

could be done to improve their facilities. In particular, the Clerk asked them to pass the word around that they were welcome to visit her in the Parish Council Office, next to the library, to discuss play equipment etc. especially at this time when budget and precept discussions will soon start. They advised that

- More could be done for the older children – most play equipment appeared to be geared to the younger ones. The Clerk advised that the new equipment installed in Jubilee Close was for all ages up to about 16.
- They also asked if more equipment could be installed in the Marleigh road play area. The Chairman advised that this had been done in the past, but the Parish Council had been forced to take it down. However, the Council was open to look at it again.
- They welcomed the news that the Parish Council would be discussing the purchase and installing of a “graffiti wall” – this would be especially appreciated if done in conjunction with a youth shelter – again they mentioned the Marleigh Road play area as a possible site for this.

The Chairman thanked the youngsters for their input and hoped they were encouraged to come again.

As no other member of the public wished to speak she invited the County and District Councillors to make their monthly report.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Post Offices – These are finally being reorganized and a consultation period of 6 weeks will be taking place. There is an indication that approx. 61% of post office masters/mistress wish to retire. Some 2,500 post offices are to close – Warwickshire will be considered in July 2008 and hopefully we will learn lessons from what occurs in neighbouring counties where changes will happen first. Due to EU elections in May, the process may have to come to a temporary halt!
- Honeybourne Airfield Ind. Estate – Applicants are appealing at the High Court against the decision.
- Fire Brigade – it has been agreed that a working party between WFRS and HWFRS should be set up. More information should be forthcoming at the meeting that would take place on Tuesday 30th Oct. and which Cllr, Barnes would be attending.
- Speed Limit review work at Barton and the road markings at Marlcliff will start in mid November
- Clerk was reminded to send letter to SWHA regarding the footpath from Tower Hill to Crompton Avenue with copy to Cllr. Barnes
- There is a proposal for a reorganization of meetings – Joint Area County, District, Police and other bodies being suggested.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- It is proposed that the current 4 Area Committees and the County Committee be replaced by 3 Joint Committees. It would mean the Bidford Ward being moved into the Alcester area which would be more beneficial.
- Two “one-stop shops” have been opened in Stratford and Alcester for both County and District Council Services
- New licensing service being proposed and needs to be adopted by January 2008. It will include a review every three years. To date no one has made any representations.
- SDC will adopt a new Corporate Strategy which should mean Studley Alcester and Bidford will see more community services
- Recycling and waste management - various proposals regarding collection and disposal are being discussed at present. It was agreed to keep the Parish Council updated via the Clerk regarding this review.
- Ward Members were happy to have been able to successfully support the Parish Council in its recent opposition of a planning application in Marlcliff.
The Chairman thanked Ward Members for their support.

The Chairman thanked all and opened the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr. hendey

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 20th August 2007, 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 24TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Cllr. Sandle proposed the Minutes be accepted as being accurate and they were signed by the Chairman.

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

There were none

5. REQUESTS FOR GRANTS

- Parish Paths Partnership (P3) were requesting a grant to assist in the publication of leaflets showing the various walks in the village. The P3 receive funds from County Council, based on the mileage of the existing footpaths, but this is used for purchasing tools etc. necessary for carrying out

their primary job of maintaining the footpaths. Members praised the job the volunteer members of the P3 are doing. The Chairman proposed a grant of £400 which was unanimously agreed.

- The Sports Association have recently upgraded their facilities at a cost of £3000 and requested a grant from the Parish Council towards these costs. A grant of £1,000 was proposed. However, the Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee advised that he would have to look at the figures before he could advise support for this sum. It was agreed the decision would be postponed to the next Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

This was read out and a copy, showing proposals and decisions made, where appropriate, is attached to these Minutes of which it forms part.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – Response from Traffic Projects Group re High Street, Saxonfields & Grange Road . *In view of the comments from WCC that they could see no benefits in imposing waiting restrictions, it was proposed that the Clerk write to SDC requesting the traffic warden visit the area more frequently and at different times of the day to ensure cars are not obstructing traffic.*
- b) SDC – Meeting Housing Needs – Draft Supplementary Planning Documents (copy available in the Parish Office) Any representations to be made by 15th November – *Cllr. Gerrard to reply in behalf of the Council*
- c) John Maples re floods – *letter read and comments noted*
- d) WALC – Sept. Newsletter (circulated)
- e) Letter from resident re Riverside Shooting Ground – *letter read. Reference to this correspondence is in the Clerk's Report*
- f) Letter from Crawford Memorial Hall giving a donation – *to show appreciation for the assistance of the parish Council in managing the refurbishment and bringing the Rural Cinema*
- g) CPRE – letter (circulated)

8. ADOPTION OF REVISED STANDING ORDERS (CIRCULATED)

The adoption of the new Code of Conduct by the Parish Council on 20th August 2007 has resulted in the Standing Orders having to be revised.

The revised version having been circulated to all members, it was agreed to adopt them.

9. FIRE STATION (WFRS) – UPDATE

The Chairman advised that she and the Clerk would be attending the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 6th November. Although the item may not be on the Agenda of the meeting, the Committee Chairman, Cllr. Chattaway advised that he would accept a question. The question was read out and is attached to these minutes. There is also an update from Cllr. Hobbs stating that they have held two meetings with Hereford and Worcester, They only discussed strategic

items such as council tax base, who is going to do each piece of work, timescales and talks with CLG (central government) about processes etc There has been no reference to any individual fire station in Warwickshire and Hereford and Worcester.

10. CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION/WRCC

The Chairman attended the event in Hampton Lucy and received the Award for the Central England ICT category of the Calor Village of the Year Competition as well as a £500 cheque which, she was informed, need not be spent on ICT.

In view of Bidford's recent success as 2006 Warwickshire Calor Village of the year and this year's award, the Chairman would like to encourage others in the community to enter the competition – the two village halls, the fire station etc. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite volunteers to form a committee to further the idea when in the next newsletter.

11. ANNUAL RETURN 2006/07

The Council has received an unqualified audit from Auditor. The Chairman added that the recent VAT visit had also found things in order.

12. GRAFFITI WALL QUOTATION

Quotation had been received for materials that could work as a graffiti wall erected on the fields to the rear of Dugdale Avenue. The amount, excluding labour, was £45.65. It was agreed that a second one should be requested for either Marleigh Rd. or the land to the rear of the fire station, and a quotation for the erection requested.

13. KINGS LANE – UPDATE

The contract is currently with solicitors. It appears to be OK except they had not changed the date so the 20 years would start from Dec. 2006 despite the fact there has been a delay of a full year! The Clerk and Cllr. Hendey (Broom) will be meeting Sue Steele on 2nd November to establish exactly what leveling is going to take place and once this has been agreed, the Clerk will advise Paul Hardy who will then proceed to finalise.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 07/02261/FUL Mr. A. Bennett 14 Grange Rd. B50 4BY
Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of new dwelling, to create extended family home
No representation
- S2141/07CM032 Marsh Farm Quarry, Dunnington
Application for the determination of new conditions for a mineral site
There were no objections to the proposed amendments which broadly follow those agreed at the Liaison Meeting.

15. ACCOUNTS

Purchases : £13,262.01
Wages: 1,988.47
Donations: 525.00

The Clerk advised that payment to the Stratford herald in respect of two official notices had been raised and sent between meetings as payment was due and the invoice appeared to have been mislaid in the post.

Payments received:

Burial fees	£ 655.00
Car Parking	146.00
Allotment rent	553.50
Donation (Crawford Hall)	600.00
Calor VoY Prize	500.00

It was agreed Cllrs. Gerrard and Deacon sign the cheques

16. MATTER ARISING FROM CLERKS REPORT

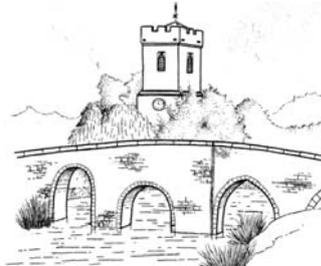
Due to the confidential nature of the matter being discussed, members of the public and press were requested to leave.

Members discussed the legal advice given by NALC and it was agreed the Clerk should reply to the resident's request as suggested by NALC.

The meeting closed at 09.30 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT OCTOBER 2007

- I have recently received three letters from a resident requesting information quoting the Freedom of Information Act. On all three occasions, I responded within 10 days; replying to each point in full. However, it appears that the responses given, although as detailed as possible, were not satisfactory, and more information was requested, although what information was not specified.

In view of this, it was agreed that I should seek advice from West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC) as to how the Council should interpret the Freedom of Information Act as adopted by the Council in 2005, so as to reply as effectively as possible without it being detrimental to my other work as a Clerk

On receipt of the advice, I shall reply accordingly.

Advice was received on Monday afternoon. It was proposed that due to the confidential nature of this issue, members should discuss its contents in confidence as the last item of the meeting. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

- CCTV – I attended a meeting at District Council with officers from CCTV, Cllr. Barnes and an officer from Warwickshire Police. It was agreed that all parties should work together in what is, essentially, work in process. At present, two extra street lights have been installed on the High Street. In one instance, a resident has complained that it is too close to her bedroom. Although agreement has been reached to move the street light, I must stress that the new site had to be approved by the CCTV as its installation is to improve the image the cameras provide for this area. *It was mentioned that the current siting of the lantern was ideal as it was out of the way and flush to a wall. However as complaints had been received and the CCTV were happy with the new siting, it was agreed that the complainant should be accommodated within reason.*

Regarding the lantern on 8 Saxon Court, which belongs to the butchers, I have received a letter from Mrs. Spencer, the freeholder, allowing the installation subject to the Parish Council agreeing to remove it and reinstate the wall to its original condition at its own cost, should the light cause pollution or attract nuisance. Please note the cost of the lantern, inc. installation is approx. £3,000

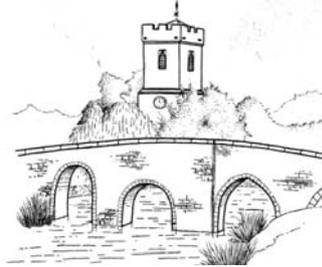
The Council resolved to accept the conditions stated in Mrs. Spencer's letter and the order to be placed as the Council felt it was essential to try to assist the business premises in that part of the High Street as well as residents.

- Street lighting – I am aware of three streetlights on Waterloo Road and 1 one Crompton Ave. are not working. Central Networks were asked to look into this as a matter of urgency back in August, and I have been chasing them via our contractors WCC, since then.
- County Council, as the Highway Authority, has worked together with the NFU and the Country Land and Business Ass. and have produced a new booklet which provides useful information for farmers and other land owners. This information can be obtained via a link on the Parish Council's website – booklet available in the Parish Council office
- Parish Council surgery – this was held at Broom Village Hall on Saturday 13th October. Cllrs. Hendey and Mrs. Keeley and the clerk attended. Amongst the issues raised were:
 - various which referred to Highways – I went round the various areas with Richard Elbourne of County Council pointing them out and notes were duly taken
 - The possibility of a speed activated sign like the one in Wixford. Having looked into this, I can advise that the one in Wixford was NOT permanent but temporary. A site has been found in Broom and, hopefully, it will be in place sometime in the new year. I shall be given a schedule nearer the time. In the meantime, a “half a day” sign will be there in December.
 - Play equipment – various designs have been shown and the preferred one will be put to the council for approval
- Rural Cinema – first screening will take place on 16th November at 7.30 pm. This is a joint project between the Parish Council and the Crawford Memorial Hall for the benefit of all the community. Ticket prices will be £2.50, part of which will go to cover the administrative costs as well as the fees to Film Bank. The first film, chosen to appeal to all, is Shrek 3. Thereafter, there will be monthly screenings (next two dates are 14th

December and 11th January). This should be a great evening out for all the family and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. Refreshments will be available on arrival and during the interval I am trying to see if there is any interest in creating a Film Club which would enable more films to be screened, and allow for the screening of classic films, children's films etc. In order for it to be viable, we would require enough people to commit to it for a year, paying an annual subscription fee of between £15-£25. Anyone interested, please contact me on 778653/07718628925.

- I have looked into the possibility of obtaining a full flood report in respect of Millers Bank i.e. over the years when has it flooded, height of water, etc. This can be obtained from the EA at a cost of £55 if paid by credit card and £75 if paid by cheque (strange, but true!)
it was resolved the Clerk should purchase this information which could be of assistance to the residents of Millers Bank. The Clerk was authorized to use her credit card.
- PACT (Partners and Community Together) next meeting is planned for Wednesday 14th November at 7.00 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room in Bramley Way.
- St. Laurence Churchyard – following the approval of the quotation to clear the churchyard, it appears that, as some self seeded trees are being felled, permission is required from the Church Faculty. In this respect I am in the process of collating the necessary documentation to send to them in time for the November Faculty Meeting.
I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Planning Dept. at SDC, especially Iain Clark who came with me on site, and the three Ward Members who approved of the work. Their assistance will, hopefully, allow me to send the paperwork to Coventry and Leicester Diocese in time.
- CiLCA – In order to be able to finalise the portfolio required to acquire the Certificate in Local Government Administration, which I should like to do before the end of the year, the office will be closing at 12.30 pm from Monday 5th November. I hope to revert to normal opening hours in December but can't promise!!

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL
In the County of Warwickshire



**QUESTION TO THE COMMUNITY PROTECTION
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2007**

Following the decision at the Council Cabinet meeting of 6th September 2007 to accept the recommendation to positively explore the viability of joining forces with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Services, (HWFRS), and, bearing in mind the numerous rumours circulating in the local press throughout Warwickshire and neighbouring counties, can the Council assure the residents of Warwickshire that:

- No decision will be made before a full and proper consultation has taken place (we do not want a repeat of the ambulance services consultation, when the decision clearly predated the consultation).
The consultation to include the closure of specific stations with full and detailed reasons to be given for any benefits forthcoming from the proposed closures
- The talks are restricted to HWFRS and not, as has been speculated in the press, with Staffordshire, Hereford and Worcester and the West Midlands to create a West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services similar to what was created for the ambulance services.
- No resident in the County will suffer due to any changes made i.e. the service provided to each and every household and/or business will remain the same or be improved.