

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 31ST MARCH 2008

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

The youngsters present were asked if they wished to speak but declined.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

- A resident from Marlcliff advised that a residents group had been formed to promote local issues in Marlcliff called the Marlcliff Residents Group. The current main issue was the flooding that occurred last July when 21 houses were flooded – up to 1 metre of water entered the houses. A meeting had taken place on 14th April 2008 with speakers from the Environment Agency, the National Flood Forum, Severn Trent, SDC and had been attended by Cllr. Barnes, James, Pemberton and Slaughter as well as Cllr. Hendey representing the Parish Council. It had been a very good meeting, and it appeared some solution may be found to minimize flood damage in the future and the group requested support from the Parish Council

The Chairman asked if anyone else wanted to speak, but they declined.

She then noted some youngsters who had been outside the building prior to the meeting had come in and asked the Council if they had any objection to the Youth Forum taking place. Members had no objections and the Chairman asked them if they would like to speak:

5. YOUTH FORUM

- Why had nothing else happened to the area at the rear of the fire station after the swing had been installed?

The Chairman replied that the Parish Council had had to apply for retrospective planning permission for change of use of the land and until it received the approval from the planning authority, nothing further could be done.

6. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Marlcliff meeting – some pond restoration in Marlcliff to be carried out
- B439 – speed limit review, the first phase had now been completed and the second phase started. It should go out to public consultation in June. Cllr. Barnes added that although Marriage Hill was not included in the review, he had requested it be added so the area between 40 mph and the roundabout would be reduced from the current 60 mph to 50 mph.
- There had been a meeting of the Minerals and Waste Sub Committee, of which Cllr. Barnes is a member. The core objective is that there should be sand and gravel supply for the next 20 years. Warwickshire needs to have 15 years' reserve but currently only has 8 years. WCC will be looking for appropriate sites and he would draw the council's attention to any

development in this area, as it may include Marriage Hill.

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- SDC had now formally responded to the Alcester Hospital consultation, the most important aspects being
 - Any development must include inpatient beds in sufficient numbers to include all the surrounding villages
 - Development must be continuous and take into account demographic changes etc.
 - Building should be community based
 - It must be flexible and take into account demographics and medical advances
 - Carbon neutral
 - New facilities must not threaten any reduction in the medical services offered by Bidford
- Central Cabinet Office was in the process of contacting residents in Broom with a questionnaire concerning last year's flooding – Broom had been one of four towns/villages chosen in the area.
- Avon Farm – the Inspectorate had dismissed the appeal

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting

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

- **WALC** – Newsletter (circulated) - *Noted*
New Services provided Free of Charge (circulated) *Members agreed it would be an idea to use this service for Health & Safety and Risk Assessment*
- **WCC** – Intl. Biodiversity Day flyer – *This has been posted on the Parish Council's website*
- John Maples MP – Bidford Bridge correspondence – *contents of this letter had already been made known at the March Parish Council meeting as a copy had been sent to the Parish Council by WCC*
- Bidford Christmas Lights 2000 – *request for 5 stars to be attached to streetlights for which the Parish Council is responsible and £10 paid per star to cover the electricity cost. The Parish Council agreed subject to no objection from the electricity company.*
- Shakespeare Hospice – request for donations towards the Hospice's "at Home Team" (Cllr. Sandle left the room having declared an interest, left the room) – *the Clerk to request more information especially what it offers residents living within the Parish Council area.*
Cllr. Sandle returned
- South Warwickshire General Hospitals – public consultation *It was agreed to request a speaker be invited for the next Parish Council meeting on 19th May. The Chairman asked for a hard copy of the consultation to be requested.*

- Bidford-on-Avon Primary School - re admissions - *A letter had been received from the Headteacher of the School expressing her concern, and disappointment, regarding an item in the minutes of the January meeting which stated that the County Cllr. had reported the school was full and children from Bidford were being sent to Welford. She wanted to clarify that this was not the case: the school is not full and they have never refused an admission application.*
- Resident from Marleigh Road re land at rear of Fire Station *Since receipt of the letter a public meeting to discuss these issues had been held on 17th April. The Clerk was instructed to reply to the letter accordingly.*
- Resident re The Paddocks Gypsy site - *the issue of the permission for 34 caravans on The Paddocks Gypsy Site was queried as there appears to be no planning permission for this. A letter from SDC stating that permission was given under a Caravan Site Licence amended by a Magistrates Court Order in February 1997 was read. Members felt the issue still required clarification and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Planning Dept. at SDC and ask for a full history of this site.*

10. REPORT OF MEETING HELD IN MARLCLIFF RE POSSIBLE FLOOD IMPROVEMENTS/MILLERS BANK

As mentioned by the resident from Marlcliff, Cllr. Hendey had attended this meeting representing the Parish Council.

- Bill Garrard from the Environment Agency had emailed the Parish Council after the meeting, advising that the EA and SDC had agreed to partner and look at the drainage study with a view to possibly construct a bank between the river and the village. There could also be possible works to the surrounding ditch system.
- Severn Trent advised they could possibly uprate the existing pump station by 20%
- National Flood Forum gave a presentation which was very well received

Regarding Millers Bank, Broom, the EA were costing a scheme to be presented to the Regional Flood Defence Committee in September. If approved, the EA would be advised in December for work to commence in the new financial year (#April 2009). In the meantime, Severn Trent were proposing to angle a pipe that would go behind the old playground and discharge water into the river under the bridge – this should help with the persistent ponding of the junction of Mill Lane, Mill Close and Millers Bank.

The Parish Council agreed to give its support to any scheme that would minimize the flood damage to residents.

11. REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL RE LAND AT THE REAR OF THE FIRE STATION

The Chairman clarified that nothing could be done or implemented until such time as the change of use, which had been applied for, had been granted.

However, following the issues that had been brought up at the meeting, she believed the Parish Council should make some decisions namely:

- Graffiti wall – it was proposed this be scrapped as members could understand the concern of residents nearby that children carrying spray cans could be tempted to use them to paint on walls etc. The proposal was carried
- It was proposed that the area be restricted to Under 18s and that there be a time limit for the area to be opened. The proposed hours were:
 - 8.00 am to 08.00 pm during the winter months
 - 8.00 am to 10.00 pm during the summer months
 This was carried. The decision as to who would be in charge of opening and closing to be agreed at a date when it became relevant.
- It was proposed to make this an alcohol free area (as Dugdale is). This was carried
- It was proposed that dogs be forbidden in the area. This was carried. The Chairman advised the dog bin was being moved to the grass verge outside the area permission having been given by SDC who are responsible for the car park.

The Chairman added the following information in answer to the main issues brought up at the meeting.

- Risk assessment has been carried out by P.C. Tony Lambert and the Clerk. She proceeded to read it
- Insurance has confirmed the Public Liability cover is an umbrella cover for an amount of £5 million
- All play areas are inspected once a week and litter collected. This new area will be added to the list
- The Parish Council is in communication with WCC regarding how best to improve the fencing bearing in mind the decision (if made) that the area should be locked at 10.00 pm. WCC had requested quotations on 6 options, which were read out. The Parish Council now waits to hear from WCC.
- Retrospective planning permission for change of use has been sent in. The Parish Council would reiterate that it corresponded with the planning department at SDC when seeking confirmation that the installation of the swing was permitted development – the change of use issue was NOT flagged up at the time. Once the PC was made aware, it immediately addressed the matter.

12. PAYMENT OF UTILITIES BY DIRECT DEBIT MANDATE

The RFO had brought to the Clerk's attention the fact that some utility companies (BT as the main example) were offering discounts if payments were made by DDM. The Clerk had enquired from WALC whether this would be legal and had received a positive response. The Chairman proposed this be accepted. The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee advised he supported it in principle but would like the Clerk to give members information as to which companies and the amounts in question before the final decision is made. This proposal was carried and the Clerk will circulate the information prior to the May Parish Council meeting.

13. REQUEST FOR SEAT FOR BROOM PLAY AREA

Residents have asked if it would be possible to complete the play area by installing a picnic table and chair. The Clerk had obtained three quotations ranging from £1,500 for a metal version, to £120 from Ragley Timber. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Ragley Timber as it was both the cheapest and the most local. A cllr. Proposed two be purchased and this was carried.

14. DONATION FOR BIDFORD YOUTH ACTION

The Chairman proposed a donation for £5,000 which had been received from SDC for this purpose be approved. This was carried. The Chairman also proposed that the funds from the Carnival Account, which the Parish Council had already agreed should be donated to the BYA, be given and that the Clerk be instructed to write to the bank accordingly. This was also carried.

15. TWINNING ASSOCIATION

At the February meeting, members had agreed to postpone any decision regarding attending the 775 anniversary of Rosberg until after the election. As members had been returned unopposed, the Chairman proposed the decision be made at this meeting. It was proposed that, as Ebsdorfergrund consisted of 11 villages, whilst Bidford-on-Avon was one – the council would be invited to attend some anniversary or other almost annually, which would become too much of a commitment. He proposed, therefore, that the council not attend this time as it had done so last year. This was carried.

It was then proposed that £100 be set aside to give to a member of the Twining Association wishing to attend but who was unable to do so due to financial restrictions. This was carried

16. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY

It was agreed to hold the next surgery on Saturday 10th May between 10.00 and 11.00 am. Cllrs. Hill, Mrs. Keeley and Williams to attend.

17. PLANNING APPLICATION

- **Mr. & Mrs. Henwood 24 High Street B50 4BU**
T1 – horse chestnut: fell
Support subject to approval from the arboricultural dept.

18. ACCOUNTS

Purchases :	£4,898.76
Wages:	2,048.01
Donation:	5,000.00

Payments Received	
Precept	£72,950.00
Meadow Hire Charges	600.00
Burial fees	340.00
Allotments	222.00
Churchyard Maintenance	8,985.56
Copying fees	0.40

It was noted that a cheque for £265 had been raised to SDC to pay for the cost of the retrospective planning application for change of use for the land to the rear of the fire station

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

19. ICE CREAM SOLCE RIGHTS – BIG MEADOW

Cheque for the balance outstanding from last year had now been received. The Council therefore agreed to accept the offer of £1500 – inc. of VAT for the 2008 season payable @ £100 per week.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT APRIL 2008

- **KINGS LANE PLAY AREA – BROOM** – It is hoped the sports pad will be completed soon.
There has been some problem with the installation of the play equipment due to the instability of the ground. This was brought to the attention of the company who arranged a site visit with their Contract Manager. I have been advised that the installers will return this week to make good all the faults that were pointed out. Also, part of the exigo trail will be completely replaced and installed within a concrete clad trench to ensure it is well fixed to the ground.
Noted

- **LENGTHSMAN –**
 - I have instructed the lengthsmen to carry out clearing work on the small triangles on the roundabout @ a cost of £195.00
 - I am waiting to hear from SDC whether it is possible to “buy out” the grass cutting contract; how much they would give us and whether it would be financially better to give the contract to the lengthman. Another possibility is for the lengthman to cut the grass in between those done by SDC, to include collecting the grass and tidying the verges under trees, shrubs etc, which is currently not done by SDC’s contractors.
 - Redundant pole on footpath by school – alternative quotation to WCC is £292 for taking it down, disposing of it.- *it was agreed this was an unnecessary cost as it was neither dangerous nor in the way.*

- **CCTV** – Together with the CCTV surveillance team and our street light contractors, I visited possible sites for the two street lights that are needed. If approved by the Parish Council, I will place the order for these.
This was approved.
- **BRITISH LEGION** – I need details of councillors and partners that wish to attend the Annual Service and Service of Thanksgiving in Bidford on Saturday 6th July.
Members able to attend gave their names which the Clerk will pass on to the British Legion.
- **ALLOTMENTS** – The Parish Council is receiving many complaints that some of the allotments are not being kept in good order which is a condition of the tenancy agreement. There is also considerable pressure on the Council for allotments as there is a rather long list of residents wishing to rent one. In view of this, tenants who are **not** keeping their allotments in good order are being served with a notice to quit and their allotment been given to the next resident on the list.
This was noted. The Clerk was asked how long the list was, to which she replied approx. 15.
- **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – draft minutes have been sent with the Agenda for this meeting, If members think they are in order, they can be posted on the website. as I believe to wait a full year is really not appropriate as the issues discussed apply to now not April 2009!
It was agreed draft minutes could be posted on the website.