

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th June 2006 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT

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

Also present: County Cllr. Barnes and 1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Barnes and the member of the public and asked him if there was anything he would like to say.

- He asked to know if the 30 mph markings on Victoria Rd. would be reinstated and advised that the 30 mph sign at the bottom of Victoria Rd. was obscured by tree branches (have been for some time) He added that he had advised the clerk who had assured him she would advise WCC accordingly. Cllr. Barnes also noted this.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr. Barnes had called the WCC call centre to test the service which, he reported, was not good.
- County councils were holding a seminar on 4th July to discuss universal ways of disposing of plastic in a satisfactory manner.
- Cllr. Barnes was asked to put in a request to clear the ditch by the Anglo Saxon car park and see what could be done about it.

PC Mins. June. 2006

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Apologies had been received from the Ward Members who were attending a meeting in Stratford

The Chairman then opened the Parish Council Meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Gerrard

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.

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Hiscocks and Langston declared a non pecuniary interest in item 13

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND MAY 2006

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

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) Dugdale Ave. – Notice has duly been posted on the gate
- b) Victoria Rd. resurfacing – following the concerns expressed by the Council, an explanatory email has been received from WCC regarding this issue –circulated
The clerk was instructed to write back to WCC stating that, regardless of the explanation, members were unimpressed with the results. Similar comments had been received from residents of Victoria Rd.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – i) Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement - *Noted*
 - ii) Update on Bidford Bridge – *comment read and noted*
 - iii) Info. on WCC Trading Standards Service – *this link has been added to PC's website and made more prominent*
 - iv) Bus Service Improvements – *The clerk has asked WCC for details of the current services to be able to carry out the survey. This will form part of the Transport Project currently being undertaken by the PC*
- b) SDC – i) Reply re missing Wards Lane street sign – *according to SDC's maps, GIS system etc. there is no such address so they are asking whether it is necessary to spend money replacing it? The Clerk was instructed to advise SDC that the Council had been asked by SDC to name the road. Furthermore, the land behind the Fire Station, which belongs to WCC, will be developed in due course and will need a street name. Finally, the carpark is called Wards Lane Car Park and therefore there should be*

PC Mins. June. 2006

- an indication of where it is.
- ii) Review of Locality Action Plans 2005/06 – *Clerk to complete and return*
 - iii) Climbing Wall will be at Big Meadow on 17th August 10-12 noon & August 2-4 pm 22nd – *Clerk to advertise*
 - iv) Proposed SDC Food Hygiene Inspection Results Rating Scheme - Consultation document – *Clerk to advertise to allow community to respond*
 - c) Worcs. CC – Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Report - Statutory Participation form - *Noted*
Notice of pre submission public participation waste core strategy - *Noted*
 - d) Wychavon DC – Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement- *Noted*
 - e) East Midlands Regional Assembly – Review of East Midlands Regional Plan *Noted*
 - f) 10 Downing St. and John Maples MP – acknowledgement of receipt of copy of letter sent to Rt. Hon. Ms P. Hewitt regarding the Ambulance Merger – the one party who has not replied is the Sec. of State herself. Her Dept. acknowledged receipt of the email enclosing the letter on 23rd May, but when the Clerk chased for a reply, they answered that she would hear from them 20 working days from the date of the reminder, which made it 10th July. She sent an email back saying not acceptable, reply should be within 20 working days of 23rd May, which was 20th June – nothing since then. John Maples has been advised.
 - g) WALC – Lorry Route – circulated
Guidance on Compliance with equality legislation – circulated
Community Empowerment Awards
Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Acts – the Clerk advised that following the Council's decision to request the PSCO do be given these powers, as he would not require further training, she had received a visit from Chief Ins. Chris Ward to explain the situation as it stands. As had been advised previously, Warwickshire Police have only given minimum powers to their PSCOs, these means they do not have the proper training. However, it appears that as from November 2006, the powers will be the same throughout the country, and this will enable PSCOs to carry out these duties on behalf of the PC. Negotiations will have to be carried out with the Police regarding fines.
Police Force restructuring – letter from Home Secretary John Reid circulated – Clerk instructed to reply and to request that consideration be given to this area becoming part of West Mercia Police Force
 - h) Bidford Christmas Lights 2000 – Duck Race will take place on Sunday 13th August
 - i) Copy of thank you letter sent by Mr. and Mrs. Connolly to the Organizers of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group following the successful trip to Hereford. The Parish Council has also sent a thank you letter.
Thank you letter from A Dykes had also been received regarding the train trip to Hereford.
A thank you letter from Mrs. D. Hall for the flower boxes was received together with a donation of £20 towards their cost.
 - j) Local Works – *Noted. Details available in the Parish Office*

PC Mins. June. 2006

k) Email from resident re footpath area underneath St. Laurence's Church wall in Church St. *The Clerk to request the St. Laurence Churchyard contractor to quote for this and to obtain confirmation that it would be safe to carry out the work – Members expressed concern about the wall as the maintenance agreement is for grass cutting only*

6. AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION

- a) Speak Out – West Midlands Regional Assembly
- b) CPRE – Fieldwork June 2006
- c) Pie Reports

7. BROOM TIP

Update from SDC regarding the lease of Broom Tip had been circulated. The Council resolved that the lease should be limited to the playing field only and that, in view of the costs of fencing, leveling etc, which SDC were suggesting should be borne by the PC, the rent free term should be increased from the proposed 15 years to 20 years. The Clerk to write to SDC and request an answer by 10th July so that the Council can make a final decision at the Planning Meeting as time is of the essence regarding this issue. In the event 20 years was entirely unacceptable to SDC, then the 15 years should be accepted.

As to the Millers Bank, solicitors had heard from Persimmons regarding the Transfer of the land. It appears that Persimmons wish to keep the fishing rights although they have never been mentioned before. Although solicitors are requesting information as to why this is the case, the council agreed there was no real point in making an issue of this and delaying the transfer – the land in question is open space so open to all. The question of riparian duties, however, should be clarified.

The other important issue was the time that should be allowed to elapse between the transfer being signed and the cheque given to the Council, and the dismantling of the play area at Millers Bank. As time would be needed by the Parish Council to buy the play equipment and have it installed, the time should be *“in six months or before if the Parish Council so instructs via its solicitors in writing”*

8. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3) RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT

These were signed by the Parish Council Chairman

9. AWARDS FOR ALL

£5,000 grant has been awarded to the Parish Council by Awards For All. SDC will now arrange for groups of Parish Council who have also received the award, to meet and discuss how it should be used to develop the website etc. in accordance with the conditions of the award.

10. BIDFORD FIRE STATION

The Clerk had received replies to her letters from:

- Cllr. Hobbs and Chattaway
- William Brown - Chief Fire Officer
- John Lyons – Local Council Charter

PC Mins. June. 2006

All stated that Bidford Fire Station had not been discussed at any time and that the Parish Council's concerns would be taken into consideration when making the report to WCC. Cllr. Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Community Protection added that *"if at any time we need to change the standard of fire cover in any part of the County no proposals will be considered without a thorough consultation process in the community"* The Clerk was instructed to write them all thanking them for their reply and stressing that it trusts its concerns will be considered and the Fire Station, an essential part of the village's safety, would remain.

11. GRASS CUTTING

The Clerk has obtained figures from SDC as to what it would be paid if it decided to carry out its own grass cutting – the amount is £3,567.87. In view of the large areas of grass that the council would be taking over, this figures was considered extremely low and it was decided that residents should be consulted before any decision was made.

12. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES GROUP

- Fencing at the Big Meadow – the clerk to ask for a quote for installation of the fence and the exact measurements as members believe 80yds, which the quote received is for, is too long.
- Purchase of play bark at £1,222 + VAT delivered, authorized
- Parking area on Dugdale Ave. at a cost of £5,500 + VAT was agreed and a fee of £100 per season to the football clubs using the field also agreed. The clerk to advise Midland CSB Ltd. whose quote for the parking area was the best value for work to start as soon as possible so that it is ready for the next season.
- Purchase of two goal posts for The Leys authorized at a cost of approx £600.
- Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Hiscocks to meet with the clerk to decide the positioning of the cycle rack and the two benches. The current bench by the public toilets opposite the pharmacy to remain.
- The Chairman advised that the £9000 for the Marleigh Rd. play equipment, already paid for by the Parish Council, had now been received and could be used to pay for the above improvements to the play areas.

13. CRAWFORD MEMORIAL HALL

It was proposed that authorization be given for invoices received from G & G Williams be paid on receipt of invoice instead of waiting until the next PC meeting, subject to receipt of the Contractors Administrative Certificate supporting the invoice. This was agreed, with the normal signature conditions applying.

14. GRANTS

- Proposal to pay the £5,000 grant to Broom Village Hall was agreed and cheque signed. The Council was advised that Broom Village Hall Committee had been successful in raising the final amount – the total raised was £280,000. They were congratulated by the Council

- The Clerk confirmed that grants for the following, which had been discussed at the Finance Meeting of 12h June, had been agreed at the time of the budget::

Bidford Community Group : £400
St. John's Ambulance £500
Bidford-on-Avon Sports Club : £1,000

15. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Annual Accounts were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

16. ACCOUNTS

Cheque No. 3849 – this was withdrawn as the agreement for the photocopier has been replaced following the change of equipment and a new invoice has been received.

Purchases : £19,317.81
Wages : 1,845.06
Grant to Broom Village Hall : 5,000.00

Payments received:

Youth club rent	£ 36.30
Car Park	1,874.00
Allotment rents	32.85
Cemetery sales	285.00
Grants & Donations	22,521.00
Lettings	235.00

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

17. REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

As the correspondence received to discuss this had only been sent late on Sunday, councillors did not have the opportunity to look at it. It was, therefore, agreed that a financial meeting would take place after the planning meeting on 10th July

The meeting closed at approx.. 09.45 pm