

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2007

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

4. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY – NEW CO-OPTED PARISH COUNCILLOR

As the Chairman had advised at the start of the meeting, the Parish Council welcomed Cllr. Hill. The Council had received 7 letters applying for the vacancy. On learning of the number two had opted out. The Council had met with the remaining five and agreed to co-opt Mr. Chris Hill

5. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present

6. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Barnes had sent in his apologies and requested the Clerk to advise the Council that the proposals to cut school funding had been dropped. Members expressed their approval of this move.

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- District Council had passed a motion expressing its concern about the cuts County Council was to impose on secondary schools. Primary schools would also be affected but the reduction was smaller. Cllr. James noted he was glad to hear Cllr. Barnes' information regarding this issue.
- New Licensing Policy has been passed – it contains few changes
- Avon Area Community Committee is supporting the Big Wheel – considerations taken into account included the fact that Bancroft Gardens are being redeveloped and the theatre is closed. It is also supporting a pageant – History Festival – the first of which will take place in Stratford-upon-Avon next year.
- The Environment Agency's independent report confirmed that the main problem in the July floods had been run off –not the river.

8. 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.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – Consultation – proposal to increase the admission number of Stratford-upon-Avon High School (21st Dec.) *The Council resolved to support this*
Buried under Bidford – update received from Christina Evans (circulated)
The Council was impressed with the development of this project and pleased to note the number of participants from the village. It was also pleased to note the object currently being exhibited at the Warwickshire

Museum and on display at Roman Alcester. It was agreed the details would be posted on the website.

- b) CPRE – December newsletter (circulated)

Renewal of subscription - £27 - Agreed

- c) Dugdale Rd. resident re graffiti wall for fields to the rear of Dugdale

The email was read out. Members noted the comment made but agreed that this was an open space area and the installation of a small graffiti wall was appropriate. The original decision therefore remained and it was agreed that both the Police and the Council would monitor the situation

- d) SLCC – subscription renewal - £161 pa (based on clerk's annual salary) - *Agreed*

- e) Wixford PC – re resurfacing of A46 by Wixford – *The letter was read out and its contents were noted by the Council*

10. AMMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDERS

The amendment which would allow the “Proper Officer to take urgent decisions on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Chair” had been circulated to members. The Chairman proposed the amendment be approved. The motion was unanimously carried.

11. COMPLAINT MEETING

A letter of complaint from a resident was received in respect of alleged non compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Council heard the complaint on 28th November 2007 – the complaint was not upheld.

12. BUDGET/PRECEPT

The RFO, who is preparing the figures based on the meeting held on 29th November, requested information in respect of any increases in some of the charges made by the council.

It was agreed that no increases could be made to the £2 charged for entering the Big Meadow in the summer.

It was proposed, and resolved, that a £5 increase be made to all burial charges.

The Chairman proposed that, as the support given by County Council to the Village Liaison Officer project was ceasing at the end of the year, the Parish Council should consider assisting using S137. It was proposed that perhaps the VLO should also take in Salford Priors and Wixford, to spread the cost. It was agreed, however, that it is important for a VLO to be a member of its own community. Bidford could assist and lead, but Salford Priors and Wixford should be encouraged to have their own VLO.

It was resolved the issue of support should be discussed at the Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting on 10th January

13. NEW STREET TRADING APPLICATION (SDC)

Ms. Michelle Lee – B439 Bidford to Stratford Lay-by

Members considered this would not be a suitable place and objected to this application.

14. DATES FOR 2008 MEETINGS - INC. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Proposed dates had been circulated and were agreed. Notices to be posted on Notice boards and the website.

15. PLANNING APPLICATION 07/03235/FUL

Following the site visits, agreed at the Planning Committee Meeting, members agreed that, in the main, the applicant had addressed the issues raised at the Planning Committee Meeting of 25th October 2007. It also requested the upper windows facing the other properties be obscured to ensure the privacy of neighbours.

16. ACCOUNTS

Purchases : £3,408.55
Wages: 2,032.48
Inland Revenue: 2,329.18

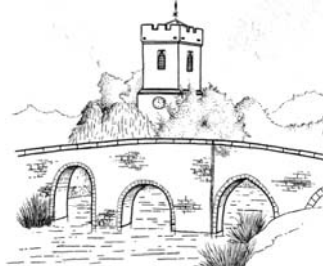
Payments Received
Burials £735.00

It was resolved Cllrs. Ms. Deacon and Hendey sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT DECEMBER 2007

- **MATTER ARISING FROM THE NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
 - The Parish Council has responded to the consultation entitled “Responsive Services and Empowered Communities”
 - Alcester Hospital – as instructed I wrote to Warwickshire NHS PCT expressing the council’s concern. A reply from the Chairman, Bryan Stoten, has been received.
The Clerk was instructed to request copies of the “strategy”
 - Bidford Fire Station – as instructed I wrote to Cllr. Hobbs, with a copy to Chief Fire Officer Brown, regarding the current, recruiting problems being experienced. ‘A reply has been received from Cllr. Hobbs that he has passed the letter on to the HR Department for their attention
 - The Street Maintenance Contract was agreed at the Finance and Strategy Committee held on 29th November 2007, and WCC have been duly notified.
 - Unpaid Community Work – as agreed I met with Joanne Rooke, Community Engagement Worker at SDC and Dave Allen to see what work could be carried out that would be suitable. After some discussion regarding the type of work they could do (for example working on the Highway is not feasible) it was agreed they would clear the new foot/cycle path The Bank of all weeds etc. and plant pyracantha, burberis and hawthorn all along the path, which they will maintain with regular visits every 6/12 months, as required. They will also plant this along the wooden fence on Marleigh Road play area to prevent graffiti being painted. Subject to agreement with WCC, they will also trim the hedges and mend the fence to the land to the rear of Bidford Fire Station in preparation for the installment of a youth shelter, graffiti wall and swing.

- **LAND TO THE REAR OF BIDFORD FIRE STATION**

WCC have advised that it will allow a corner to be used for the installation of a youth shelter. Furthermore, should the land be developed for housing for the elderly, it will pay for the relocation of the shelter.

Following research carried out, it was found that youths would also welcome the se of a graffiti wall and swings in this area. I approached WCC to see if the corner could be extended to a full strip to allow this and, on a temporary basis, it agreed to this. I am hoping to received a draft contract soon and carryout a site visit to discuss the proposal.

The Parish Council has approved an expenditure of up to £5,000 for a swing for this area, and youngsters unanimously chose a Devil's Island swing at £4,366.00

It was agreed that the order for the swing could be placed as its installation, together with the installation of the graffiti wall would be an encouragement to the youngsters in their bid to raise funds for the youth shelter. The Clerk was requested to look into obtaining funds for the youth shelter from SDC

- **WARWICKSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS FAMILIES FUND**

The donations from the collections boxes placed in businesses round the village, under the auspices of the Parish Council, were counted after the Finance and Strategy Committee. The amount was just over £498 – and this was made up to £500. The Parish Council resolved to donate a further £1,000 bringing the total to £1,500. A cheque for this amount will be presented to the Bidford Firefighters on Wednesday 19th December at 6.30 pm at the Bidford Fire Station.

- **ST. LAURENCE CHURCHYARD**

The Parish Council has been advised by Coventry Diocesan Advisory Committee (CAD) that it has recommended approval of the clearing works to be carried out to the churchyard. The next step is applying for a faculty. A Public Notice has already been placed at St. Laurence Church, inside and outside, regarding this work and will be there until 4th January 2008 when the Parish Council will sign and return it to the CAD and, hopefully, will receive a faculty in time to have the work done for Easter (it had been hoped it would be ready for Remembrance Sunday!!).

- **WHARRAD CLOSE**

I have received a call from a concerned resident that youngsters are playing football in this residential cul-de sac and,. More worryingly, skate boarding and go-karting. This is particularly dangerous as the drive goes straight into the junction of Waterloo Road and Tower Hill. I have advised the Police and the PSCO, and they will patrol the area. Perhaps parents can ensure their children use one of the many open space areas in the

village to play so as not to endanger their own lives and those of others.

- **MILLERS BANK** The EA will be carrying out some borehole test on 17th Dec. which will take some 3 days. This information will assist with the outline design of the scheme which is progressing. Once this is finalized they will be able to cost it.
- **CRAWFORD MEMORIAL HALL – BIFFAWARD**
All the refurbishment work of the Crawford Memorial Hall has now been finalized. The BIFFAWARD has been used towards:
 - Refurbishment of the rear room which can now be used as a smaller meeting room with its own
 - New kitchen
 - New toilet
 - New floor for the main kitchen
 - Cinema equipment for the Rural Cinema

The full cost of the above amounted to	£47,122.80
BIFFAWARD grant was for	£46,254.90
Crawford Memorial Hall Committee donated	600.00

This leaves a small overspend of **£268.00**

This was noted.