

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr. Barnes advised that the work for the speed reduction along Salfrod Rd and Tower Hill had started, albeit with some problems which he trusts would be sorted out.
- Brambles and other overgrowing branches had been cut back along Waterloo Rd. but seem to grow faster than they could be cut back
- Cllr. Barnes had been to Riverside Marlcliff together with Roger Thatcher regarding the request for enforcing the removal of a number of machines and other objects on the said field.
- The new phase of the Minerals Development Framework had started and he hoped the Parish Council had been made aware of this. The clerk replied it had and it had already been posted on the Council's website.
- Regarding the Fire Service, it appeared that nothing conclusive had occurred at the meeting and the final decision was been deferred to a meeting taking place on 8th September. The Parish Council Chairman advised that the Council had received an email from Cllr. Chatterway, one of the members it had been advised to write to as Head of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which stated that a proposal had been agreed to by 6/4 and it would be sent on to the full council. She added the item was on the Agenda.
- The Chairman also mentioned that the clerk had not heard back from WCC regarding Grafton Lane, following a site visit in April, and despite several requests. Cllr. Barnes advised the officer was currently away on annual leave but he would look into it.
- Cllr. Barnes then gave his apologies, his sheep are suffering from meningitis, and left the meeting

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- A written report had been sent by District Councillors and circulated to all members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting. This report is attached to these Minutes.
- However, special mention was given to the Coventry & Warwickshire Acute Services Review and the Council, Members of the Council and residents are urged to make their views known as there are great repercussions to the services in this area.
- The Chairman advised SDC Cllrs. that she and the clerk and attended a Liaison Meeting in Stratford on 26th July at 6.30 pm and had been appalled at the fact that the Chair of the Meeting, Trevor Askew, continuously tried to shorten the meeting by trying to make an agreement with the attendees that the meeting should end, firstly at 7.30 pm, then at 8.00 pm etc. She added that considering there were 8 items on the Agenda, that officers of SDC can take time off in lieu whereas many of those attending, who were councillors, did not, she found this unacceptable behaviour. Cllr. James requested the Parish Council send the SDC Cllrs. a letter of complaint regarding this.

The Chairman then opened the Parish Council Meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Ms. Deacon and Smith

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 9 (Crawford Memorial Hall)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26th JUNE 2006

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

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Dugdale Ave. – *Instructions to start the car park have been given.*

b) Victoria Rd. resurfacing – a reply has been received from WCC stating that they will be inspecting the area. the clerk was instructed to request this be done sooner rather than later.

The clerk had also received a copy of the S106 agreement from the Old School Development, but there was nothing in it regarding funds for traffic calming measures

c) Home Office – Reply received regarding the Police Merger. This has been superseded by the latest developments announced after the letter was written that the idea is being put on ice for the moment.

d) Bidford Fire Station – as the Chairman had already advised, a reply has been received from Cllr. Chattaway advising that “the committee will recommend to cabinet that they take the option of the aerial platform changes. This will in effect take the current platform away from Leamington and replace with a hybrid appliance and cancel the contract with West midlands and local a hybrid in the north of the county.” In view of the discrepancy between this information and than received from Cllr. Barnes, the clerk was instructed to write to Cllr. Chattaway asking for clarification.

e) Ambulance merger – reply was finally received from Dept. of Health via local MP John Maples. The Chairman mentioned that she had written to the press regarding this matter and hoped this had been noted.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) SDC – Notice of Adoption of the Local Plan Review 1996-2011
Managing Housing Supply – Draft Supplementary Planning Document.
Consultation period ends 17th August. – *it was agreed the clerk should respond with the assistance of Cllr. Gerrard*
- b) WALC – - June Newsletter (circulated)
 - Climate change and sustainability Energy Act 2006 (circulated)
 - Report of the Chief Executive on Development of the (local government) Sector (circulated)
 - List of events
- c) Mrs. Tracy Owen – Looking to start up a private day care nursery. Has large two storey modular building and is looking for a site to set them up. *The clerk to advise that there is no available land for this as members did not consider the Big Meadow a suitable area*
- d) Clarkebond – they are requesting WCC to adopt section of Icknield Close. If successful, will the PC take over the streetlight (1 column)
The Council agreed to take this on subject to the road being adopted.
- e) Broom Village Hall – thanking the PC for its support
- f) Laing Homes –Marleigh House requesting PC adopts the strip of land at the rear of plots 18 to 24 – plan supplied.
Having considered the implications of taking over the maintenance of an embankment, with the possibility of slides etc. the Council agreed not to maintain this area and suggested County Council should take on the responsibility
- g) Barton resident – requesting speed restriction within the village area to 40 mph and sign showing there is a sharp “S” bend. Their house was damaged in October when it was hit by a car.
The Parish Council agreed and the clerk to write to County Council requesting they consider this.
- h) Jones Day – Coventry Airport Proposals to revise noise preferential routes/standard departure routes - *Noted*
- i) Request to congratulate Fire Station for its display
The clerk instructed to write to the Fire Station and add its support for the work they carry out in the village

6. AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION

- a) Pie Reports
- b) The Arden
- c) VLO News

7. BROOM VILLAGE HALL

A request was made for the use of the Broom playing field for a 6 minute firework display, carried out by a professional party, for the inauguration party of the new hall in September. This was agreed.

It was then proposed the Parish Council contribute to this event by supplying the fireworks for a value of up to £600. This was agreed

8. HALLOWEEN

It was proposed that the Parish Council have some leaflets printed, similar to those produced last year by West Mercia Police, that could be put up on windows by residents not wishing to be disturbed on Halloween night. It also should advise that children be accompanied by an adult and that they should respect the older generation. It was suggested that the new management at Budgens, who are known to support local community initiatives, could be approached to sponsor the leaflets. It was also agreed that Cllr. Sandle design the leaflet for approval at the next Parish Council meeting

9. CRAWFORD MEMORIAL HALL

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

As per the resolution taken at the Finance and Strategy Meeting on 12th June 2006, it was proposed by Cllr. Gerrard as Chairman of the said Committee, that the Crawford Memorial Hall assets be returned to them. This was unanimously carried.

10. STREET LIGHTING

A list of street lights that needed replacing had been sent by WCC. The total number was 7 and they were listed in order of importance. The Council had budgeted for 5 replacements this year and it was proposed that the following be replaced

- The Leys – L/P No. 4
- Marleigh Rd. – L/P 3,4 and 18
- Waterloo Crescent ; L/P 2

11. LORRY ROUTE

It has been noted that the rise in the number of heavy lorries driving over Bidford Bridge could be due to the increase use of SatNav, which direct drivers to the shortest route but do not take into consideration the fact that there is a limit of 10T. It was proposed the Clerk write to WCC requesting increased signing at strategic places and to the Dept. of Transport highlighting this problem which no doubt occurs in other areas in the country.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 06.01823/FUL – Stephen Davis, The Ivy, 19 High St. Broom
Proposed conservatory/garden room. Recover existing single storey felt roof with reclaimed Welsh slate
No representation
- 06/01884/FUL – Qi Comm, Barton Farm, Welford Rd. Barton
Broadband equipment
No representation

13. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

A list of the grants and donations is attached to these Minutes.

It was also noted that donations had been received from Mr. Morley and Mrs. A. Cavanagh for the improvement of the cemeteries and public open spaces in the village. As had been resolved by the Parish Council ref. Item 10 Minutes of January 2006 these donations have been used to purchase and set up commemorative benches.

14. ACCOUNTS

It was noted that the following cheques had been issued prior to the meeting:

- To the Inland Revenue for an amount of £1,950.85, in respect of PAYE had been raised and sent to ensure it was received before 31st July in order not to incur penalties and/or interest.
- G & G Williams for work to the Crawford Hall for an amount of £6,413.15 (ref. Point 13 Parish Council Minutes of June 2006)

Both cheques had been duly signed by two councillors and the clerk

Purchases :	£27,745.95
Donations:	2,835
Wages	1,845.06

Payments received:	
Crawford Hall grant	£7,103
Car Parking	3,578
Allotment rent	6.60
Cemetery sales	175
Grants/Donations	682
Churchyard maintenance	8,656.61

15. REPORT FROM THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Staffing Committee gave their report of the meeting held to the full council. Due to the confidential nature of this report, it is not open to the public.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Marriage Hill Nurseries Salford Road

The context is that this was an agricultural notification, rather than a full planning application.

The Regulations in this case give the farmer the equivalent of outline planning permission and the notification can only be refused in relation to siting, design or external appearance of the building.

The building must be approved somewhere within the unit.

There is an express procedure for processing such notifications.

The Council has 28 days to decide them and there are not statutory or recommended requirements for public consultation.

The Planning Service has written to local residents to apologise for the confusion. There is, however, no prejudice to their rights, since they had no right to be notified in the first place.

The status of the decision is clearly that approval has been given. Even if the Council had not made a decision, the expiry of the 28 days would have been enough to give the go ahead.

The service examined the notification carefully and the decision made was rational.

The delegated report makes it clear that the Environment Agency's comments were considered.

The current application (06/01795/FUL- for widening of nursery access and formation of additional hard standing) is a full planning application and is therefore subject to normal planning procedures, including neighbour notification. All neighbour comments received will be considered in arriving at a decision and the application will be reported to Committee if there is a difference, on planning grounds, between officers and Ward Members and/or the Parish Council.

Letters were incorrectly sent out to neighbours on 31 May giving 20 June as response date, which is after the 4 week expiry date of 13 June for determination of the notification - letters of apology have been sent to those neighbours who commented after the decision was made.

Environment Agency did comment on the notification but their comments did not affect consideration of any matters relating to the notification procedure i.e. siting, design & external appearance of the building.

The case officer has however sent a copy of the EA comments to the applicant for him to address outside of the AGNOT process.

"Intensification of site that may lead inexorably to more development and traffic" - this is not a matter that can be assessed through the 28-day agricultural notification procedure.

CCTV

BT engineers are booked to return on 7th August to complete the installation within the collection cab and commission both outstanding installations.

Green Flag Award

The green flag award (a national recognition of excellence in management of public open space) has been given to the Council for its management of Arrow Nature Reserve.

Stratford on Avon District Local Plan Review 1996 – 2011

The Council adopted the plan on the 14th July 2006.

High Street Bidford

A site within High Street that the owner wanted to develop has been caught by the new supplementary planning guidance the moratorium on new house development. The owner had wished to demolish the existing and build two.

The proposal did not fulfil any criteria, local need, Policy COM 1 or to protect or enhance a conservation area or listed building.

Recycling Centre Saxonfields Car Park

The contractor has been instructed with immediate effect to collect recyclables more frequently, and/or more receptacles provided.

Notices have been erected stating that the cardboard facility will be removed from 10 July.

The Cleansing Services Manager will be providing a proposed layout for the site.

The proposed deadline for work is the end of August.

The proposal from the Council is to extend the existing tarmac and concrete surfacing and install a trip rail fencing to enclose the bind. The trip rail would be preferable to fencing as the latter whilst obscuring the bins from view could create a den for local young people.

However a slight delay has been encountered in that a covenant regarding the use of the car park has been identified, the legal section is currently dealing with the Covenanter on this matter.

The proposed works fails to address the problems and is not a long-term solution to the problem, a meeting will be arranged to look at other methods of enclosure or relocation.

Bentleys Kings Lane Broom

Following a meeting with the Head of Service Planning & Environment to discuss why Mr and Mrs Bristow had been given 28 days to reduce the height of the fence before the council initiated formal enforcement action.

Following the discussion the Council accepted that in this case 28 days is unrealistic Mr and Mrs Bristow that further enforcement action will not be instigated if the fence is reduced in height to 1 metre by 30 September 2006.

51 High Street Bidford

The Listed Building Enforcement Notice in respect of the upvc windows at the front of the above property has been served.

This matter is one that has been carefully considered in terms of the particular circumstances of the owners of the property, hence the decision to allow 18 months for compliance.

Read all about it

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's newspaper for residents is dropping through letterboxes this week.

Your Review, sixteen pages of features and articles about the Council's work, is being distributed to householders across the District. It covers its work from community transport schemes, refuse and recycling, on-line services and the Planning Service.

There are also sections on Councillors, housing news, electoral innovations, a day in the life of the Environmental Health Officers and community involvement.

The District Council's publication has been produced in-house and is published three times a year and is distributed to every household in the District.

Comments on the resident's newspaper and suggestions for future features can be sent to the District Council Public Relations Office at Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX.

Planning Service standard judged Fair

On 27 July the Audit Commission published its audit report for the Planning service.

The District Council was rated as fair against a set of new, much more stringent criteria, which have recently been adopted by the Commission.

Although, the Commission acknowledges that the service has some substantial strengths and has improved some important elements of the service, the report assesses the prospects for further improvement as uncertain, mainly because future service plans are not yet fully developed.

While offering constructive criticism, the Audit Commission also acknowledges the hard work and substantial changes that are taking place.

Recent changes include:

Effective response to the Commission's previous report on Probity in Planning, including full reviews of the Council's Planning Committee system;

Substantial improvements in development control performance, resulting this year in the largest Government Planning Delivery Grant in Warwickshire;

The implementation of an e-planning service, giving access to plans and other documents relating to all planning applications on-line; and

The adoption of the Local Plan, enabling strict control to be placed on approvals of further housing development in the District.

Other improvements are also taking place, particularly focussing on customer service. For example, one of the key criticisms of the report was that it is difficult to meet planning officers for pre-application discussions. A new system of planning 'surgeries' will be in place shortly, making planning officers easily accessible on a regular basis.

In line with the report's recommendations the Council will be doing further work to ensure that the Planning Service provides value for money and improves customer service.

Planning will always be controversial in Stratford-on-Avon District, because we have a beautiful and historic environment that people rightly value.

The Planning Service has a difficult job in resolving the inevitable conflicts, which come from trying to regulate development in such an area.

The Audit Commission has rated the service as 'fair' against a raised bar and praises the contribution which the service makes to protecting and enhancing the District's precious environment.

Digital Challenge for the Future

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been successful in becoming one of the 10 national finalists in the Digital Challenge.

The project is entitled 'Virtual Stratford District', and is aimed at transforming the way services are delivered to the communities in the District.

The District Council's Vision is to promote social inclusion by bringing multi-agency services, learning opportunities and entertainment to the fingertips of those living in or wanting to visit the District, combining imaginative and innovative use of technology to expand dramatically the opportunities available to both residents and to growing number of visitors to Shakespeare country.

The District Council will receive £120,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government to further their bid. The eventual national winner gets £7,000,000

Public Consultation

A number of Residents in the ward have been invited to tell the council just what they think about the services.

A consultation exercise is being carried out, one in a series of surveys with local residents to find out their views and expectations of their District Council.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey is repeated every two years to provide a comparison of the council's performance from the residents' perspective and provides a guide as to where the council should improve its services.

Other Councils also benchmark results against similar surveys across the country.

"The customer satisfaction index is very important to the Council, as it helps us to understand residents' views of services," Paul Lankester, the District Council Chief Executive.

From the last set of results the public wanted more parking, more affordable homes and more public toilets.

In total Five thousand questionnaires have been sent out to a random selection of the district's 50,000 plus households.

The particular areas of the council being looked at include street cleaning, planning, leisure and refuse collections, all previously surveyed in 2004.

Coventry & Warwickshire Acute Services Review

We would encourage as many people as possible from the ward to make their views known on this Review.

There are 7 proposals:

1. Consolidate emergency surgery operating at night and weekends centralise emergency operating for ear, nose and throat, urology and general surgery in the University Hospital Coventry.
Reducing the need to run 24-hour rotas for specific treatments on some sites.
2. Develop a new model of care for acute medicine
3. Set up Paediatric Assessment Units at Warwick and George Elliot Hospitals.
4. Create a single specialist in-patient children's unit at University Hospital Coventry.
5. Combine the University Hospitals, Coventry and Warwickshire and George Eliot Hospital maternity units into a single service on two sites.
6. Centralise complex cancer services in University Hospital.
7. Develop ambulatory cancer units at University and Warwick Hospitals.

**Councillors: Kim James
Daren Pemberton
Brian Slaughter**

30 July 2006