

- Their numbers will also be increasing from the current 63 to 187 by 2008. when asked by the Chairman of the council whether Bidford could expect the increase to mean another PSCO, she was led to believe this was a strong possibility as they are aware of the problems in the village.
- The Chairman also asked whether the proposed merger of the police forces would dilute the number and presence of the PSCO in rural areas and was answered that the Chief Constable was making great efforts to ensure rural policing is not diluted or compromised.
- It is envisaged that PSCOs will be given bicycles – however they will not be given motor vehicles as the idea is that they should be both highly visible and available.

The Chairman thanked David Shirley and Andy Skyte who then left.

The Chairman noted that there were no young residents to participate in the Youth Public Forum and asked Mr. Walter Stafford, member of the public whether he wished to make any comment.

- Mr. Stafford thanked the Parish Council for arranging the Minerals Development Framework road show at the Crawford Hall on March 10th which he thought had been fairly well attended.

He advised he had attended a forum last week and would let the council have notes regarding this. He added that the intention is to have the Broom Farm site eliminated from any future minerals plan.

The Chairman advised that members of the council and the clerk would be attending the workshop at Leamington Spa on Saturday 29th April

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. Barnes kindly allowed district councillors to give their report first as one of them had to leave to attend to another matter.

- District Council has secured an amount of £3.8 million over the next 2 years for affordable housing, which it recognizes as one of the major issues in the district. The number of houses will be 111 and will be for rent and sale. The Parish Council noted with disappointment that there were no houses being built in the South West of the district, which is of importance to Bidford, the closest village being Welford. District Cllrs. confirmed that the number and areas had been driven by local home surveys but that they are also subject to availability of suitable land on which to build. For example, the survey showed Broom needed 3/4 affordable houses but the difficulty was in where they should be built. It was also important to ensure that the houses remained affordable and SDC was looking into this as it realizes the importance of local people being able to buy properties in the area and continue to contribute to its wealth.
- Summer Activities Play Scheme – this would be available for this coming summer and interested parties should contact Anne Long, Community Funding Officer for assistance.
- SDC are organizing a health drive in the district which will be visiting Bidford in June

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- The council was reminded that there was a strike on Tuesday which could result in a shortage of staff at the offices and some departments may be closed completely.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- There had been a 32% increase in the attendance at Bidford library in the past year
- WCC were offering £5 vouchers to help trace your family tree which can be used in libraries. The vouchers are valid for 90 days and will start operating in April
- All the emails sent by the clerk regarding outstanding work had been passed on to the portfolio holder – something will be done but perhaps it will have to wait until the beginning of the new financial year April 2006.
- Safety officers will be looking at the junction in the High St. as one of the issues brought up in the B50 Appraisal.
- Waste is becoming a big issue in the county which will have to start incinerating waste as there is not enough landfill. The issue of waste raised a number of issues from members of the parish council, who requested plastic and cardboard be collected for recycling from homes – this would increase the amount that would be recycled. Members also asked for the recycling area on the Anglo Saxon car park to be revised as it is an eyesore. Cllr. Barnes pointed out both these issues were District not Council although he supported the idea of more collections of recyclable goods from homes. He also advised that in some areas of the county, waste was collected once a fortnight, reducing the number of rubbish collectors on the road – this required brown wheely bins to be made available. Where it has been imposed, it was working very well with no complaints and less rubbish and pollution on the roads.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Smith 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.

None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27th FEBRUARY 2006

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

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) Quotation for maintenance of footway lighting has been accepted
- b) Mineral and Development Framework Core Strategy – Preliminary Consultation Questionnaire has been completed and sent to WCC
- c) Electricity supply for metered streetlight – *quotation received and accepted from OGC for 9.677 per Kw*
- d) Dog Fouling signs have been ordered from SDC
6 signs have been ordered at £5 each
- e) The clerk has written to the Museum expressing the council's disappointment with the drafts display panels received.
Fresh proofs, with text, received and shown to the council who unanimously approved them after agreeing the text was a great improvement and helped to make sense of the pictures.
- f) The clerk wrote to WCC regarding the bus stop at Broom and was advised that the bus stop referred to as Bidford Rd. Broom was the one at the junction of Bidford Road/Waterloo Rd. – this should actually be Wixford Rd.
It was agreed that the clerk should write and ask them to review the time tables when they are next printed to encourage more people to use the buses.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) John Maples MP has sent copy correspondence of his letter to the Ambulance Trust and of correspondence with WCC and Warwickshire Police regarding Bidford Bridge.
The Chairman commented that the MP was being very helpful. The letter from the police in reply to the issue about HGVs on Bidford Bridge was read out, in which the police ask the residents to make a note of the registration and company of the HGVs breaking the 10T limit and report them to the police. It was noted this had been done in the past with no positive results. The difficulty of prosecuting was also pointed out as it is difficult to ascertain which lorries are over the 10T. SDC Cllr. James suggested the council write to VOSA in Birmingham regarding this problem
- b) WCC – Advertising A Boards and Trade Displays on the Highways – they will require a license with effect from 1st April 2006
- Mineral Development Framework consultation Workshop on Sat. 29th April @ Manor Hall, Sandy Lane Leamington Spa 10.15 am – 12.30 pm
- c) SDC – District Council Elections – copies of Notice of Election have been displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards
- d) WALC - Newsletter – circulated
Cllr. Ms.Varga had sent an email to the clerk regarding WCC Children's Act Project and suggesting the council invite Jo Casey or Peter Hatcher to a meeting to talk about this issue – it was noted that it could be an idea.
- e) Warwickshire Police – response to request regarding HGVs on Bidford Bridge
- f) DSM – response re condition of former Geodis site
The Director admitted that it was unsightly but that, regrettably, it was the only

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way of securing the premises. It asked the council to be patient as it was hoped the site would be sold shortly and a planning application submitted with the next 2/3 months.

- g) Bidford Christmas Lights 2000 – request permission to hold the annual Duck Race on Sunday 25th June 2006 - *Agreed*
- h) Broom Village Hall – Thank you letter for the continued support and commitment to the rebuilding project following the resolution to give them £5,000 grants to 2008
- i) Letter from Mr. And Mrs. J. Stanley regarding the land availability rear of Millers Bank – circulated
It was unanimously resolved that the entire open space at Millers Bank should remain the property of the Parish Council once it was adopted and transferred. The clerk was instructed to advise Mr. and Mrs. Stanley accordingly.
- j) Jason Norledge – request for dog bins (7)
It was resolved to buy 4 Swintex bins at £53.20 each (plus posts)
- k) Letter from T. Price re Land at rear of California Allotments
The clerk was instructed to write to the lessor of Big California allotment reminding him of the terms of the lease
- l) Letter from Vitalise – formerly Winged Fellowship Trust
Request for funds noted – decision to be made later in the year
- m) Letter from The Sea Cadets (Evesham Cadet Unit) who are raising funds to purchase a Minibus to provide safe and reliable transport to the cadets
Request noted – decision to be made later in the year
- n) Letter from Guide Dogs – it is their 75th anniversary – raising fund event required
Request noted – decision to be made later in the year.

6. AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

- a) Pie Reports Quarter 3 of 2005/06 (Oct. – Dec. 2005)

7. APPROVAL OF RISK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND UPDATE STANDING ORDER

These had been circulated to all members.

Risk Assessment procedure was accepted with no alterations

Updated Standing Orders were amended as follows:

- a) the use of mobile phones is not allowed during meetings
- b) Point 19 Accounts and Financial Estimates – 19.2.2) this refers to a financial year (as opposed to a calendar year)

Revised Standing Orders were approved

8. P3 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The clerks proposed that payments for the purchase of tools between PC meetings, to a maximum amount of £150 and within the limits of the grant received, be approved subject to the normal signatures of 2 councillors and the clerk. This is to avoid the group having to wait until the end of a month to make what could be a small, but essential purchase of a tool/tools. This was approved – but it was stressed that it must

be within the limits of the grant amount.

9. PLAYING FIELDS AT THE REAR OF DUGDALE AVENUE

An email from a resident had been received, requesting the use of the football pitch on Sunday 9th April at 3.00 pm to be played against a local business team. They would give a donation.

It was agreed to allow the match subject to availability of the pitch. The donation to the Council would be most welcome and the Council would put it towards youth improvements

It was also agreed that the Amenities Group should meet soon to discuss the future of the playing fields

10. ACCOUNT

Payments

Purchases £10,200.52

Wages £ 1,692.10

Ind. Rev. £ 1,757.25

Payments received

Cemetery £ 430.00

Clerks meeting £ 75.00

Section 136 £6,862.78

11. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE AND OTHER CONTRACTS

Due to the sensitive nature of these discussions, members of the press and public were not present

CLERK

- Although an increase in the clerk's salary had been agreed in February 2005 in line with the new NALC/Local Government Agreement, to £20,371.04 – the scale had not been agreed. It was proposed that this be set at LC2 28 and this was agreed.

As agreed in February 2005 the increase was staggered, and the second increment would be effective from April 2006. The salary of £22,293.00 corresponding to the new scale of LC 28 would be effective from April 2007.

- It was also agreed that an Appraisal should be carried out and the clerk was requested to obtain the necessary form/format from WALC
- The clerk advised that she had received the Certificate of Achievement from the Society of Local Council Clerks after taking the Working with Your Council Course and it was agreed she should now apply for the CiLCA (quality status) which should be done within a period of 2 years.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

- The Contract of Employment was approved with an annual salary of £5,219.01 increasing by the allowance of cost of living as allowed to local officers.

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OTHER CONTRACTS

- **ENVIRONMENT OPERATIVE**
 - It was resolved that under Best Value the current contract should be extended by a further two years as the current party carries out an excellent job at the most competitive price available. Value of the contract for the year 2006.07 is £2,496.00
- **SALFORD ROAD CEMETERY GUARDIAN**
 - It was resolved that under Best Value the current contract should be extended by a further two years as the current party carries out an excellent job at the most competitive price available. Value for the contract for the year 2006/07 is £3,120.00
- **SOLE ICE CREAM CATERING RIGHTS TO THE BIG MEADOW 2006**
 - Only one quotation for £1,404.00 ex VAT. had been received which was accepted.

The clerk advised that no one had approached her regarding the Sole Catering Rights to the Big Meadow for 2006

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm