

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH OCTOBER 2007**

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

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman invited members of the public to raise questions:

- A resident from Broom requested an update on the Friday Furlong situation. The Clerk advised that issues between the developer and one of the agents was still going through the courts. She added that, from the last conversation she had had with the developer, it was still their intention to proceed but that no date could be given.

5. **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- **Fire Brigade** - there are currently three enquiries into the Atherstone-on-Stour tragedy. The review has been put on hold due to this and it could be that it will be carried out at Government level. In the meantime, the increase for this year has been shelved.
- John Deegan is leaving his department at County Council and Richard Elbourne has left for another department – it will be some time before a replacement is in place.
- **Bidford High St.** – perhaps a time restriction should be put in place. The Parish Council advised that in order for this to be effective it would require enforcement. The Clerk added that, following last month's Parish Council meeting, she had, as instructed, contacted SDC and requested the traffic warden make more regular visits to Bidford – she had had a positive response and understands the traffic warden has already been seen more often.

6. **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (a written report is attached to these Minutes)**

- **New Waste Collection Service** – News had been publicized and a briefing papers had also been made available noting the most common questions that had been raised. One issue that had been raised by Cllr. James was whether an Accessible Audit had been carried out. This was not the case but it will be done. Another thing to note is that only the bins with the official logo would be acceptable.
A Parish Councillor raised a question about three bins, three colours – how would the colour blind cope with this? It appears that some sort of tactile identification will be included on the bins.
- **Housing** - the waiting list stood at 2,443 as at 31st October 2007. When asked if all these were local people – the reply is not necessarily as it works on a point system. It was agreed that the number on the list was high and that Cllr. James would provide the Parish Council with an up to date list in December/January as this is an issue of great concern to the Council.

County Councillor Barnes left the meeting.

7. 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.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – Changes to Mobile Library Service effective from 2nd January 2008
Noted that no particular changes apply to the area
Consultation – Responsive Services and Empowered Communities
Members resolved to respond.
- b) SDC – Advice re charges of Parish Elections for May 2008
Costs were noted and would be discussed at the Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting on 29th November
- c) WALC – November newsletter (circulated) - *Noted*
National Salary Awards for Clerks 2007/08 – *Increase was of 2.475% applicable from 1st April 2007*
Workshops (2) – (circulated)
Warwickshire Fire Fighters Families Fund – *It was noted that Parish/Town Councils could donate to this body under S137 as the fund had now been endorsed by the WCC Chairman. The Parish Council resolved to discuss this donation at the Finance & Strategy Committee Meeting*
- d) Wychavon DC – Notification and Consultation Draft Supplementary Planning (SPD) & accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Biodiversity
Noted
- e) WRAP – Thank you letter for £100 grant to project - *Noted*
- f) Letter from resident thanking Parish Council for assistance in bringing forward the Barton Speed Limit Review - *Noted*
- g) Samaritans – Invitation to AGM on 5th December – *Noted. Members could not attend as they are at a meeting that evening.*
- h) Citizens Advice Bureau – Help us to help others – *To be discussed by the Finance & Strategy Committee*
- i) Alcester Town Council re Alcester Hospital - *Members recognized the excellent work carried out by Alcester Hospital and instructed the Clerk to write to the Chairman of the Warks. NHS PCT Board giving its support.*

9. BIDFORD FIRE STATION – UPDATE

Due to the tragedy at Atherstone-on-Stour, the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 6th November, which the Chairman and Clerk were to have attended, was cancelled. However, both Cllrs. Chattaway (its Chairman) and Hobbs (Portfolio holder for Community Protection) replied answering the questions raised by the Parish Council. These were read out and are attached to the minutes. The Parish Council had also received confirmation that the review is on hold whilst the investigation takes place.

A request has been received from the local Fire Station asking for assistance

regarding local recruiting. It was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that the Clerk should put these concerns to the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Hobbs with a copy to Chief Officer Brown, especially as there appear to be candidates coming forward but nothing taken forward.

10. STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2008/09

The new contract quotes a considerable increase in the cost per street light – from £13.50 to £19.27 – this is mainly due to new Health & Safety regulations which states that 2 people are required to attend. In view of this increase, to which had to be added the increased number of street lights, it was agreed this would be discussed with other budget items at the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting

11. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – FLOOD DATE INFORMATION RE MILLERS BANK AREA

As instructed at the October Parish Council meeting, the Clerk has obtained the above information which is available for inspection at the Parish Council Office

12. KING'S LANE PLAY AREA – UPDATE

Following a site visit between SDC, Cllr., Hendey and the Clerk, an agreement has been reached regarding leveling the ground. SDC will undertake to lay 100 Tons, of topsoil, concentrating mainly on the football pitch; grass seed would also be supplied and the Parish Council would arrange for the seeding to be done. This would all take place between May and August 2008. It is hoped the lease will be signed this year – and it will be 20 years from the signature date.

13. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY DATE

It was agreed that the next surgery be held on Saturday 19th January 2008 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way, between 10.00 and 11.00 am. Cllrs. Gerrard, Keeley and Langston to attend.

14. PLANNING APPLICATION

- **07/03085/FUL** – Mr. and Mrs. M.A. Skinner, 73 Marleigh Road B50 4EE
Proposed porch and lounge extension
No representation

15. ACCOUNTS

Purchases:	£4,345.77
Wages:	2,342.10
Donations:	671.22

Payments received:

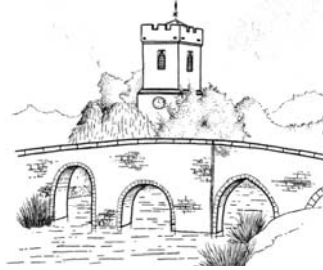
Burial fees:	£425.00
Allotment rent	8.50
Mooring fees	822.50
Grant (Crawford Hall)	7,865.65
Grant (Jubilee Close play equipment)	15,043.00
Grant (CCTV lighting – inc. VAT)	6,227.50

It was resolved that Cllrs. Langston and Sandle sign the cheques.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT NOVEMBER 2007

- **CCTV** - I am pleased to be able to advise that the Parish Council has been given a grant of £5,300 by Stratford District Council, to cover the costs involved in the installation of extra lighting to improve the CCTV images in Bidford High Street.
I should like to extend thanks to the Ward Members who facilitated this as well as to the Community Safety Department at SDC for the speed with which this was dealt with.
- **Winter Packs** – At the request of the Parish Council, Central Networks has provided winter packs to be distributed to the more vulnerable members of the community. Some were collected at the Jolly Teapot last Thursday, and more will be available this Thursday, again at the Jolly Teapot.
- **King's Lane Play Area** – I believe we are now reaching the end of the road with this issue and, hopefully, the Parish /Council will be able to sign the lease before the end of the year, allowing it to start the installation of the much awaited play equipment – the final recommendation of what equipment will be made at the Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting on Thursday. The various options have been on display at Broom Village Hall and was also the subject of discussion during the recent Parish Council surgery held in Broom.

- **Notice Boards** – I am often told that events should be better advertised – that if more people were aware of them, more would attend. My response is that they are well advertised. Please note that all Parish Council notices are regularly posted on the various Notice Boards (7) as well as on the website and in the press. Furthermore, there is a Village Group who regularly get sent emails with various updates, advice etc. Should you wish to be included please let me know- you can phone me on 778653/07718628925 or email me on info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk. Please note your email address will NOT be disclosed

- **Speed Activated Signs** – At the Parish Surgery held in Broom, one of the requests was for a speed activated sign, like the one in Wixford. Having made enquiries, I am able to confirm that the sig at Wixford was temporary not permanent as I am sure you have all notice by now. I have also been able to add Broom to the list of locations where such signs can be erected and it is hoped that this will take place sometime early in the new year. The sign is usually up for a period of some 10 days. I have also asked for the mobile camera to come at the time when speeding is more likely to occur – that is at the time of day when people drive to and from work.

- **High Street Parking – Bidford** – This issue has been discussed both at previous Parish Council meetings and at the recent PACT meeting, following which I once again contacted SDC requesting more regular visits from the Traffic Warden. I am please to advise that these are now taking place.

- **Rural Cinema** It was great to see some of you at the Crawford Memorial Hall for the screening of Shrek the Third. The Parish Council and the Crawford Memorial Hall Committee trust you had an enjoyable evening and that you will pass the word round. The next screening is on Friday 14th December and the films that will be screened are:
 - **The Bridge at Trebithia @ 5.30 pm**
 - **White Christmas @ 7.45 pm**

Hot and cold drinks available as well as crisps, pop corn chocolate and, being December, mince pies.

I understand from Broom Village Hall Committee that they will be looking at the possibility of films being screened in Broom and can confirm that the venue is already on the SDC list and two residents have attended the use of equipment training. I trust that the Broom residents will support this.

- **NEW WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT** – I am sure you have by now all read about the new waste collection contract which will come into effect late next year. I am sure we are all extremely happy to note that both plastic and cardboard are being added. I should like to thank all residents who responded to my call earlier in the year regarding this issue and am happy to note that SDC has listened and has included this. I am aware that some residents have raised some questions to the Environment Dept. at SDC asking for some clarification and hope there issues will be answered in full.