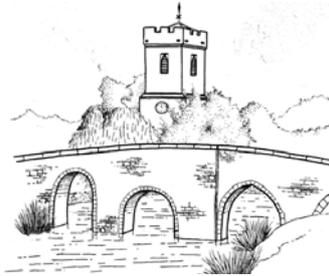


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th September 2006 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT

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

Also present: County Cllr. Barnes and three members of the public.
Ward Cllrs. James, Pemberton and Slaughter had all sent in their apologies.

The Chairman welcomed all, noted there were no youngsters for the Youth Forum. The Clerk reminded the Council that this was the last meeting with a Youth forum until the lighter nights returned in April 2007.

The Chairman asked if any member of the public wished to speak – they declined.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- The speed limit work to the B439 has been finished. An average speed survey has been carried out and another will be carried out before Christmas
- The work to Grafton Lane has been carried out very quickly – Top Gear were involved and it will be shown on TV either end November or beginning of December
- Speed limit review to C roads in the area, which includes Barton, will be carried out next year, subject to police approval
- Following the B50 Appraisal request that the crossings at the High Street in Bidford be looked at with respect to disabled access, Malcolm Graham has been looking into this and the Parish Council should contact him for suggestions of how to improve this.
- There have been some complaints received regarding the new, increased street lighting on Marriage Hill – the result of the reduced speed limit – County Council is looking into alternatives and whether they are viable.

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REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

All District Cllrs. had sent in their apologies.

The Chairman opened the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none. Cllr. Ms. Varga was not present

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. Mrs. Keeley declared a non pecuniary interest in item 5f) Letter from Home Trust Farm

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 21ST AND 30TH AUGUST 2006

Proposed by Cllr. Hiscocks as being accurate and signed by the Chairman
As Cllr. Barnes was leaving, the Chairman proposed that the letter from Home Trust Farm, which referred to County Council, item 5f) under Correspondence be dealt with first. This was approved by the Council.

Item 5f) Letter from Home Trust Farm re the footpath on Waterloo Rd which requires trees and hedges to be cut back to allow safe walking by staff pushing wheelchairs,

The Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Keeley advised that she had contacted the Monitoring Officer at District Council and had been advised that there was no conflict of interest. He suggested she contact the monitoring Officer at County Council – she had tried on a number of occasions but had been unsuccessful. However, County Cllr. Barnes insisted that he would not deal with this matter unless the Chairman stepped down. In view of this situation, and taking into account the importance of the issue in question, the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Hiscocks, took over the Chair for this point.

The clerk read the letter and members of the council supported the comments made therein and added the people pushing wheelchairs but also mothers and others with prams – it is a highly dangerous situation as they all have to use the road which is a very busy one, specially around the entrance to the industrial estate.

Cllr. Barnes replied that County Council was aware of the situation, which could also include dropping kerbs and there had been some discussion about using the Probation Service to carry out this work to make young offenders aware of the problems suffered by the disabled and elderly. Members of the Parish Council added that it was essential that matters of safety be looked at as since the B560 Appraisal the Discrimination Act had come into force and it was suggested the Parish Council should work with County Council to improve the situation throughout the village.

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Cllr. Langston proposed Cllr. Gerrard as the liaison which was approved.

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley retook the Chair at the end of this discussion.

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Robert Weeks, Head of Environment at SDC has been invited to attend the October PC meeting to talk about the new Clean Neighbourhood and Environments Act.

b) Members of the Parish Council met with Richard Elbourne regarding Victoria Rd. They were advised that the visual aspect of the microsaphalting would improve with ageing. Areas of “ponding” were pointed out and members were assured that the drains would be inspected during September and any work carried out to ensure they were cleared of all debris to ensure improved performance, and an extra drain will be installed outside No. 48. WCC would also look at improving some of the kerbs. As to the work carried out at the top of Victoria Rd. to Jacksons Meadow, Members made WCC aware of the poor work carried out by pointing out dips in the centre (clearly visible as it was highlighted by the centre chalk markings) as well as large areas of “ponding” by the kerbs and at the junction with Stepping Stone.

c) WCC has agreed to a “Z” sign to be installed on Welford Rd. at the entrance to Barton. Regarding the request to reduce the speed to 40 mph within Barton, WCC has advised that the Welford Rd., which is No. C47, will be considered as part of the Village Speed Limit Review sometime in 2007/08.

Regarding signs for the weight limit on the bridge, WCC is arranging for an engineer to investigate the existing signage to make an assessment. Dept. of Transport has advised that a HGV specific SatNav system is operating on the Continent.

d) Fire Station – The resolution passed as proposed but without the formation of a working party group i.e. to move and replace the HP at Leamington with a hybrid was passed but the formation of a working party to identify savings for future years was not. The Trade Union has raised concerns regarding this proposal. *The Clerk was requested to circulate the report to Members. Copy also available in Parish Council Office*

e) Halloween posters quotation and quotation for Bidford-on-Avon PC sign for Dugdale Ave. Open Space area

Quotes for 500/1000/2000 were received. It was agreed that 1000 leaflets at a cost of £35 should be ordered. It was proposed, and agreed, that the young firefighters should be asked to distribute them and the Bidford News Shop asked to include them in the newspapers.

f) Health Acute Services meeting – report from Chairman

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, attended a consultation meeting in Stratford upon Avon on Friday 15th September. She was disappointed

to see only 200 people attending, but this was mainly due to poor publicity and

a

poor choice of day and time.

There were some issues of particular concern, namely:

- There were 4 consultants present from Warwick Hospital who had not been consulted on the possible closure and they felt there were not fully involved in the process
- It appears that the Hospital is only reimbursed for 88% of the costs of operations, with the result that the more operation performed the higher the costs of the hospital
- It became clear that the PFI costs in respect of Coventry Hospital were higher than had been anticipated and it appears that the aim is to make Coventry and Walgrave the centre of excellence. Both these hospitals are more than 30 miles from Bidford and the public transport service to them is appalling if not non-existent
- Midwives present at the meeting also expressed concern about the possible closure of the maternity unit at Warwick Hospital - South Warwickshire cannot afford to lose yet another maternity unit.

Following this consultation meeting, the Parish Council wrote once again to the Acute Service Review expressing its further concerns who replied that they had also been made aware of the concerns expressed by consultants at Warwick Hospital and Dr. Newbold has undertaken to ensure these are fully reflected in the final report submitted by the Acute Services Review Board.

g) Awards for All – Report from Clerk

The clerk, accompanied by the web maintainer, had attended a face to face meeting at SDC to discuss costings, possibilities etc. It was agreed that the council should not change host at the present time. However, the PC should use SDC's expertise to ensure the website was designed according to the current accessibility guidelines and compliant with same. It was also agreed that any equipment should be purchased via SDC as they have arrangements with Dell that will offer best value, due to the quantity ordered. It was also agreed that SDC should offer a service that will allow specific access to Bidford information on the SDC website – this could be of special interest for planning applications as it will allow the searcher to go directly into Bidford bypassing other planning applications.

The costs are (approx) as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Website redesign (inc. checking for compliance etc.) | £1,100 |
| • SDC filtering for Bidford-on-Avon information | 500 |
| • 2 x laptops + 1 x software | 2,154 |
| • Broadband | 900 |
| • Website administration | 500 |

Total £5,154 – the grant is for £5000.

The above was agreed on principle and the go ahead was given for the redesign of the website to ensure it is more accessible and compliant with current guidelines.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – The Big Supporting People Event – Tuesday 3rd October 2006
- b) SDC – confirmation of Public Creation Order AL214 The Bank – copy of the

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Public Notice and Plan are on display in the Bidford notice boards.

- c) **WALC** – AGM – 24th Oct. 2006 7.30 pm at Shire Hall – circulated
Cllrs. Ms Deacon, Gerrard, Mrs. Keeley and the Clerk will attend
Newsletter August 2006 – circulated
Advice re upcoming workshops – circulated
- d) **CPRE** – Sept. Newsletter – circulated
Support CPRE's cycle challenge - *noted*
- e) **Resident of Dugdale Ave re the car park** – circulated
The Clerk to write in reply that the car park was installed at the request of residents of Dugdale Rd. and vicinity who were concerned about the number of cars parked on the residential roads blocking their exits etc. The site of the car park is where it is best suited next to the entrance.
- f) **Letter from Home Trust Farm** re the footpath on Waterloo Rd. which requires trees and hedges to be cut back to allow safe walking by staff pushing wheelchairs –*this was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.*
- g) **Heart of England** – 10 Years of Achievement + plus invitation. *Regret no one able to attend*
- h) **Request for funds** – *It was proposed that £50 be donated as this was for the farewell party of a resident who has done a lot for the local community.. This was unanimously agreed*
- i) **Thank you letters from**
 - Bidford Community Group
 - Samaritans
 - Stop! Listen.. Play
 - Westholme Court
 - Bidford on Avon Sports As.
 - St. Johns Ambulance
- j) **Salford Priors PC** – letter of congratulations for Warwickshire Village of the Year
2006 Award

6. AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION

- a) NALC/Ordnance Survey – Parish Councils
 - b) CPRE – Fieldwork magazine
 - c) WCC – Building Memories
 - d) DEFRA – Rural Services review
 - e) CVS – Annual Report
- All the above are available on the stand outside the Parish Council Office by the library

7. FOOTBALL

Dugdale Ave/Big Meadow. Letter from Bidford Juniors FC. Letter from Real Centro. There had been some misunderstanding and matches were being played on the Big Meadow outside the Sports Association Ground. The Clerk advised these teams that these matches should be played on the fields to the rear of Dugdale Avenue as had been agreed last year.

Real Centro, who already use Dugdale Ave. had written for permission to use small spotlights, using a small generator, to be able to train on Friday evenings from 6.00 – 8.00 pm.

It was proposed, and agreed, to set up a meeting with ALL teams asking them to
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come with their timetables, to ensure the best use of the field and minimize chaos. The issue of the lights could be discussed at the same time as well as the rent to be paid the Parish Council as a contribution to the upkeep of the field. The meeting date was set for Wednesday 27th Sept. @ 7.00 pm to be chaired by the Amenities Group Chairman Cllr. Sandle.

8. AMENITIES GROUP REPORT

- Bidford Angling Club – as had been agreed the Amenities Group met with the angling club to discuss the problem as set out in their letter, mainly that due to the increase in weeds in the river, fishing was becoming impossible with only 15 pegs of the 40 able to be used. This was resulting in a downturn in membership and the club was unable to run open matches to increase their revenue. They had received a quote for the cutting back of the weeds, which would have to be done every year around beginning of July, which came to £1,300. In view of this, it was agreed to arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss this issue with them as well as improvements for the disabled anglers

The Environment Agency advised they would be able to assist with a platform for the use of disabled and a proposal regarding this would be sent to the angling club with a copy to the Parish Council. Regarding the weeds, the Agency was not so forthcoming, stating that this was not their priority. The Council pointed out that it could not be expected to raise this sort of capital every year when there were institutions, such as the Environment Agency, set up in order to perform these duties. In view of the insistence of the Council, the Environment Agency agreed to send in a proposal.

The Amenities Group proposed the Council wait until such a proposal is received before making a decision – and this was accepted.

- BMX ramp – the Council has been made aware that youngsters are using the mounds surrounding the car park as ramps. When requested to stop using them, as they were destroying parts of the car park this way, they pointed out they had nowhere else to go. In view of this, and as Dugdale Ave. is an open playing area, the Amenities Group proposed that a simple BMX ramp area be set up at the far end of the field where the youngsters could play with minimum disturbance to residents. This was agreed.

9. REPORT FROM THE HONEYBOURNE QUESTIONNAIRE

This had been circulated. It was clear that not many use the rail and those that do prefer to use Warwick Parkway as it offers a better service, specially for those that wish to stay in London until late.

It was proposed that the conclusions should be sent to the Cotswold Line Promotion Group who may find the information useful to further their campaign

10. MILLERS BANK – UPDATE

- The Agreement with SDC is going to committee in October. If approved it should not take too long for the documentation to be prepared and then the wording agreed.
- Solicitors have finally received confirmation from Persimmons regarding their agreement to the alterations to the Transfer and have requested documentation be finalised as soon as possible. Persimmons have also

agreed to contribute £350 to the Parish Council's costs], which have increased due to the their tardiness.

11. JUBILEE CLOSE

The inspection report advises that the equipment on Jubilee Close should be removed as it is no longer safe. It was agreed this should be done.

12. WARWICKSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Clerk reported that, as had been mentioned in the Parish Council's newsletter regarding this "now comes the hardwork". The entry form had been received and the clerk requested assistance in the whole new process. It was agreed she should contact the clerk at Salford Priors as they had won the event last year, and obtain information from him and report at the next Parish Council Meeting.

13. RECYCLING AREA

SDC have written to advise that a covenant has been discovered that means the two car parks in the village can only be used as car park and requesting advice from the Parish Council as to where it can be resited.

It was agreed that the only area in the village that was central and easily accessible to all was the land at the rear of the Fire Station, which is owned by County Council.

The meeting was suspended at 9.15 pm as a member of the public wished to make a comment regarding this issue, namely that when the covenant was set up the issues of the environment were not so high on the list. The clerk was able to advise that the legal dept. had been consulted prior to the request been sent to the Parish Council. The meeting restarted at 9.20 pm and Members confirmed the land at the rear of the Fire Station as the optimum site.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **06/01683/FUL – Peter McGarry & Melanie Robinson, Holly Cottage, 9 Kings Lane, Broom**
Construction of two storey replacement dwelling and detached double garage
No representation
- **06/02507/FUL – Stonehall Constructions Ltd. 33 Tower Hill, B50 4DZ**
Formation of vehicular access
Subject to approval by the Highway Authority
- **06/02525/FUL – Linda Hannah, 4 Welford Rd. Barton**
Change of flat roof over kitchen to pitched roof. Change of dormer windows from flat to pitched. Replace 1 dormer to 2 velux. Addition of 2 velux windows to front of house and one round window to side. New horizontal boarding to replace old vertical on section of property. Replace existing porch as falling down/unsafe. Change garage to living accommodation
No representation
- Notification of Planning Appeal regarding Honeybourne Airfield Ins. Est. from Wychavon DC *PC has to decide how to respond whether to attend the public enquiry meeting or in writing.. It was agreed the Parish Council would attend the Public Enquiry*

15. COMPLETION OF AUDIT

Notification of the completion of audit had been received within 3 week of presentation – unqualified approval.

Due to the sensitive nature of the next two items and it was proposed, and agreed, that members of the public be asked to leave the room

16. GRASS CUTTING AND BIG MEADOW GATE KEEPING AND MAINTENANCE

Only one offer had been received for either tender and it was agreed to accept them as they offered good value for the work carried out.

17. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

It was unanimously agreed that the terms and conditions as set out in the letter from the Parish Council dated 1st September 2006 should remain in force

18. ACCOUNTS

Purchases:	£14,766.68
Donations	20.00
Wages:	1,845.06

Payments received:	
Crawford Hall Grant	£12,851.00
Car Parking	880.00
Insurance claim	324.00

It was resolved that Cllrs. Hendey and Smith sign the cheques

The Meeting closed at 9.45 pm