

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24th October in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT

Chairman	Cllr. Mrs. Keeley
Cllrs.	Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hendey, Langston, Sandle, Smith, and Spiers

Also present:

County Cllr. Barnes, District Cllrs. and Slaughter, 2 members of the public and 2 members of the press.

The Chairman, Mrs. Keeley, welcomed those present. She noted that there were no young residents to participate in the Youth Public Forum and opened the Public Forum.

- A member of the public expressed her disappointment that the Parish Council had supported the development of 5 Crompton Ave. which she considered to be infill. She stressed that both the Parish and the District Councils should take note that the village infrastructure cannot bear further developments of this type when the large developments on Waterloo Rd. – Friday Furlong and Marleigh House – were going through – and again earnestly requested both Councils to take this into consideration when discussing further infill developments. The Chairman noted the comments and advised that the Council had to consider each application on its own merit but that it would take on board the comments that had been made.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Police Reform – Cllr. Barnes distributed copies of a Briefing Note on Police Reform. One of the options, joining with West Mercia Police, would appear to have the advantage that West Mercia had won prizes for its policing of rural

areas. Whereas currently Warwickshire Police has poor back up resources, West Mercia has a good one with specialized policies. However, it was pointed out that the two forces would not meet the requirements put forward by the Home Office as it requires a force of 4,000 minimum, this would mean having to koin a third force which, the Chairman pointed out, would leave Bidford on the fringes as the alternatives offered are Stafford and West Midlands.

- B439 – Money had been found for the next financial year for further improvements on this road towards Stratford – this is in addition to the current speed review taking place at Bidford itself.
- Drains – these had been inspected again and it has been confirmed that the both Broom High Street and Queensway have drains that do not appear to go anywhere A Councillor requested if anything could be done about clearing water from Bidford High Street which collects on the street after heavy rainfall.
- WCC has proposed donating £50,000 to the Olympics in the year 2006.06 and £100,000 the following 5 years
- Stratford Fire Station is down to 1 crew which means delays in the promotion of smoke alarms. Also response to fires will be slower.
The clerk was instructed to contact Stratford Fire Station regarding the delay in responding to emergencies as this caused concern amongst members of the council who were unaware of any changes.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- A written report (attached hereto) had been sent by the District Councillors covering the relevant issues.
The Chairman expressed the disappointment of the Council at the failure of SDC to reconsider the abolishment of Section 136, adding that District Council were transferring this cost, as well as that of Parish Elections, on to the Parish Councils in the knowledge that they are not capped whereas District is – it will, therefore, by forcing Parish and Town Councils to increase their precepts dramatically, be able to state that it has kept its increase to a minimum, leaving Parish and Town Councils to take the consequences.
- One item was added – there had been an accident reported on the Welford Rd. in Barton and there had been a request that the Parish Council put pressure for a speed review in the village. County Cllr. Barnes advised that, as there had been no injuries nor damage, it was **not** considered an accident but an incident and had been recorded as such by the Police who attended.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors, adding that having a written report was an improvement as it allowed Members to have prior knowledge and thus be able to ask relevant questions if necessary, and opened the Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted for Cllrs. Hiscocks and Ms. Varga

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON 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 29th 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.

Cllr. Smith declared a non pecuniary interest in item 5c as he is a member of the Bidford Junior Football Club

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24th SEPTEMBER 2005

Proposed by Cllr. Langston as being accurate and signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Broom Village Hall – the Clerk has written to County and District Council requesting financial support.

County will be looking at it at their Nov. meeting but £5k is the max. they can give. Re SDC, the Council has received a letter from them and its proposal is being discussed at the FM meeting

b) Broom Dog Bins – they have been ordered

c) Broom bus shelter- update

Received 3 quotes and have sent request for grant based on the best value.

Have received confirmation that the grant for £3000 has been allocated – form to be completed and returned

d) Section 136 – update

The Chairman reported that, despite the efforts of a number of Parish and Town Councils, the abolition of this appears to be going ahead. She added that Members were attending the WALC AGM where this was an item of discussion on the Agenda and she would report back at the next meeting.

e) 5 Crompton Ave. – Members had carried out a site visit and resolved to support the development as it is the type of dwelling needed in the village.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a) WCC – Warwickshire’s Local Transport Plan – Annual Progress Report
Our Year in Review 2004-05

b) Wychavon District Council – Inviting suggestions for the Local Development Framework and Statement of Community Involvement by 4th Nov. 2—5

c) Bidford Juniors Football Club – Cllr. Smith left the room

This included a request for settlement of some invoices in connection with the fencing off of the new football pitch on the Big Meadow. It was resolved that as this was for cement which was essential to erect the fencing (which has already been paid for) payment should be authorized.

d) Letter from Mr. Barr from Harbury, Leamington Spa

His request for payment for the replacement of a tyre, which he claimed had been damaged by the dragons teeth on the Big Meadow which had made a hole on the side of it, was discussed. It was agreed that it did not seem possible for the dragons teeth, which have been in place for a number of years, to be responsible for that type of damage and the clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Barr on those terms.

- e) Letter from John Lawson's Circus re possible visit to Bidford in June 2006
This had been discussed at the Amenities Working Group Meeting and its Chairman will be delivering a report later in the meeting
- f) Thank you letters for donations from Westholme Court and the Twinning Ass.
- g) Request from Broom Village Hall Committee to use the King's Lane playing field for the fete on Sat. 2nd Sept. 2006
The Council has no objection subject to all insurances being in place
- h) Amanda Oliver – Request for grant towards production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat in school and church
It was agreed that this would be decided by the Finance Committee at its next meeting
- i) Big Meadow – request from member of the public to review opening dates to give access to the disabled
This was discussed but, taking into consideration the weather and the fact that the water is turned off during the winter months closing the toilets, it would not be possible to extend the period when the Big Meadow is open . Mention was made that wheelchairs can still get in through the gates should they wish to enter.

6. AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

- a) Countryside Voice
- b) Vitalise – Issue 3 Autumn 2005
- c) South Warwickshire Carers' Support Service - CONTACT
- d) Coventry & Warwickshire Learning Consortium – Recognition Plus
- e) The Arden Newsletter autumn 2005
- f) Stratford District – Community Plan Delivery 2005/06
- g) The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation leaflet

7. LOCAL WORKS – LOCAL AUTHORITY RESOLUTION

Papers regarding this had been circulated for a decision by the Council whether to support it. It was resolved to discuss this at the Financial Meeting taking place on Tuesday 25th October.

8. MONIE MEADOW

As instructed the Clerk had written to the Trustee for financial assistance for improving the hedge and fence. The Trustees have replied that they are prepared to consider giving a contribution but they need to know the cost and specification of the work. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotations to present to the Trustee.

9. GLEBE CLOSE BENCH

At a previous meeting, the Council had said that it would be prepared to consider the request that the bench not be replaced once the bench, which is the property of the Parish Council and which had been unlawfully removed, was returned. The Chairman stated that there could not be one set of rules to be applied to the young and another applied to adults. And the unlawful removal of street furniture belonging to the Parish Council was theft and could not be tolerated. An opportunity to replace it had been given and not taken. It was, therefore, proposed that the bench, which had been installed to help the elderly, be replaced. The proposal was unanimously supported by members.

10. VANDALISED TREE METHODIST CHURCH (CHAPEL CLOSE)

The tree, which had been planted in memory of Cllr. Faulkner, has been vandalized and had to be removed. It was proposed that a replacement – a mountain ash – be planted with appropriate protection. Quotation received was for £190 which was accepted.

11. TRANSPORT TOKENS

Although District no longer distributes bus tokens, the Parish Council still has a supply and it was resolved to distribute these to Pensioners and Registered Disabled at the Jolly Teapot on 17th and 24th November.

12. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES SUB COMMITTEE (WORKING GROUP)

- Circus – This is a non animal circus and it was agreed to invite them for the proposed dates of 12th to 14th June 2006.
- It was agreed that the centre of the village needs improvement - benches etc. and it was agreed that District's Street Scene Officer be contacted for advice
- Meeting with Broom Committee Group was being arranged to discuss the outcome of their Youth Survey
- Dog bins – a shortage of these at Marlcliff has been reported. Cllr. Smith, resident of Marlcliff, to make the necessary enquiries of the residents and report.
- P3 – a second meeting had taken place which had been well attended. Survey Forms had been distributed and already one had been returned. Volunteers had proposed and agreed to carry out the small jobs required – the larger jobs to be contracted out. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Paths Group (WCC) formally requesting the allocated funds.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **05/02880/FUL – Mr. and Mrs. G. Bristow**
Bentleys, Kings Lane, Broom – Retrospective change of use of agricultural land to garden. Retention of 1.8 metre high fence fronting Kings Lane
No representation
- **05/02942/FUL – Mrs. H. Butler**
35 The Meadows. Proposed new window to north elevation. Pitched roof and enlarged window to east elevations

The following comments was made:

The window to be fixed and obscure so that no visible form can be seen

- **05/01749/FUL & 01750/DEM – Mr. K. Darling**

Fraser House, High Street – Advice that it is going for Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

Draft reply had been circulated. This was approved and the Clerk instructed to send it.

14. ACCOUNTS

Purchases:	£2,867.80
Wages	£1,692.72
VAT	£ 417.26
Grants	£6,905.00
Payments received	
Cemetery receipts	£ 1,130.00
Car Park receipts	756.00
Allotment rent	401.65
Fishing rights (Broom)	88.12
Youth club	36.30
NPower refund	172.16

It was noted that since the last meeting a cheque for £43.48 had been issued to pay for the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Crocus

It was resolved Cllrs. Langston and Smith sign

Before the meeting closed, the Clerk advised that she did not think it appropriate for the decision of whether to support the Local Works Resolution – Point 7 of the Agenda – be discussed and agreed on at a Finance Meeting, so Members agreed to discuss prior to closing the meeting. It was mentioned that it was a good idea that the matters raised by Local Works be brought before Members of Parliament to make them aware of the issues – however, no financial gain could be envisaged. It was resolved that support should be given.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 pm