

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th February 2006 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT

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

- Also present: County Cllr. Barnes; District Cllr. James, Pemberton and Slaughter, 7 members of the public and 1 member of the press

The Chairman welcomed all those present and introduced Mr. Frank Gravenor, from the National Probation Service (Warwickshire) whom the Council had invited to come and give a short presentation on the free service that he could offer through the Unpaid Work Scheme. He was accompanied by his colleague Dave Adams.

- The Unpaid Work Scheme was set up by the Criminal Act 2003
- Offenders have to carry out between 40 and 300 hours of unpaid work depending on the offence committed
- All offenders are risk assessed and are supervised. 6 offenders maximum per supervisor
- Supervisors are experienced people and have gone through special training for the job
- Labour is free but materials have to be supplied
- Although the scheme allows for such work as picking up litter, cleaning graffiti, clearing open spaces etc. it is preferred that the job they do is both rewarding and

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constructive to enable to offender to find a job once the hours have been completed.

- It was agreed that details of their website would be publicized so that they could be contacted by anyone wishing to enquire further.

www.warwickshireprobation.org.uk

After some questions and answers the Chairman thanked Messrs. Gravenor and Adams who then left.

The Chairman noted that there were no young residents to participate in the Youth Public Forum and asked the members of the public whether they wished to make any comments.

- Two residents from Broom requested an update on the progress on the King's Lane Playing Area. This item was on the Agenda, and the Chairman requested the clerk to give details:
 - The Parish Council has met with Persimmons to finalize negotiations regarding the adoption of Millers Bank.
 - It was agreed that the vegetation along the river should be cleared and that the playing area should be dismantled AFTER the commuted sum had been paid to the Parish Council which would allow it to purchase new playing equipment.
 - The Council would also have to finalise negotiations with Stratford District Council regarding the lease of the Kings Lane Playing Field
 - The Council assured the Broom residents that they would be consulted prior to any playing equipment being installed to ensure it is what the residents want.
- A Bidford resident advised that more dog bins were required and that the current ones were not being emptied regularly causing them to overflow.
- A resident from Blenheim Close complained of problems with youths throwing eggs, stones etc. The Chairman stressed the importance of advising the police, which the resident had done.
The resident added that he has requested District Council if it would be possible to close the entrance from The Bank to Blenheim Close, which Cllr. Pemberton confirmed was being looked at.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Compost bins are still be supplied by WCC at subsidized prices. There are two models
 - Compost Converter (330 litres) £6
 - Soil Saver (600 litres) £15To order call 0845 0732001 – you can also contact 0845 6000323 for advise and information
- Mineral Development roadshow taking place at the Crawford Hall on March 10th from 6pm to 8pm
- County Council Tax set to increase by nearly 5%

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- Bird Flu – if you find a dead waterfowl don't touch it – contact 08459 335577 immediately and report it
- Speed reducing scheme in Bidford has been approved and gone out to tender.
- County Council was dismayed and concerned that the Ambulance Service was advertising the position of a Senior Manager for the merged service. As the merger has still not been approved, County Council asked that this advertisement be discontinued

The Chairman thanked the County Cllr.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Stratford District Council is against the Ambulance Service merger
- District Council Tax is being increased by 3.7%
- The Local Plan has been reviewed again and there are to be no changes
- Some residents had expressed concern that trees on the Marleigh House development that had preservation orders were being felled. Planners have looked into this and confirm that work is being carried out as per the planning consent
- The development of Friday Furlong is before committee on 2nd March

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors and opened the Parish Council Meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Hiscocks

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. Hendey declared an interest in item 5d)
- Cllr. Langston declared an interest in item 5c) i
- Cllr. Mrs. Keeley declared an interest in item 8

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2006

Proposed by Cllr. Ms. Deacon as being accurate and signed By the Chairman

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) Community Links – The clerk has circulated the information
- b) Coventry & Warks. Ambulance – Clerk has written expressing the Council's opposition with copy to the local MP who has replied, also stating his opposition
- c) Crawford Memorial Hall – Approval has been received from Warwickshire Environment Trust for the Council to take over the project
- d) Land at the rear of Dugdale Avenue – Contracts were exchanged on 13.02.2006

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- e) Sports Ass. have been advised of the Council's decision to contribute to the mowing for the year 2006/07 and that a request will have to be submitted annually thereafter.
- f) Precept has been submitted
- g) Improvement to Monie Meadow – letter received from Trustees regarding their financial contribution
As advised they were thinking of £500 but in view of the high spec and trouble the PC has taken, he will recommend to the trustees this amount is increased – they hope to meet in March
- h) Update on Millers Bank/Broom tip – copies of correspondence circulated.
Details of this item are in the answers to a member of the public

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – i) Quotation for maintenance of the footway lighting 187 lights @£13.02 totaling £2,434.74 + VAT p.a.
The above details were incorrect. The quotation is £13.23 per streetlight making the total £2,474.01 which was accepted by the council
- ii) Formal consultation re increase in admission number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Stratford
Noted
- iii) Waste Development Framework Consultation – Invitation to attend forums – details on the website or please contact the clerk
County Cllr. Barnes proposed that the council invite WCC to hold a forum/roadshow in Bidford similar to the Mineral Development Framework. This was agreed
- iv) Email from the Casualty Reduction Partnership advising of progress towards speeding enforcement in Broom. Order for new signage to bring it up to standard has been issued and it should be completed in by end Feb/ beginning March
- v) Minerals and Development Framework Core Strategy – Preliminary Consultation. Papers available at the Parish Office and links available on the council's website. There is a roadshow being held on Friday 10th March at the Crawford Memorial Hall between 6.00 and 8.00 pm
The deadline for returning the questionnaire is 3rd April – It was agreed that the clerk should completed the form on behalf of the council and each member send their own
- b) SDC – i) Decorum – open letter on Standards and Ethics Issue 1
- c) WALC – i) Newsletter February (their email out of action) Nominations for attendance at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 11th July – nominations must be in by 3rd March
It was resolved to propose Cllr. and Mrs M. Gerrard
- ii) Invitation to enter Warwickshire Best Kept Village Competition
It was agreed to enter into the competition
- d) Broom Village Hall – seeking financial assistance as the quotes received are higher than expected (circulated)

Before leaving the room, Cllr. Hendey explained the circumstances. The committee had agreed to take out a loan for £15k. However, when they communicated this to the Lottery Fund they were advised that if that were the case the lottery money would be immediately withdrawn. The committee explained that it was an unsecured loan, but that made no difference. That meant the committee were £15k short and if they were unable to raise it would not be able to go ahead with the project. Cllr. Hendey then left the room. Members agreed that it was unthinkable to allow the project to fail in view of the amount of work and time that had been invested in it and that the council could not let the resident of Broom down. The Chairman reminded the Council that a donation of £5k was already included in the 2006/07 Budget. It was then proposed that the council pledge a further £5k in the years 2007/08 and 2008/09. This was unanimously agreed and the resolution was passed.

- e) Letter from a resident in Wessons Rd. expressing concern about the footpath in Grafton Lane and the recycling bins in the carpark
The clerk has written to him that the footpath is WCC and the bins SDC. The council noted the residents comments
- f) NPower – letter, dated 6th Feb. and send 2nd Class advising of a 17.6% increase in the cost of electricity from 1st January. Should an alternative be sought
It was agreed to obtain a quote
- g) Warwickshire Compact – Annual Report 2005
- h) Council for Voluntary Service – thank you for contribution
- i) Warwickshire Probation Area – invitation to attend “Working Together to reduce Re-offending Conference” on Tues. 28th March 9.30 am - 4.00 pm, Dunchurch
- j) Bidford & District History Society – requesting financial assistance in starting this up – *it was proposed, and agreed, that a £50 donation be given as this was one of the issues that came up when the Appraisal was carried out*
- k) OGC Buying Solutions – the council has recently signed a contract for the supply of unmetered electricity with them valid until March 2007 – they are inviting the council to consider a 3 year contract which could be of benefit.
It was agreed to obtain this quotation and then make the decision
- l) Letters from two resident regarding anti social behaviour in the village
Copies were forwarded to Insp. Emma Walton who suggested a meeting with the Parish Council. This is taking place on 8th March
- m) Request from resident that a NO Dogs sign be erected on the Marleigh play area
It was agreed to have this done
- n) Letter from Warwickshire Police – *The Clerk was instructed to reply*
- o) Letter from Wychavon DC re the Local Development Framework
It has come to their attention that they should have consulted the Parish Council at the Regulation 25 stage i.e. the initial stage. They have written to ask whether the council feel prejudiced. The council did not but noted the comments
- p) Letter from resident of The Pleck regarding the state of the footpath
The clerk forwarded the letter to WCC who is responsible for the footpath and has replied in full to the resident concerned after receiving a detailed reply

6. AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

- a) News letter CPRE
- b) Coventry & Warwickshire Learning Consortium – Training Calendar
- c) Newsletter Heart of England Winter/Spring 2006

7. MUSEUM

Draft copy of the two panels on the Anglo Saxons in Bidford for the Council's approval have been received – these were studied by members who expressed disappointment. The clerk was instructed to write to the museum stating they wanted items more relevant to Bidford-on-Avon and more explanatory text.

8. BUS TOKENS

Proposal for their use now that the system is being terminated.
It was proposed that they be donated to Home Trust Farm who use them for paying the local taxi and this was unanimously agreed and the resolution passed.

9. AMENITIES WORK GROUP

- a) Proposal for two benches to be bought to install by the War Memorial - the cost for these was included in the budget for 2006/07 and the resolution was passed by a vote of 5 for and 4 against.
- b) Next P3 meeting is on Thursday March 9th at 7.30 at the Crawford Memorial Hall

10. BROOM BUS ROUTE

*It has been noticed that, although the bus **should** pass the bus shelter on Bidford Rd. it actually comes from Dunnington, collects passengers outside the Tavern – no bus stop there at all – and then turns left at the junction of the High St. with Bidford Rd. and, therefore, does not go past the bus stop at all. The clerk was instructed to advise WCC of this*

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

06/00226/TREE Mrs. D, Dare 108 High St. T1 Eucalyptus – prune back overhanging lateral branches from roof, gutters and windows of 110 High St.

Approved subject to approval by the arboricultural department

06/00281/TRE Mr.,& Mrs. Bidwell, 4 The Pleck – T1 almond – fell

Approved subject to approval by the arboricultural department

12. APPROVAL OF RISK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND UPDATED STANDING ORDERS

It was agreed to give members more time to study these and they should form part of March's Agenda

13. ACCOUNTS

- a) the clerk has ordered 5 litter bins @ £100 + VAT each
- b) request by the clerk for the purchase of a digital camera for Parish Council use – *it was agreed she should purchase one at Tesco*
- c) Payments – this included a payment to SDC of £67.50 made on 31st January 2006 to pay the fee for the planning application for the extension to the Crawford Memorial Hall
- d) Purchases £10,491.74
 Wages 1,692.72
- e) Payments received :
 - Cemetery sales £250
 - Photocopying 59.22
 - Local Transport Project grant 500
 - Seven and Trent refund 106.58

It was resolved Cllrs.Mrs. Keeley and Langston sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm