computers and electrical equipment and there are plans to extend the building.
3. It appears that Warwickshire County Council' contractors Carillion are charging too much for repairs and replacement to street lighting and alternative and more competitive quotes are being sought by some of the Parish Councils.

6. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Age Concern – copy of the OAK Project given to Mrs. Hall
- b) WCC – completed form re view to access to the countryside returned
- c) Training workshops – applied for 5 councillors and the clerk to attend the “Interpreting and guidance on responding to planning applications”
- d) Licensing Act – No specific comments to be made
- e) Grafton Lane – letters of consultation were sent to all residents asking for their comments. A s.a.e. was enclosed for their reply. There has been an over 30% response. Most are in favour of widening, or at least improving the footpath although some reservations were made. The main complaint is the illegal parking **on** the footpaths on both sides of the lane and the speed of the vehicles using the lane.
- f) Public open space Marleigh Rd. Robert Lunn (solicitors) advised of date of approval which was 27th Sept. 2004
- g) Jubilee Close play area – quotations and appointments requested
- h) B50 Plan – the clerk has asked P.C. Gately for a date in November when he can accompany Cllr. Gerrard and WC Cllr. Barnes to look at the Traffic and Transport Issues - The date of 3rd November was agreed.
- i) Working Parties/Committees:
 - Amenities and Play Areas working group met on 14th Oct. and chose Cllr. Mrs. Getgood as their new Chairman.
 - Quotation for hedge/tree planting Marleigh Rd. received. The quotation was accepted by the Council but the Clerk was asked to obtain clarification as to the types of trees that were envisaged.
- j) Following the adoption of Chairman and Parish Councillors Allowance, the clerk has advised SDC accordingly.
- k) Notice Boards – The Chairman advised that the Clerk had opted for the quotation put forward by Heartwood Joinery Services as the one offering best quality. New notice boards are envisaged to be up by beginning of Nov.
- l) Street lighting – Clerk accompanied Miss Annette Mackie to look into damaged/missing street lights- Priority Report circulated. Letter from Mrs. Tovey 53 Tower Hill received in this respect. It was decided that Street Light No. 7 at the Leys, which is the one that Mrs. Tovey refers to, which is dangerous and therefore urgent, should be repaired and a sleeve be placed on it in the meantime. Following WCC Cllr. Barnes comments, the Clerk was requested to look for alternative quotes for the

replacement of street lights.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Grimshaw Group re specialist stone cleansing service with no chemicals
- b) SDC re new Refuse Collection Service arrangements
- c) Wicksteed Leisure – Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its implications after October 2004 . It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting of the Amenities and Play Areas Group. The Chairman pointed out that there was a questionnaire at the end that could be useful
- d) REKK re Solar safety lighting system
- e) Muscular Dystrophy Campaign re Pumpkin Push at Ragley Hall
- f) Mr. Chris Sherriff of Worcester offering his services re memorials etc.
- g) Regional Action West Midlands – re AGM on 2nd November
- k) WCC – sandbags. This mater to be discussed at the Emergency Meeting on 26th Oct.
- l) SDC – re Old School Mead postal address details
- m) Valuation Office Agency – re rateable value of Parish Office from April 2005
- n) E-mail from Revd. David Hall re Christmas lights. The Parish Council agreed to the Christmas Lights. P.C. Peter Gately added that as last year’s had been vandalized he would like to be consulted to ensure no reoccurrence.
- o) NPower advising of raise in cost of electricity
- p) WCC – invitation to “Set your own Budget” workshops – circulated
- q) Acorns – invitation to the Christmas Fair on 10th Nov. at Birtsmorton Court
- r) Cotswold Line Promotion Group – First Western is introducing new timetables and improvements to the Honeybourne Station and CLPG are holding an Open Forum on Nov, 16th @ 7 p.m. to which members of the Council are invited. Details available.

8. LAND AT THE REAR OF DUGDALE AVENUE

The Council received notification from Paula Davies who has been requested by WCC to conclude this matter. The Parish Council stated that they are in fact awaiting confirmation from County Council that the gateway on to the play area does not constitute a right of way and that when the property is sold, the right of gateway must be reapplied for, The Clerk was instructed to reply to Paula Davies to this effect.

9. INSPECTION OF THE PLAY AREAS IN BIDFORD AND BROOM

This had been circulated. Persimmons, who are still responsible for the Millers Bank play area in Broom have been advised and they have sent a letter in reply informing the Council that they replacements have been order and will be fitted on receipt. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed in detail at the next Amenities Group meeting.

10. CHURCH CLOCK

Quotation has been received and the Parish Council contribution will be discussed at the Financial Meeting.

11. OPEN SPACE AUDIT OF THE MAIN RURAL CENTRES

The final draft has been received and was circulated. It was agreed that it should be discussed at the next Amenities Meeting.

12. BROADBAND

The clerk has obtained 3 quotations – BT, Demon and Plus Net. They all offer the same type of package with very little difference in price. Demon is currently offering free connection and modem and the monthly payment is slightly lower. Furthermore the clerk is more familiar with this server, so it was agreed that this should be taken up.

13. STREET LIGHTS

Following the request by the Parish Council that it should be supplied with a copy of the inspection sheet, this was received. It showed a number of bulbs requiring replacement, which have been ordered. The clerk was asked to advise WCC of 2 further street lights requiring attention namely Icknield Close, which had recently been changed, and the lamp outside the Church Hall which is permanently on.

14. PLANNING APPLICATION 04/03085/TREE – OLD BRIDGE INN MANAGEMENT CO. LTD. BRIDGE INN, HIGH STREET

T1 – Weeping Willow – 30% crown reduction.

This was approved with the additional comment to be made that the tree should not be cut down.

15. FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date for the meeting, which must include the RFO, to be agreed. The RFO advised various dates when he would be available and it was agreed that two meetings would be required on 24th November and 7th December at 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Meeting Room.

16. ALLOTMENT AND BURIAL GROUP MEETING

The date agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting, 3rd November, is now unavailable. A new date of 9th November at 8.00 p.m. was agreed this being the date when rent collection has been arranged.

17. BOWLING CLUB

Cllrs. Mrs. Keely, Hiscocks and Langston left the room having declared their interest. Cllr. Moore took over the chair and advised that a meeting confirmed that, as in the case of the Crawford Hall, if the Parish Council ordered the work at the Bowling Club, they could be invoiced and the VAT claimed back, saving the Bowling Club a considerable amount of money. It was proposed that an advance of £20k be given to allow for all the work to be finalised before the end of the year, this amount to be repaid in April 2005 when the balance of the grant is due. This was unanimously adopted.

18. CRAWFORD HALL – REOPENING

It was decided to discuss this item at this stage whilst the Councillors who had declared an interest in this item were still absent. Cllr. Moore continued as chair. It was proposed that more should be done to promote the Crawford Hall being the Village Hall of Bidford and that a Wine and Cheese party to celebrate its reopening. Some central people to be invited and then the Hall would be opened to the village. It was proposed that the Parish Council fund the evening, which would be promoting the Village Hall and the amount of £500 maximum, was agreed.

19. PARISH COUNCIL TRANSFER BADGES

Following the idea raising the profile of the Parish Council within the village, the Clerk had been asked to approach the printers and obtain ideas and quotations as to how best this could be done. The Best Value option appeared to be transfer badges that can be placed on street lights, bins etc. It was agreed to go ahead with the circular version with blue print – cost of £245 for 500. Options for the benches to be obtained.

20. LAND AT MILLERS BANK/KINGS LANE, BROOM

It was agreed that SDC Cllr. Pemberton would pursue the matter which is still in the hands of SDC and advise the Parish Council of the outcome.

21. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

1. Surgery is being held by the District Councillors on 13th November
2. The Audit Report is being made public and the assessment of Stratford-on-Avon D.C.
3. No planning permission required for LED display at petrol stations showing prices.

22. ACCOUNTS

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

Purchases	82,167.85
Wages	1,821.61

Payments received	
Broom Angling Club	88.12
Youth club	36.30
G. Clifford	65.00

Resolved that Cllrs. Ms. Deacon and Mrs. Kelley should sign

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman invited P.C. Gateley to give his report.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.