

# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005 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. Getgood, Mrs. Keeley, Gerrard,  
Langston, Moore Sandle and Spiers

Also present were:

County Councillor Barnes  
District Councillor Pemberton and Slaughter  
P.C. Peter Gateley and members of the public and the press

District Councillor James sent his apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the Parish Council Meeting, and asked if there were any questions from the public.

- Tony Quinney, of Waterloo Rd. advised the Council that large quantities of rubbish are being dumped at Friday Furlong and he fears this can cause another fire near his property similar to one that occurred last year. District Cllrs. Pemberton and Slaughter advised him to write to Dave Nash at District Council Office concerning the matter, copying the District Councillors and the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- Mark Smith requested clarification as to the procedures required in the event of a problem at the Big Meadow etc. (such as blocked toilets). He was advised to go through the clerk whenever possible.

### **REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- The County charge will rise by approx. 3% - of which 4% will go into education and 5% into social services.
- The B439 will be first B road to be looked at by County Highways. Cllr. Barnes advised that they would arrange for speed counts to be carried out at both Marriage Hill and tower Hill and added that he had already had done so and he expected both counts to be similar. He expects the Council will soon receive a letter from County Council regarding consultation on this matter.
- Two serious accidents had occurred at the pelican cross, caused by vehicles not driven by Bidford residents. Cllr. Barnes has requested the appropriate party at the County Office to look into the number of times road signs have been damaged by vehicles.

### **REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- The District Councillors apologised for the rubbish collection problems caused during the Christmas/New Year period. These were due to the way the bank holidays had fallen this year and efforts were being made to ensure it would not be repeated
- The Councillors had also made Street Scene aware of the rubbish problem in the recycling area of the Budges car park
- Cllr. Slaughter had arranged and attended the meeting between the Council and Mr. Peter Ridley regarding the adoption by the Council of the land at Dugdale Avenue, which is envisaged to be finalised soon.

### **REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

- Some 120 incidents had been reported over the whole area during the Christmas period, none of them violent
- There had been some burglary incidents involving domestic and commercial properties as well as some vehicles.
- 7 incidents of nuisance behaviour were also reported including egg throwing. The Police will be discussing the matter with Budgens to see how best this can be tackled.

The Chairman then opened the Parish Council Meeting

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none

#### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS OF 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 29<sup>th</sup> April 2002, 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

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2004**

Proposed by Cllr. Langston as being accurate.

**4. REPORT OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a) The Clerk has written to SDC and WCC advising that the Council would like the facilities at Coventry Airport to be brought up to international standards and to take into account facilities for the disabled
- b) The Clerk has written to all the residents in Marlcliff asking for their comments as to the possibility of installing street lighting within the village
- c) The Clerk has advised Lesley Morton that the use of the Parish Room for yoga on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February is acceptable subject to the standard charge.
- d) The Clerk replied to Mr. Brook regarding the power cuts
- e) Village Venture Competition 2004/05 – leaflets have been posted on the notice boards
- f) The Clerk has advised Revd. David Hall that the Council agreed to assist with the purchase of an automatic winding system by contributing 50% of the estimated cost of £3,810.00
- g) Meeting dates for 2005 have been posted on the notice boards and the website
- h) Tree Warden Scheme notice on the Parish Office notice board
- i) Dugdale Ave. – meeting has been arranged by Cllr. Slaughter

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) SDC – Invitation to the next Town/Parish Clerks and Chairmen’s Liaison meeting on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.00 p.m.
- b) WCC – Emergency Planning Unit – Availability of tabards, ID badges, blankets etc. from March on request  
It was agreed that the clerk should send a request for the items.  
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority – circulated
- c) Street light check list – Nov. 2004
- d) WCC – Warwickshire Strategic Review of Older People Services – Survey questionnaire to be completed  
A member of the Amenities Group and Bidford Community Group to complete this. Copy to be given to the clerk
- e) WALC – Newsletter December 2004 – circulated  
Environmental Information Regulations  
Seminar – Responsibilities of Local Councils Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Myton School, Myton Rd. Warwick – Councillors to let the clerk know if they wish to attend  
New National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of Service of Local Council Clerks/Guide to Good Employment Practice in Local Councils  
Asian Disaster Update – this clarified that the Council is not permitted to make any donations as it is outside of the Parish.
- f) SLCC – Membership renewal  
Approved
- g) Rekk – Information on Nclude Youth Shelter  
Information and leaflets given to the Amenities Group

- h) Leicester Drainage Co. – request to be included in the Approved List of Contractors
- i) Mick Hartland – Qualified Carpenter – request to be included in the Approved List of Contractors
- j) ArborPlant – Arboricultural machinery services introducing themselves and offering their services
- k) R. Stone – reply to the request of use of the Big Meadow for a Wedding Reception in Sept.  
It was agreed that this request be discussed at length by the Amenities Group as the Big Meadow is still open to the public in September, which is the date of this event.
- l) WRCC – Update on the Affordable Housing questionnaire, which is in the process of being analysed
- m) Council for Voluntary Service – Affiliation Renewal agreed
- n) David Brook – Further information regarding power cuts – circulated  
The clerk to provide the name and number of the contact at Aquila.
- o) ODPM \_ Freedom Of Information Act 2000 – circulated
- p) The Local Channel – Freedom of Information Act
- q) Rosemarie Owen – Tree in memory of John Faulkner; basket ball court and play area of the Big Meadow; thank you for help on the Open Morning at the Crawford Hall  
- tree to be inspected to ascertain requirements.
- r) Cleaning Service Group Ltd. New prices for 2005/06 (Site Public toilets)  
Increase noted

6. **AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED MEMBERS**

- a) WCC- New publication from County Council ESSENTIALS
- b) Council for Voluntary Service – Arden Newsletter Winter 2004
- c) South Warwickshire NHS – annual Report 2003/04
- d) Pie Reports quarter 2 July-September 2004/05
- e) Acorns – three Counties News
- f) West Midlands Regional Assembly Magazine Speaking Out – winter 2004/05

7. **COMMUNITY GROUP**

It was agreed that it would be a good idea for the Council to include items in the Newsletter issued by the community group. Article/ideas to be given to the clerk by the next Parish Council Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February,

8. **P3**

The Council agreed that it would be a good idea to join the scheme. The clerk was instructed to contact the members of the community who had expressed an interest in this area when replying to the B50 Appraisal to gauge interest. The press was also requested to publicise the request for volunteers to join this scheme.

9. **AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY EVENT**

The Council agreed to look at the possibility of staging a Bidford Sporting Event on the August Bank Holiday as there no longer is a fair. This will give families the opportunity of a good day out at a low cost and raise the profile of the various

sporting association of the village. It was agreed to contact the sporting associations to discuss the possibilities further.

10. **FENCING**

The clerk was requested to obtain quotes for the erection of fencing between the Youth Club and the allotment site.

11. **STREET LIGHT IN MARLCLIFF**

The clerk sent letters to the resident of Marlcliff requesting their comments to the proposal of street lights in the village. The majority replied that they were against as they wish the village to remain rural and not suffer from light pollution. The ratio was 3 to 1 against.

12. **GRAFTON LANE**

As the Council has still not received a response from County Council, the clerk was instructed to write to them again regarding this matter.

13. **MARLEIGH ROAD**

The Council's lease of the Public Open Space at Marleigh Road has now been officially registered.

14. **SMP (BASKET BALL COURT)**

The Council reiterated that no payment is to be made until it is fully satisfied with the work and the site is returned to its original state. It also restated that, as per the agreement it had with SMP, the company is fully responsible for all the work as it was agreed that they would act as supervisors.

15. **PRECEPT 2005/06**

Cllr. Gerrard, as Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee, proposed the precept be set at £81,000, which was unanimously agreed by the Council. When setting this amount, which will represent a cost of 83p per week for a Band D household, the Council was taking into account the improvements it wishes to make in accordance with the B50 Appraisal Plan; the adoption of the playing fields of Dugdale Avenue; street light improvement scheme; Broom traffic calming measures and the work to become a Quality Status Council

16. **AUDIT**

Completion of Audit for the year ending March 2004 and an unqualified audit opinion has been given. The matters raised by the External Auditor have been satisfactorily answered and the necessary changes to the submitted Return made. Notice of the completion of Audit has been posted.

17. **VAT**

The clerk advised that there would be a VAT inspection on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January

18. **PARISH COUNCIL LABELS**

The Council agreed for these to be put on all items for which the Parish Council is responsible such as street lights, dog bins, litter bins, etc.

19. **TENDER**

The clerk was instructed to send an advertisement to the local press requesting tenders for the flower boxes for the Villages.

20. **WEBSITE**

The Council agreed that more publicity should be given to the website i.e. in newsletters, through the school, press etc. It was also agreed to look into the cost of an improved web master.

**21. AMENITIES GROUP**

Next meeting confirmed for 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm

**22. ACCOUNTS**

The Chairman read out the list of cheque payments

Purchases:	£20,421.46
Wages	1,906.77

Cheque No. 3456 for an amount of £165.99 payable to Demon Internet was cancelled and replaced by cheque No. 3474 for an amount of £24.99. A credit note for £141.00 to be requested.

Payments received	
Cemetery sales	£ 130.00
Churchyard maintenance	5,434.52
Meeting room hire	41.71
N. Power refund	405.31
Allotment rent	7.15

Resolved Cllrs. Gerrard and Spiers sign the cheques

**23. FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY**

Due to the sensitive nature of the item, it was proposed that the members of the public and press be invited to leave the room.

Mr. Peter Smith, a resident from Marlcliff had responded the advertisement the clerk had put up on the notice boards on behalf of the Parish Council. The Chairman read the letter and the Council unanimously agreed to invite him to become a member.

The clerk was instructed to carry out the normal procedures.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.