

importance of having this colleague relocated within Bidford so he could continue as a member of the Bidford Fire Station crew, as there is currently difficulties in recruiting, not from lack of volunteers, but it appears none are found to be suitable, even if they have been employed as full time firefighters in the past.

The Chairman noted his comments and agreed that it was very difficult to find suitable and affordable accommodation in the village and even fewer are for rent.

- An allotment tenant advised that the allotments had all been flooded and he had lost his crop. This was the first time this had happened in 30 years, and he blamed the new marina. He enquired if the Parish Council was insured. It was pointed out to him that the Parish Council has no insurable interest in the crops planted by tenants. Members sympathized with his situation, and that of others, but it was agreed the amount of rain that fell was unprecedented

- Riverside Shooting wished to make a representation (this was an item on the Agenda) Cllrs. Barnes, James, Pemberton and Slaughter all left declaring an interest in the issue.

Riverside was opened in September 2006, they shoot every other Saturday, they have held charity events which have raised substantial amounts of money. They had a list of signatures from supporters of the site, many of whom were present at the meeting.

However, the member of the Parish Council living in Marlcliff pointed out that the residents of Marlcliff all had to leave their houses whenever there was shooting due to the noise and he believed the club was not complying with the regulations as set out by District Council. Furthermore, there had been shooting all afternoon on Sunday.

This was disputed by Riverside Shooting Ground who advised the last shoot had been three weeks ago, and members of the public stated that other shooting takes place along the river and close by – some of it pest control.

There was also support from other members of the public who stated it was good idea to arrange a club where everything is organized as shooting is a countryside activity and Bidford is a village. It also teaches youngsters within a safe environment.

A resident of the Salford Rd. who was present, did complain, however, about the noise emanating from the shooting ground.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public and asked the County and District Councillors for their reports.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Following the floods, all the bridges had been checked and he could confirm there was no structural damage. The Environment Agency would now carry out their own survey.

- Water at Barton was pumped out and the ditch which needed to be clean has now been identified and the owner is being asked to clear it.
- Bidford Fire Station – Report from Peter Morphew (who was carrying out the independent review) will now be considered by WCC Cabinet in the first week of August. This will be followed a six week consultation period and a decision is expected by the end of October
- A46 – work carried out on the stretch from Alcester to Stratford may result in extra traffic, including HGVs, through Bidford

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. James advised that he had met with Cllr. Hobbs who passed on his regards to Bidford and mentioned he had received many letters from its residents regarding Bidford Fire Station.
- Ward members wanted to put on record the good work carried out by the clerk during the weekend of the flood.
- Many things had been learnt after the 1998 Public Enquiry and some good ideas had come out of it.

It would be a good idea to start and try to draw some lessons from the recent floods and they proposed a meeting where all affected would have the opportunity to meet with Ward Members and Parish Councilors from Bidford-on-Avon, Salford Priors and Wixford. Saturday 18th August between 10.00 am to noon or 2.00 pm was suggested with the Parish Council Meeting Room as the venue. This to be confirmed.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. Hendey and Ms. Varga had sent their apologies which were accepted

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.

None declared

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2007

An item was disputed by one of the councillors so the minutes were not accepted.

As there were members of the public attending the meeting due to item 10) Riverside Shooting the Chairman proposed this item be discussed first. This was agreed. Once again, Cllrs. Barnes, James, Pemberton and Slaughter (County and District

Councillors) left the room.

4. RIVERSIDE CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

The inclusion of this item had been requested by the Councillor resident in Marlcliff who has received many complaints from residents in the hamlet. Information as to the background of the issue had been circulated.

Marlcliff residents advise that the noise created by the shooting is intolerable. Not only can they not sit out in their gardens but they are even unable to remain indoors and have to resort to leaving altogether for the day.

It also appears that the shooting club is not adhering to the guidelines as published by SDC.

It was proposed that Members of the Parish Council attend the site on one of the shooting days to ascertain what the situation is. This was agreed, as was that the Parish Council should keep an open mind as it appears that other shooting also takes place. The Chairman requested Riverside Shooting Ground to let the Clerk have a schedule of dates.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC FORUM AND REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Bidford Fire Station – following the request of support from the Parish Council, the Clerk to write to SDC and South Warwickshire Housing Association requesting a dwelling be found for the evicted firefighter and his family within the village to ensure he could continue as part of the crew.
The Clerk was also instructed to write to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services and enquire if there has been a change in the recruiting of retained firefighters.
- Allotments – the Clerk to request the owner of the new Marina to erect bunds on the border of the Marina to the allotment/cemetery to try and minimize any future damage due to excessive rain.
- The Clerk to arrange the public meeting suggested by Ward Members for Saturday 18th August. It was noted that some councillors would be away attending the Twinning Association event and some were on holiday, but there would be a presence from the Parish Council.

6. CLERKS REPORT

This was read out and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

The following was agreed by the Parish Council:

- **High Street Lighting** – as no objection had been received from residents, and agreement had been reached with the butcher, it was proposed that 2 additional streetlights and a lantern, at a total cost of approx. £5,400, be erected to improve the quality of the CCTV, especially in the dark winter months. The Clerk also advised a formal agreement would have to be drawn up with the butchers who would be entitled to have the lantern taken down if after installation he was unhappy with it.

It was stressed that the funds for this would come out of reserves. Members

agreed unanimously this was necessary although the Clerk should try and obtain assistance from SDC who are responsible for the CCTV.#

- **Community Meeting** – it was proposed the Clerk write to all the relevant parties once again requesting the use of the land to the rear of the Bidford Fire Station for the youngsters as this was identified as the optimum site within the village.
- **County Committee** – it was agreed to propose the Clerk as the Parish Council's nomination in due course
- **Kings Lane, Broom** – the clerk read out the correspondence received within the last two days, the contents of which were not encouraging. In view of this it was proposed the Clerk write to Paul Lankester – this was unanimously agreed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – Results of Speed Limit Survey on B439 following introduction of the speed limit – *these show there has been a slight decrease since the inception of the 30 mph speed limit*
Public Transport Route Review (circulated)
The main complaint is no buses to Stratford on Sunday and a difficult to read Bus Timetable
- b) WALC – Invitations to an event (circulated)
- c) Letter from resident with £20 donation for upkeep of cemetery
- d) Highway Agency – details of local maintenance work
- e) Letter from Norton resident re parking in the Big Meadow
The Clerk to reply advising the Big Meadow is a private Open Space Area leased by the Parish Council and the £2.00 Parking Fee applies to ALL visitors except residents of Parish

8. BIDFORD FIRE STATION – UPDATE

Replies received from both Chief Officer William Brown and Peter Morphew. Copies of these letters were circulated.

A list of Bidford Fire Station attendances during the weekend of the flood had been requested and received. The Clerk was instructed to forward these to Officer Brown as well as Cllr. Hobbs (WCC Portfolio holder).

9. COMMUNITY LINKS UPDATE

It was proposed that £200 be put aside for the elderly, disabled and needy members of the community who would like to use this service but have hitherto not done so due to the cost. The proposal was unanimously carried

10. EMERGENCY PLAN

Notes were made by the Clerk following the flood. These were circulated to Councilors as well as Ward Members and were noted.

11. HIGH STREET PARKING

The situation regarding parking on the bottom end of the High Street has become so bad that it was proposed WCC should be asked to review it as per the B50 plan. This was unanimously carried.

12. SOLAR POWER STREET LIGHTS

The Clerk had received reports from a party in Manchester that had installed them to illuminate a path and reported an improvement in the safety of the use of the pathway. It was proposed that, as the request for lighting had been made by the residents of Broom who are the main users of the path, and solar power @ £5,300 was much cheaper than ordinary electricity @ £7,800 (approx.) the Parish Council should proceed. Voting was 4 in favour and 4 against. The Chairman then cast the deciding vote in favour.

13. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY REPORT

Two families had made requests from the Parish Council. These were referred to the appropriate parties and have been dealt with.

It was agreed that the next surgery should take place in Broom in October. Date to be confirmed when the Broom Ward Cllr. was present.

14. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT AND REVIEW

The report had been circulated. Each item was noted and replies/comments have been made on the report itself (in red) attached to these minutes.

The Council agreed the Internal Auditor was doing a thorough job; concentrating on different aspects of the work of the Council each year. It was felt that perhaps she was being a little over enthusiastic with regards to the Minutes, on which she concentrated this year, but members appreciated the comments nonetheless.

15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **07/01888/FUL Alpha Health Care Ltd. Waterloo House, Waterloo Rd**
Proposed demolition of garage. Proposed alterations and one and two storey extension to residential care home to form 14 additional bedrooms and associated dayspace and parking
Members agreed a site visit. The Clerk was given delegated powers to reply
- **07/01664/FUL – R. Woodward 7 Welford Road, Barton**
2 storey extension to the rear
No representation

16. ACCOUNTS

Purchases :	£9,997.72
Wages:	1,988.47
Donations:	985.00

Payments received:

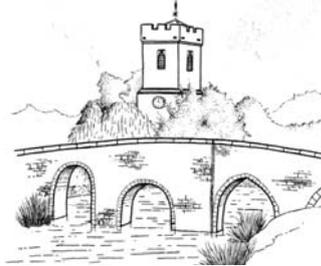
Car Parking	£340.00
Donation	20.00
Cemetery sales	215.00

It was agreed Cllrs. Ms. Deacon and Smith sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT JULY 2007

- Flooding – most of the issues are on the Agenda but I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Councillors, Ward Members and Officers at SDC, Officers at WCC, and my husband for keeping me advised of what was going and enabling me to pass on the information.

I found the Bidford/Broom Village email list worked very well – I was able to keep residents informed and they were able to advise me of any changes etc. I should like to encourage more residents to be included as it is a great way of being kept informed.

Both Bidford Bridge and the bridge over the river Arrow at Broom have been inspected. There are no obvious signs of problems. A diving inspection will take place in August to check any scour so appropriate repairs can take place.

- Awards for All – I have finally been able to satisfy their requirements by sending copy invoices and corresponding bank statements and they have now written to confirm they are closing the file.

I should like to mention at this point that the WiFi laptop that was purchased with this grant has been of tremendous assistance, especially during the flood, as it enabled me to be in constant touch with the relevant parties, receive weather updates which I was then able to email to the Bidford/Broom Village Group and keep them informed. A WiFi printer/scanner has now been added.

- Community Computer – this is being used more by residents now – when the library is closed or when all the library computers are being used. A further £300 grant has been given to purchase software and, as the Parish Council has a spare printer – the Parish Council Office recently upgraded to a colour printer – a wider use of the computer will be offered.
- Bidford Fire Station – Again, the main update is on the Agenda. However, I should like to add that the Parish Council invited Cllr., Hobbs, County Council's portfolio holder, to attend a Parish Council meeting, which he declined
- As you have no doubt read, Bidford-on-Avon was awarded the Information, Communication and Technology Category under the Village of the Year for the Central Region. This includes a prize of £500. We will now enter at national level. Amongst other things, the judges praised the Parish Council's website which they said was easy to use and kept up to date.
- Dugdale Avenue – alcohol free area. I am getting an update on this as there is conflicting information.
- The Trustees have given permission for the Craft Fair to take place, as proceeds will go to charity. However, it appears that it will not be possible to arrange the first one for the August Bank Holiday.
- High Street lighting - I visited the butchers together with Bob Yarwood, and he has agreed to a lantern being erected on his property subject to a legal agreement. Together with two other street lights, this should improve the images received by CCTV. As the latter is run by SDC, I have enquired as to what financial assistance the Parish Council can receive from them to help cover the costs of some £5,400.
- Community meeting – one of the main issues that came out of this exploratory meeting is the fact that the land behind the Fire Station remains the best placed area within the village for a Youth Centre/Shelter. Geoff Taylor, from Property Dept. attended the meeting and advised this area was penciled in by WCC for accommodation for the elderly. It was felt that, although the need for the elderly is recognized, at the same time there are a number of facilities available to them in Bidford, whereas the young have nothing. Also, helping the young will help the elderly. Furthermore, this piece of land has remained unused for over 25 years. It is proposed that a letter be sent to various members of WCC putting pressure to release this land, if only on a temporary basis.

- County Committee – There is still a vacancy for the Alcester Area and Alison has asked whether Bidford Parish Council would consider having a representative who can be either a councillor or the clerk. Name to be entered in time for the AGM. Details of the role of this body are available.
- Rural Cinema – the equipment has now been installed at the Crawford Memorial Hall (still to be tested though). SDC envisage the Rural Cinema scheme to be functioning – ie. Films being available etc. by 1st October.
- Old Geodis building – I visited the site together with Jon Grigg SDC Environmental Health Technician and a representative from DSM. Apart from the problem of the building being used for a number of things, youngsters are now gaining access via a resident's garden and, as the resident is in her 80s, her family is very concerned. The representative from DSM said that he was not sure if they owned the building, to which I replied that if they did not then one of their managers, John Kelly did, and it was agreed he would talk to Mr. Kelly and let him know what was required to make the building safe. It was further agreed that he should report back to Jon Grigg early next week. Jon Grigg informed me the building had greatly deteriorated since he had last been there. He also advised that, as he cannot do anything about what is happening apart from requesting it be made secure, he would find out if under the ASBO legislation pressure can be put on Mr. Kelly now that access to the building is via a resident's garden.
- Tanworth-on-Arden – meeting by various Parish/Town Councils representatives with Pat Reid regarding enforcement, or lack of it. Cllrs. Hiscocks (Chairman of the Planning Committee) and Cllr. Smith attended. A short report will be given but it appears to have been a good meeting.
- Minerals Development – As no news have been heard regarding this, I contacted WCC prior to the site visit at Marsh Farm. I have been advised that the consultation of the Preferred Options have been completed but they have received instructions from the Environment Agency that both the Minerals and Waste Frameworks should have a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). WCC are now in the process of appointing consultants to do this work and once completed it will be added to the Minerals and Waste Plans.

Visit to Marsh Farm went well. 5 councillors and I attended and we were shown round the site. Due to the potential adverse weather conditions (it was the Thursday evening before THE Friday) the circuit was not as extensive as it could have been but it showed us how the site is managed and it was agreed that it was a good visit.

- Kings Lane Broom – After much chasing –once again unless the Parish Council requests information it is not forthcoming – I have now been advised that a draft report has been sent to Mike Yapp, Senior Environmental Health Officer at SDC. However, he is still waiting for the necessary amendments to the Appendices. The contents are then going to be discussed in house to formulate the way forward. As it is now 6 months since the survey was started, and the negotiations for the play area in King's Lane as well as the purchase and instalment of the play equipment, which the Parish Council had hoped would be in place in time for the summer holidays, I have enquired as to how much longer the Parish Council will have to wait to have sight of the document.