

unacceptable level of noise. Mr. Weeks also advised that the act is only in respect of licensed premises, not private events nor public events which have special license unless any of the conditions of the license are broken. To the question of one councillor if the penalties would be imposed without any warning, Mr. Weeks advised that there would be warnings before penalties being imposed. The question of what constitutes an unacceptable level of noise was also raised – it was acknowledged that this was a difficult point, hence the reason for the Government imposing a maximum level.

Finally, Mr. Week advised that he would be discussing the issue with the Police to see if there could be some cooperation, specially using PCSOs. The Clerk reminded Mr. Weeks that the Parish Council had already resolved to look into this possibility and it was agreed that the two parties should liaise to ensure the most effective implementation of the new act.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Weeks for his presentation.

Members of the public were asked if they wished to ask any questions:

- Following from the presentation by Mr. Weeks, the issue of litter was brought up as being one of the main problems in the village. It was felt that it would be a good idea if children were taught from an early age not to throw litter on the streets but use the bins provided. It was suggested the Clerk liaise with the school and discuss the possibility of a program of litter consciousness
- Jubilee Close – an enquiry was made by a resident regarding replacement of the play equipment that has recently been taken down for safety reasons. The resident was advised that it was the intention of the Parish Council to indeed replace the equipment and discussions would take place at forthcoming the Finance Committee meeting when the budget would be the main subject. The resident was also assured that the proposed single goal post (Item 9 on the Agenda) would be in addition to not instead of the play equipment.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr. Barnes advised he would be putting forward a proposal regarding the Post Offices at the full Council Meeting which, he feels are being desecrated. If the funding, which is due to end in 2007, is withdrawn this would mean the closure of post offices in a very large number of villages, which would be left without the services offered, resulting in residents of rural areas having to travel many miles to perform simple services.

Cllr. Barnes added that a further problem was the fact that many of the services being offered until now by the Post Office, such as banking facilities, sale of TV licenses etc. were either being withdrawn or offered to other outlets such as newsagents, supermarkets etc. making it more difficult for rural post offices to survive.

He requested the Parish Council support his efforts by writing to the local MP. Members agreed that the local post offices are an essential part of villages, specially those where there are no shops, and that it should give its support.

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REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- A written report from the District Councillors is attached to these minutes.
- Of special importance is the issue of rubbish collection where District Council would like to invite, and encourage, residents send their suggestions of how they would like the service to be improved and how to encourage more recycling. The District Council is also keen to involve the Parish Council in this, currently, very important debate.
The Parish Council suggested that District Council should educate residents how to recycle more rubbish and give out more information as to how this could be done and perhaps facilitate recycling by making appropriate containers more available etc.
- A Parish Cllr. requested that the issue of sustainable bus transport be examined in view of the fact that a round trip to Stratford for 3 people came to over £11.00, which all agreed was excessive.

Cllr. Hiscocks, Vice Chairman acted as Chairman of the meeting in the absence of the Parish Council Chairman Mrs. Keeley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Ms Deacon, Mrs Keeley 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.

Cllr. Ms Varga declared an interest in item 5h) Letter from the Green Party

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2006

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

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) Play equipment on Jubilee Close has been removed for safety reasons
- b) Quotation for Notice for Dugdale Ave. received.

The quotation for £297 + VAT for a notice with the Parish Council logo.

- c) Stratford-upon-Avon Credit Union Ltd – spoken to the Development Worker with a view to arranging a meeting for interested parties
- d) Meeting with Malcolm Graham and Richard Elbourne from WCC has taken place regarding improvements to the High St. to make it more user friendly for the disabled

It was proposed that a request to remove the railings at the traffic lights be sent to County Council who have recently started considering such requests. There are studies from Holland indicating that these so called “naked streets” encourage

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courtesy from both drivers and pedestrians; however, many councillors expressed skepticism. The proposal was put to a vote and was defeated by 2 for and 5 against.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) SDC – Local Plan Review 1996-2011 - *Noted*
Possible Rural Cinema Scheme – *The Crawford Memorial Hall Committee and the Clerk have already been discussing the possibility of a rural cinema and it was agreed the Clerk should reply expressing support for this scheme*
- b) WALC – The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 - *noted*
The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 - *noted*
WCC Consultations – how to get involved – *noted*
Update on White Paper on Local Government issued by DCLG - *noted*
- c) CPRE – Oct. Newsletter – *circulated*
- d) East Midlands Regional Assembly – Draft Regional Plan Consultation
- e) Local Works – *circulated – the Parish Council supports the Sustainable Communities Bill and the Clerk was instructed to write to John Maples MP requesting he support the Early Day Motion 641 on 23rd November*
- f) Letter from Rory Cameron Duff requesting the council to consider his appointment as Crier – *Members agreed this could be a good, fun idea, specially in this year when Bidford has won the Warwickshire Village of the Year Award. The Clerk to write to Mr. Duff accordingly.*
- g) Letter from resident regarding play equipment on the Big Meadow – *comments noted. The issue of extra play equipment throughout the village is being discussed by the Finance Committee when preparing the budget for the 2007/08 financial year.*
- h) Letter from the Green Party regarding Warwickshire Pension Fund – *Cllr. Vargas declared an interest as a member of the Green Party and did not participate in the discussion. Contents noted. No reply to be sent as it is to a political party. However it was proposed that a letter be sent to Warwickshire County Council Pension Funds pointing out the availability of “ethical” funds that give excellent returns – this was carried by 2 votes in favour and 4 abstentions.*
- i) Local Councils Update – subscription offer. Similar offer from NALC – *it was agreed that as the Parish Council is a member of WALC, all the necessary information is already received and any specific information required can be requested from them. Offer not taken up.*
- j) Request from resident of Grange Rd for parking restrictions to be imposed as it is becoming impassable, restricting rubbish collection, ambulances, fire station vehicles, etc. – *request noted and the Clerk to write to WCC accordingly.*

6. AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION

- a) WCC – LTP1 Delivery Report
Countryside Access & Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016
- b) CPRE – Fieldwork magazine
- c) Age Concern - Newsletter
- d) Warwickshire Rural Housing Ass. Annual Report 2005/6
- e) Breakthrough Breast Cancer – Purple magazine
- f) WALC – Annual Report 2005/6

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All the above can be found on the stand by the Parish Council Office, Bramley Way

7. BIDFORD ANGLING CLUB/ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

As agreed, Cllr. Gerrard met with the Environment Agency and the Angling Club at the Big Meadow to discuss both the possibility of assistance from the Environment Agency for a platform for the use of the disabled and regarding the weed clearing of the river to allow better fishing. The Environment Agency have sent a proposal regarding the platform, but no mention was made in the letter regarding the clearing of weeds. The officer had intimated at the meeting that the Environment Agency had no funds for this and as no reference was made in the letter, it is to be assumed that it will not get involved. The Parish Council has suggested to the Bidford Angling Club they come up with a proposal for members to consider, but stressed it could make no promises. The Parish Council awaits to receive the proposal.

8. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES WORKING GROUP FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH THE FOOTBALL CLUBS

- Bidford Juniors and Real Centro have agreed to share the pitches on Dugdale Ave.
- Each have been invoiced £100 for the use of the field during the season
- It was proposed that Bidford Juniors be allowed to mark out and play on 2 pitches on the Big Meadow, by the sports association fence, during the season, for a fee of £100 – as they are unable to mark out any further pitches within the sports association. The proposal was unanimously passed.

9. REQUEST FOR A SINGLE FOOTBALL GOAL POST ON JUBILEE CLOSE PLAY AREA

This request had been sent in by a resident whose grand children use the play area. she had also sent flyers to residents in the vicinity asking for their comments. The Clerk had received 5 replies of which 3 were in favour and 2 against.

Members agreed that as football appears to be the most popular of games, the request should be considered. The clerk to obtain prices for consideration by the Finance Committee as it was agreed that the goal post has to be of a quality that would make it difficult for it to be vandalized, stolen etc.

10. CHEESE AND WINE EVENT

The Chairman proposed that a Cheese and Wine Event, or similar, be arranged to celebrate winning the Warwickshire Village of the year Award and to use it as a platform to start the work associated with it. It was felt that early December was still feasible. The Crawford Memorial Hall Committee to confirm availability. The proposal was agreed in principle with final agreement to be made at the Planning Committee Meeting on 13th November after the Chairman of the Finance Committee had studied the budget. In the meantime, the Clerk to contact Budgens to see whether they would sponsor the event and how.

11. WARWICKSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARD – REPORT AND UPDATE

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The WRCC AGM on 14th October at the Crawford Memorial Hall, during which the awards for various categories had taken place, had been very successful and thanks and appreciation to be given to the WI for their great food contribution.

- The two awards are now hanging on the wall by the Parish Council Office, Bramley Way
- The entrance form for the next phase has to be completed and sent by 30th November. There are 6 categories, namely
 - Building Community Life
 - Business
 - Young People
 - Older People
 - Environment
 - Information Communication Technology
- It was agreed that, as great emphasis is given to the written entry in each category, a committee should be formed to ensure the best efforts. Initially, members from the Parish Council were elected to form part but other residents will be sought. Members of the Parish Council are:
 - Cllr. Ms Deacon
 - Cllr. Gerrard
 - Cllr. Mrs Keeley
 - Cllr. Ms. Varga
 - Mrs. E. Uggerløse, the Clerk

12. B50 PARISH PLAN – REPORT AND UPDATE 2006

A copy of this update was circulated to all members and is attached to these minutes. It had been compiled by Cllr. Gerrard, Chairman of the original B50 Appraisal Group, who welcomed any comments.

It was agreed that it would be a useful tool when completing the Village of the Year Entry Form.

13. RENEWAL OF THE ANTI VIRUS SYSTEM FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL COMPUTER

As resolved by the Parish Council at its meeting in November 2005, the clerk requested authorization to use her credit card for an online renewal/upgrade of the anti virus system for the office computer. Norton offer 3 possibilities:

- Best Value @ £49.99 inc. VAT
- Upgrade @ £39.99 inc. VAT
- Renewal @ £35.00 inc. VAT

It was agreed to go for the best option i.e Best Value @ £49.99 and the Clerk was authorized to use her credit card.

14. DATE FOR BUDGET DISCUSSION

The RFO had sent a spread sheet with available dates. He had also advised that the later the dates of the meetings, the more accurate the figures would be. It was agreed that the Finance Committee Meeting should meet on Tuesday 28th November 2006

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and again on Tuesday 9th January 2007 at 7.30 pm

15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **06/02511/FUL – Mrs. Goode, 14 Millers Bank, Broom**
Rear white PVCu conservatory
No representation
- **06/02711/LDE F. Chambers, Barton Cruisers, Welford Rd. Barton**
Retention of existing dwelling as built & retention of existing boatyard workshop in breach of condition 3 of planning permission S88/1014, granted on appeal ref. T/APP/J3720/A/89/121362/P5 dated 28th Sept. 1989
The Clerk clarified that this was a request for a Certificate of Lawful Development – Existing, and as it has been there for over 10 years, there is no option but to granted. This was noted by Members
- **06/02815/TREE – Mr. R Davies, The Old Chapel, Mill Lane, Broom**
T1 and T2 cypress: fell
Support, subject to approval from the arboricultural department

16. ACCOUNTS

Purchases	£2,923.05
Wages	£1,845.06

Payments Received	
Crawford Hall Grant	£ 640.20
Cemetery sales	385.00
Allotment rent	1,115.05
Football pitches	100.00
Fishing rights	88.12
UANT moorings	882.50

It was resolved that Cllrs. Sandle and ms. Varga sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 09.55 pm

This monthly report is issued by the three ward councillors as an overview of the work / meetings being carried out it does not portray to be a complete or comprehensive account of their own or the District Councils activities, it is a snap-shot in time.

The main event last week has been the long awaited publication on Thursday of the **Government White Paper on Local Government**. The headlines of proposals from this White Paper for District & County Councils are as follows:-

- the abolition of the leader and cabinet model in 318 councils and the requirement they adopt new political executive arrangements;
- a new performance management framework that goes further than many anticipated;
- some moves on the neighbourhoods agenda; and,
- an invitation to two-tier England to change.

The invitation to two-tier councils says that “the status quo is not an option” while, in her statement to the House of Commons, Ruth Kelly said that she expected only “a small number of proposals [for unitary status] to meet the value for money and other criteria set out”.

For Town & Parish Councils

- The process for creating parishes will be devolved to councils with a presumption in favour of creation.
- Communities in London will be given the same right to establish parishes as exists elsewhere, subject to considerations of community cohesion.
- The power of well-being will be extended to Quality Parish Councils.
- Government will remove the Secretary of State's powers on bye-laws, and establishing parish councils.
- The White Paper encourages “consultation of citizens and communities – about the shape of local services and policies using, for example, surveys, focus groups or neighbourhood and parish plans”
- Local charters for neighbourhoods to be promoted in all areas and the White Paper states these are “greatly enhanced where there is a process of neighbourhood or parish planning in operation”

Local Democracy Week took place from the 16 - 20 October 2006. One event that was organized was 'Political Speed Dating'. The aim of this was to promote discussion between young people (aged 12 - 17) and Members of the Council. The event was being in conjunction with the County Council.

The idea was similar to normal speed dating in that councillors sat down with a young person for three minutes, answering their questions. Partners are then swapped for another discussion and so on until you have spoken to everyone in the room. The event was light-humoured and fun but there may have been a few councillors who received a mild 'grilling'! To add to the element of competition, all councillors were evaluated by the youth who were present, on the quality of their interactions.

Issues raised – Rural Transport Bus Services and cost of fares, Environment, Lack of Services for Youth, Policing.

Weak Council

The Council has received a letter confirming that formal engagement with the Department of Communities and Local Government has now been terminated. The communication reads:-

"Stratford on Avon District Council is no longer considered to be in need of Government engagement and the monitoring arrangements that have been in place since early 2005 will be brought to a close, DCLG Minister Angela Smith has announced.

The move demonstrates the significant progress made by the council, particularly in its Community Leadership and Corporate Governance.

Angela Smith said: "I congratulate the council on its achievements, both in terms of clarifying and communicating its vision and long term ambitions and in making sure that these drive the work of its services. It is a striking example of what can be achieved when Members and Officers are fully committed to working together to improve.

My officials in the Government Office for the West Midlands will continue to work closely with Stratford on Avon, as they do all the West Midlands authorities, as the council aims for further improvements."

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is the first local authority in Warwickshire to achieve the Quest award.

The Council's sports development team has been praised for providing an excellent play schemes and coaching programmes to customers in the District.

This is great news for the Council and more importantly the people that use the service especially as the inspection was carried out by an independent Quest assessor.

The sports team has been recognised as providing guaranteed high quality services and value for money for local residents.

Quest is the UK quality scheme for sports development that is awarded to Councils who can demonstrate they offer quality service against strict criteria and prove they are continuously improving their service to customers. The Quest award is the top award for sports development and the scheme is endorsed by Sport England and the DCSM.

Tackling Health Inequalities in Stratford District - YOU Can't Eat The View

The event was about providing delegates with an opportunity to have first hand information about health inequalities in the Stratford District.

"The perception is that Stratford District is generally prosperous, enjoying high rates of employment, above average incomes and relatively low rates of crime. There are however pockets of inequality in the district which cannot be ignored and we have to work together to address them".

Nick Gower-Johnson, Community Partnerships Manager of Warwickshire County Council gave an overview of the Local Area Agreement.

Dr. Anne Hartley, Public Health Information Specialist, West Midlands Public Health Observatory presented the Health Profile for Stratford upon Avon using the National model used by Public Health Observatories.

- The District has low teenage pregnancy rates - but high conception rates

Dr Greg Wells, Consultant in Public Health, South Warwickshire PCT and Chris Mitchell, Policy Officer, Stratford on Avon District Council presented a local picture of health inequality and relative economic poverty respectively.

This contextualised the Health Profile at a very detailed post code level and highlighted the clusters of health inequalities across the district.

There was a general consensus that the presented detailed geographic approach was helpful in terms of identifying areas of need and deprivation.

Further work and analysis is needed and areas for this analysis were raised for example access to physical recreation opportunities.

There are common themes which impact upon health: access including transport issues, obesity, healthy eating, access to funding opportunities, affordable housing, smoking etc.

There needs to be a local focus in terms of delivery, in this way local interests and priorities could be considered when setting priorities.

Where is this ward in the Health & Well-Being of the District?

Bidford & Salford is the 3rd most deprived ward within the deprivation mapping of the district in receipt of Means Tested Benefits.

- 1st Alcester
- 2nd Studley
- 3rd Bidford & Salford
- 4th Stratford Avenue/New Town
- 5th Stratford Guild

Ward Facts

- The ward has a very low consumption of fruit and vegetables.
- There are clusters of households that are economically deprived.
- There are clusters households that are in receipt of means tested benefits.
- Lone parent households

District Facts

- 13.5% of households in the District that is 6763 households are in receipt of means tested benefits (MTB); this figure includes 4118 pensioner households and 2368 children live in MTB households.
- There are 964 lone parent MMTB households in the district and 1612 children live in these households.

By Contrast:

- Average incomes and house prices in the District are above the national average.
- Over 50% of households have two or more cars.

Conclusion

The outcomes from the event support the draft priorities identified in the emerging LAA. However there is a clear need to:-

- Define what inequality is for Stratford District
- Address inequality on an individual basis and deliver at a local level.
- Deal locally with what are the countywide inequalities
- deal with inequalities that are specific to and within Stratford

Way Forward

There was agreement that any work carried out must:

- Add value to delivery at a local level
- Involve working smarter within existing structures

It is now necessary to determine priorities to be actioned, outcomes to be achieved and a structure for implementation.

District Council backs 'vital' rural post offices

The District Council is throwing its weight behind a campaign to keep a government subsidy that supports rural post offices and prevents many of them from closing.

The government gives £150m a year to help 8,000 rural post offices to stay open. The subsidy runs out in March 2008 and ministers will decide this autumn whether to extend it. The District Council is joining other rural authorities in backing an Age Concern campaign urging them to do so.

Avon Area Community Committee

The committee agreed that the following items should be considered at future meetings:

1. Concerns relating to the lack of safety measures on the B439 between Salford Priors and Stratford-upon-Avon.
2. The causes of the unreliable electricity supply throughout the area and possibilities for improvement in the situation.

Proposals for extension of navigation of the Avon to Warwick

The Avon Area Community Committee at its last meeting received a presentation from the Avon Waterways Trust on the Trust's proposals relating to the extension of the navigation of the Avon to Warwick.

The Group had consulted widely on its proposals and felt that solutions could be found to the potential difficulties in extending the navigation and that, provided that current objections could be overcome, there could be great advantage to the area in providing a navigable link between the River Avon and the Grand Union Canal

Future Collection of Household Waste & Recycling

Should the District Council introduce fortnightly household waste refuse collections?

Week 1 Refuse – Week 2 Recycling – Week 3 Refuse – Week 4 Recycling

What are the Problems?

What are the Advantages?

The overall aim of any scheme weekly / fortnightly would have to be to achieve higher recycling rates and reduce the amount of household waste going to landfill.

In Brief The Current Service provides –

- 30 black sacks delivered twice yearly to 52,000 properties - weekly refuse collection
- Fortnightly cartilage black box collection (paper, cans, glass, textiles) to a maximum of 3 boxes per property 53,000 properties of which 60% participate.
- Fortnightly cartilage collection of Green Bins & Green Sacks garden waste composting 53,000 properties.
- 9 Mini Recycling Centres
- 33 Schools - fortnightly collection for paper cans green waste

Let the ward councillors have your views!

Issued on behalf of:

Councillors: Kim James

Daren Pemberton

Brian Slaughter

October 2006