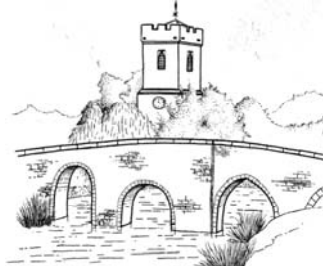


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th March 2007 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Keeley
Cllrs. Gerrard, Hendey, Hiscocks, Langston, Sandle,
and Ms. Varga

Also present. County Cllr. Barnes and District Cllrs. James and Slaughter
and 16 members of the public.
District Cllr. Pemberton had sent his apologies.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, noting the majority were from Barton and enquired if the members of the public wished to speak during the Public Forum.

- A resident from Barton, acting as a spokesman for the village, gave the following information
 - Apart from the email sent directly to the Parish Council by residents of Barton supporting the speed limit, a petition had been signed by 85% of the village residents
 - Despite the fact that there are two very sharp bends on the road, which would normally mean cars slowing down, this is not the case: cars approach much too fast and, once on the bend, veer off onto the verges and this is very dangerous for pedestrians as most of Barton has no pavement.
 - The Heart of England Way goes through the village, this means a high number of pedestrians on the road. There are also stables in the village, which means horses on the road as well. Both pedestrians and horses would greatly benefit from being able to amble safely through the village.

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- There are more HGVs and tractors using the Welford Road through the village. These are wide vehicles, taking up a lot of the road space, mounting on to the verges and making walking even more difficult and dangerous when they approach the village at high speed.
- Access to and from house drives is also very dangerous, as vehicles approach the village at high speed making it especially difficult to drive out of drives and on to the road.
- Residents have been requesting a speed limit for many years. They understand that, although plans for a 30 mph have now been drawn up, they will not be able to be implemented until 2008/09 due to lack of funds. This is too long and they would request the Parish Council to consider funding the work.
- The Chairman thanked the residents for all their views and advised that the Parish Council would support the requested speed limit but pointed out that highways is a matter for County Council. She added that the Parish Council had already requested county Council to consider a speed limit through Barton on 1st August 2006 following a similar request from a resident in Barton, which was discussed during the July 2006 Parish Council Meeting. Regarding the funding for the work, the Parish Council would have to know the costs involved before it could give it its consideration. She suggested, that a meeting with the Traffic Projects Officer at County Council be arranged where all parties could meet to discuss the various issues such as time span, costs etc. Finally, she reminded residents that the due process had to be carried out – statutory consultation and the raising of a traffic order.
- The Parish Council also recognized that the issue of a speed limit through Barton had been one of the more important matters raised when the B50 Parish Plan was been carried out and members sympathized with residents and agreed that pressure to have this implemented was required.
- The speed limit proposals sent by County Council, together with their letter, were then given to the residents to look at and circulate amongst themselves
- The residents thanked the Chairman for the way she had conducted the Public Forum and the Parish Council for listening to them

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr. Barnes left an Avon Way map showing where the new “Man and Boy” signs were being erected through Barton
- Cleeve Road/Severn Trent – following the request by residents of Marlcliffe at the last Parish Council Meeting, the Clerk had organised a site visit with all the parties (residents, Severn & Trent, WCC, Worcs. CC, the farmer and his agent as well as Cllr. Barnes and the clerk). He was pleased to advise that a positive conclusion had been reached: the concrete slab was to be removed and replaced by hard court which would be seeded.
- Training for members of the Planning Committee were being organised as no member would be allowed to talk unless he/she had attended such a training
- He had contacted the police regarding a camera vehicle for Broom, to be advised that they could only supply a motor bike as there was no space for a car. The

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- Clerk advised him that that was not the only problem. Following a request in November, after the Parish Council meeting held in Broom, the Parish Council had been advised that there was a legal hitch enforcing the speed limit and the camera surveillance. Correspondence between the Parish Office and the Warwickshire Casualty Reduction Partnership had been ongoing since then, with copied to Cllr. Barnes. The current situation was that we are all waiting for the Legal Dept. to give its view.
- CCTV – Cllr., Barnes advised that he had been approached by the Police last year letting him know that the lights were too dim for the CCTV to work.
 - The Chairman expressed her displeasure at the article she had read in the Stratford Observer to this effect and pointed out that the proper conduct would have been to contact the Parish Council and discuss how this could be resolved in partnership. It was, in her opinion, highly improper to have gone to the press, especially as the Parish Council was aware of the problem; it had been discussed at Parish Council meetings when it had been agreed to request white lights to see if this would show and improvement; and it had budgeted for two further streetlights in the High Street should these be required. However, the Parish Council would also have to take into account the residents of the High Street. She added that, yet again, the Local Charter, which encourages working in partnership and has been signed by County, District and Parish/Town Councils, appears to have been forgotten. She was aware that election time was upon us – however, she stressed that members of the Parish Council were not party elected, but elected by the residents of the parish, who they represented and for whose well being they worked.
 - District Cllr. James added that Cllr. Barnes was a County Councillor for the area whereas the CCTV was a District Council issue. County Council are, however, the highway authority so it has it within its means to help solve the lighting problem, should there be one. He added that all councils should be working together to try and get a third camera in place. Finally, he reminded those councillors who were seeking re-election that no electioneering should be carried out at the meeting
 - Cllr. Barnes was asked if the work being carried out around the bridge included work to the bridge, but he was unable to reply to this.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- £250,000 was being assigned to the CCTV control room to improve its system
 - There will be a further CPA inspection in June. District Council is working hard to improve its rating
 - Waste – the Ward members are aware of the problem that has arisen in Bidford following the withdrawal of the recycling bins. However, it was outside their control. There are plans to extend the door to door recycling to include plastics – all other items are already collected. However, this will only be able to take place from 2008 when a new contract will come into effect.
- It was suggested that they could walk round the village with some members of the

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- Parish Council to identify one or two smaller sites where a plastic collection could be set up for residents – away from trade.
- Cllr. James advised that he had been contacted on Thursday evening when a youth had been throwing stones at the young firefighter at their weekly meeting at the Fire Station on Bramley Way. They had tried to contact the police, but were unsuccessful and ended up having to contact 999. A couple of patrol cars were seen in Bidford but neither of them approached the Fire Station. This was unacceptable and Cllr. James suggested a meeting with the police to urgently discuss this situation which, he believes, is getting out of hand. The Chairman advised him that the Parish Council regularly met with the Police. The next meeting was on Wednesday 4th April and it was agreed he would attend the meeting and that the Clerk would request the presence of Insp. Ayres.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting at 8.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Ms. Deacon and. Smith had sent in their apologies, which were accepted. Cllr. Spiers is still unwell and in hospital.

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.

There were none

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY W007

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a) WCC – i) The Bank regarding the Parish Council’s request for the installation of bollards – *WCC advised that due to the existence of a private right on vehicular access, which extends along its full length, bollards cannot be installed. The Clerk was instructed to request advice from WALC as to whether, if not exercised, this right remains.*

ii) No cycling sign request – *reply from WCC stating that the design of signs used are governed nationally by the Traffic Signs Regulations and therefore no variation on the international sign already up can be used. The Clerk was instructed to write to the resident who had requested the additional sign advising her of this*

iii) Launch of PHILLIS – pamphlets available. *In view of the number of pamphlets and other information received, the clerk had requested the Chairman for authorization to purchase a literature holder at a cost of £220. The Chairman proposed this purchase and it was agreed,*

b) SDC – Tree Warden Scheme – Meeting on Tuesday 24th April @ 7.30 pm

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Elizabeth House. *Noted. The Clerk to advertise this*

c) WALC – changes to Clerk’s Employment Contract (circulated) *Noted and adopted*

A member of the Council made known to other members that he would be writing to WALC regarding a notice they had sent to various voluntary groups regarding funding through S137 as it gave the impression that Parish Councils were not using these to their full extent without giving any explanation as to the proper use of these funds. . He added that, in the case of this Council, it would be irresponsible for it to budget for the full £22,000.

The Meeting was temporarily suspended at 8.55 pm to allow Cllr. James to add that Parish Councils have many ways to assist with funding of voluntary groups and other, without resorting to S137, which is there to allow Parish Councils to give grants when there is no other statute giving them the power to spend. He added that, the Local Government White Paper is proposing to replace this with the “power of well being” which will allow Quality Status Parish/Town Councils to spend without any limit being set.

The Meeting restarted at 8.57 pm

d) Sustainable Communities Bill – reply from John Maples MP and Ruth Kelly MP

e) Wychavon DC – Notification and consultation Draft Supplementary Planning Document for comment

- Notification of Planning Appeal Honeybourne Airfield Ind. Est. starting on Tuesday 3rd July 2007 – this starts at 10.00 am and could take up to 4 days. Wychavon DC’s barrister has suggested that a good Parish Council/Village representation would enforce its opposition and help the case. It was agreed that the Parish Council would send a representative on the first day and every day thereafter if required. The representative to be either the Clerk or a member that is free to attend

f)CPRE – March newsletter (circulated)

g) Warwickshire Wild Life Trust – Information re Parish BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan for Local Communities – *Noted. Comments were made that in some instances there were contradictory conclusions made.*

h) Request for Council representative for the Save the Fire Station Group – *As the chosen person would be representing the Council, not him or herself, the Chairman proposed the Clerk, and this was agreed.*

i) Airport News Info – request for a link from the PC’s website to Birmingham Airport news page. *This was agreed with the exception of Cllr. Ms. Varga who opposed it on the ground that it appears to endorse flying when we are trying to prevent global warming.*

5. BARTON SPEED LIMIT

The recommendations made by WCC had already been discussed in full during the Public Forum.

The Parish Council reiterated its support of the speed limit and the Clerk was instructed to set up a meeting with Katrina Pedlar, the WCC officer as soon as possible to give residents the opportunity to discuss this in full. The Clerk was also instructed to request the approximate costs of the work to enable the Parish Council to

make a decision regarding the request for funding made by the Barton Residents.

6. RECYCLING

The Clerk advised that she had received many complaints regarding the withdrawal of the recycling bins from the Anglo Saxon car park. She added that she had explained that it was for reasons outside the control of District Council and that she had enquired of SDC the possibility of extending the house recycling collection to include plastics. She had been informed that this was not possible until the current contract ends, in 2008, and that its inclusion was being discussed in the terms for the new contract. Ward Members were requested to support this.

7. MARLEIGH ROAD PLAY AREA

The cost of replacing the spring of a play equipment is £200. As it is one of the more popular pieces of equipment for the smaller children this was agreed.

8. UNMETERED STREET LIGHTING

The cost for April 2007/08 is 6.571p per kWh which will attract full exemption from the CCL charge which is going up as from 1st April 2007.

Although the official offer has not been received, WCC have advised that the Maintenance Agreement would cover 235 street lights (53 additional ones from Midsummer Gardens which has now been adopted) @ £13.50 each = £3,186 + VAT

9. CLERKS REPORT

This was read out and is attached to the Minutes

10. UPDATE ON RURAL CINEMA

Although more details can be found in the Clerk's Report, it was mentioned that the Clerk had attended a meeting in Stratford where it was agreed that the next meeting would be with a member of the Cotswold District as they have been running such a scheme for some 10 years and could advise of the pitfalls and how to avoid them.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **07/00088/ADV & 07/00196/LBC – Lloyds Bank, 48 High Street**
1 x set of non illuminated letters 300 mm. 1 x non-illuminated traditional hanging sign 740 mm x 600 mm
No representation
- **07/00569/FUL & 07/00570/LBC – Mr. G. Harbourne, 30 Cleeve Rd. Marlcliff**
New garage building and alterations to existing driveway
No representation

- **07/00663/FUL – Ms. K. Thompson, 85 Westholme Road, B50 4AN -**
Alterations to existing single storey house, to provide additional residential accommodation for the applicant and family. To comprise first floor bedrooms and bathrooms, rear extension at ground floor and internal alternations
The following comments were made:
 - *This is a residential, private road with a variety of houses, although in this stretch it is mainly bungalows. The Council would, therefore, request that special regard be given to the design of this development as it will set a precedent on how the road may look.*
 - *Ensure the overlooking windows have some type of opaque glass*
- **07/00707/FUL – Neil Willies – 7 Kings Lane, Broom**
Retention of implement store at land to rear
No representation

12. ACCOUNTS

Purchases:	27,686.20
Inland revenue	1,951.25
Wages	1,845.06

Payments Received:

Allotment rent	11.00
Returned cheque (CVS)	27.50
Cemetery sales	300.00
Meadow Catering	470.00

It was agreed that Cllrs. Hendy and Ms. Varga sign the cheques.

A cheque for £10 for fuel for the cemetery mower was agreed at the meeting and written out.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

CLERK'S REPORT MARCH 2007

- The cemetery drive and car park have been re-laid with tarmac, as has the worn patch in The Big Meadow from the gate to the toilet block, as agreed by the Parish Council at its last meeting.
I am aware that the new tarmac has made it difficult for the gate to open and it has been taken off to have some work done to it to make it easier to open.
- Regrettably, due to the recent bad weather, work at two of the play areas, the Big Meadow and Millers Bank, Broom, have been delayed.
Also, when the matting was removed from the Big Meadow play area, the hole that was left was deeper than had been envisaged by contractors, who advised me that for them to do carry out the work as quoted, the area should be leveled out. Top soil was bought from Budget Skip and Mr. Mark Smith contracted to lay it. Matting was installed on Thursday 22nd March. The total cost of this was £235. The other quote received had been for £800.
The play equipment at Millers Bank was removed by Monday 19th March and the area is being tidied up. Tarmac was laid on 23rd March, however, grass area and the entrance still needs work done to it.
As agreed, three cradle seats have been ordered to replace damaged ones identified during the Annual Inspection.
- I attended a meeting of the Rural Cinema Steering Committee at which a constitution was agreed. Application form to open a bank account has now been completed and given to Lloyds Bank plc for processing. The next meeting will include members of the Cotswold District who have been running a similar scheme for some 10 years, to try and use their experience to avoid any pitfalls. In the meantime, application forms for obtaining grants have been sent.
- Following a complaint by a Broom resident, whose fence was continuously been knocked down by cars driving into it, WCC traffic have looked into the matter and work including speed limit repeaters, fresh signs and chevrons is currently being carried out. Details of the plans are available at the Parish Council Office.
- Notices regarding applications for the Sole Catering Rights and Sole Ice Cream Rights to the Big Meadow for the 2007 season were duly posted, with offers to be received by 16th March. The only offers received were those already advised at the last meeting, namely Mr. M. Dobson for the Catering Rights and Mr. G. Ford for the Ice Cream Rights and I have duly accepted their offers.
- As agreed by the Parish Council at the Planning committee Meeting, I have invited Circus Romani to come on 28th/30th May. To date I have received no response.
- Following the Minerals Development Framework Workshop at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms on 3rd March, when one of the many issues raised to Jim Davies was the landfill situation at Marsh Farm/Broom, after discussing the situation with the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, it was agreed that I should request the

Chairman of the Liaison Group, Cllr. Kim James, to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

- The Parish Council's street light contractors, WCC, have advised that white lights on the High Street are now installed, bar the street light by the church which needs replacing.
I hope to have the list of the next five street lights that need replacing by Wednesday.
- Meeting has been arranged with Paul Lankester to discuss Kings Lane on Wednesday 2nd May @ 2.30 pm
- With the Big Meadow opening at Easter, I have ordered all the necessary cleaning material as well as 10 "traffic cones" and dog poop scoops.
- WCC Highways update – in the absence of Richard Elbourne, it is not easy to obtain information. I requested information from Mervyn Hancox. However, when no reply was being received, I sent an e-mail to Jim Graham requesting his assistance. I was contacted by Graeme Fitton and since then have received replies from Mr. Hancox. Updates are as follows:
 - Millers Bank and Icknield St/Church St – an order has been placed for the pressure jetting machined to cleanse the highway drainage (20.03.07)
 - Compton Ave. (reported in November) potholes filled in the week commencing 19.03.07)
 - B4085/Cleeve Rd/Welford Rd. junction old trench requires patching and this will be done next time the patching gangs are in the area (??)
 - O/S 8 Welford Rd. also needs patching and again will be done when the patching gang is in the area
 - Bidford Rd. Broom – leaning sign: order to straighten it has been given and should be done this week.
 - Mill Lane, Broom – fallen tree and potholes – an order has been placed to remove the tree and fill the potholes