

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH MAY 2008.

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

4. YOUTH FORUM

One of the youngsters spoke regarding the site at the rear of the fire station where the Devils Island swing was recently installed and advised they were improving their behavior when they were there, making sure they kept the noise down and picking up the rubbish.

They added they liked the site as it was something different which they could all enjoy and it was another facility for the village not only for now but for others to enjoy in the future.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident made the comment that Bidford-on-Avon was growing, but that the facilities for the youngsters remain unchanged.

As a parent he did not like his children to have to go over the bridge to the Big Meadow in the winter and therefore supported the new site at the rear of the fire station as it was a good piece of land, until now derelict, for teenagers to be able to hang out – somewhere protected and overseen and he hoped to see it completed.

The Chairman thanked the residents for their support.

She added that she wanted to clarify the situation in respect of the Big Meadow:

- The land is not owned by the Parish Council but leased at a cost of £9,390 p.a. to this had to be added the maintenance cost.
- The revenue from car parking – which is free to residents with a Free Car Pass – has been declining – last year due to the floods and this year due to the high cost of fuel.

The Parish Council had, therefore, to consider the cost of any development on the Big Meadow as it could, one day, become too expensive to continue leasing.

The resident then enquired if more equipment was planned for the site. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council was waiting for the planning application to be considered but that the project did include a youth shelter.

The members of the public left.

6. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- The three street lights along Waterloo Road which had been off for some 2 years are now working.
- A request has been made for a dropped kerb from Crompton Avenue to Waterloo Road, often used by a partly disabled resident.
- Marlcliff – all drains have been checked. There was one blocked which has been dealt with

- Fire Brigade – a meeting of all relevant authorities took place to look at various proposals
- Broom – There is £7,000 put aside for traffic calming measures. A meeting to look at these would take place in Thursday 3rd July at 10.00 am – the member for the Broom Ward would be attending the meeting.
- School – a new, permanent music teacher had been appointed to start in the autumn.
- Bidford Bridge – a meeting had been arranged for 14th July at Bidford Bridge which would be attended by representatives of two companies (one from Sweden the other UK) looking at some solution to enforce compliance of the weight limit

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting at this point

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Pemberton had sent his apologies

- The first meeting of the West Area Joint Committee had taken place on Thursday 26th June which was a shambles. Anyone attending could rightly ask the question of why Warwickshire was not a Unitary Authority.
- SDC had made its official response to the new EcoTown proposal:
 - *Whilst acknowledging the potential for the creation of sustainable communities through the Government's eco-town programme, the Council considers that the concept as currently proposed is fundamentally flawed for the following reasons:*
 - *The normal planning processes for identifying future development sites are not being followed.*
 - *A robust assessment of all the potential options for accommodating housing growth whilst addressing sustainability and climate change issues has not been undertaken. Such an assessment would have enabled the potential for developing eco-communities in more sustainable locations, adjacent existing built-up areas to be explored.*
 - *The impact on nearby existing towns and villages, and the services and facilities within them has not been considered.*
 - *There has been no evidence put forward to suggest that eco-towns will meet local needs.*
 - *The site at Middle Quinton is contrary to current national, regional and local planning policies.*
 - *There are many concerns about the proposed eco-town at Middle Quinton as detailed in section 3 above which require much more robust and thorough investigation*

It has also written a letter to the Housing Minister Caroline Flint in conjunction with Gloucestershire and Worcestershire

- New recycling bins had been delivered – the delivery is behind schedule. Smaller bins are available – residents should contact 01789 260925, give their name, address and telephone number and request smaller bins (please state

colour).

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

- **WCC** –
 - Launch of Stratford District Public Realm Grant Scheme *This was noted with interest*
 - Launch of Stratford District Parish Communications Grant Scheme – *It was agreed that the new intergeneration newsletter issued by the Parish Council should apply*
 - Sure Start – Children's Centre for Stratford Area – information and invitation to a meeting on 3rd July @ 2.30 pm (Ettington Community Centre) – *This was noted. No councillor able to attend*
- **SDC** –
 - Discussion regarding the future of Alcester Hospital to be discussed with the PCT at Globe House on 10th July @ 1.30 pm – *it was agreed Cllr. Gerrard would attend for the Parish Council*
 - Off Street Parking Strategy (discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting of 30th June) *The Clerk had written to SDC stating the Parish Council strongly objected to any car park charges and that improved signs for the second car park in Wards Lane should be installed.*
- **WALC**
 - Newsletter – (circulated)
 - As short guide to Partnership Working in Warwickshire (circulated)
 - Briefing Note on Post Office Network Change Programme – proposed closures in Warwickshire *The only local post office clearly marked for closing was Broom and it would appear the Post Mistress had volunteered.*
- **Lighthorne Parish Council** – regarding SDC' new re-cycling *Members agreed that although any new system would have its problems, the Parish Council supported the change as it increases recycling facilities and should reduce trips to the tip in Burton Farm*
- **Mencap** – request for donation. *This will be considered in July together with other donations*
- **Crawford Memorial Hall** – donation to Parish Council of £300 for its assistance in setting up the Rural Cinema and its help in running it
- **Big Meadow** – request for 3 picnic benches (like the ones in Broom) *A further request for these picnic benches for Marleigh Road play area had also been made. It was agreed to apply for a grant for 5/6 benches from the new Public Realm and a final decision to be made in July*

10. REPLY TO STATEMENT MADE BY A RESIDENT AT MAY'S MEETING REGARDING THE AREA AT THE REAR OF THE FIRE STATION

Both the statement and the Parish Council's reply were read out

The main points of the statement were

- That no further play structure is erected on the site
- That the Devil's Island Swing be removed
- That the site as well as the Wards Lane Car Park be made a Dispersal Zone – regarding this the resident advised that contact had been made with both the Police and SDC

The Parish Council replied that it would make no decision until its planning application for change of use of the land had been considered.

Regarding the Dispersal Zone, this was a matter for the Police.

(Full text of the statement and the Parish Council's reply are attached hereto)

11. WORKING TOWARDS QUALITY STATUS

Information had been circulated. Members resolved to apply for Quality Status and to form a Committee to distribute the work according to headings.

The Committee would be formed by: Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hill and Williams

12. UPDATE ON WARWICKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

On hearing the news that Cabinet had approved the renewal of talks with Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Services with a view to a possible merger, the Clerk contacted the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Hobbs, requesting confirmation that no fire station in Warwickshire would close as a result. Cllr. Hobbs replied that subject to the merger going ahead, there would be no closures for the present.

The Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, and the clerk attended the first West Area Joint Committee meeting on 26th June and put the question to the Committee. Copy of the question and the reply are attached hereto.

13. REPORT FROM A MEETING WITH ALCESTER, HENLEY AND STUDLEY PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS CONCERNING BUSINESS SUPPORT

Two members of the Council, the Clerk and a representative of businesses on the industrial estate attended a meeting, which had been arranged by Studley Parish Council to discuss the possibility of some collaboration to improve the situation of local businesses.

As a consequence of these discussions, it was proposed that Bidford Parish Council carry out a Business Survey, which is currently being done, and report back to a second meeting on 16th July. A third meeting has been arranged for August to see whether there is a common way forward..

14. REPORT FROM THE INTERGENERATION WORKSHOPS

Two workshops had taken place over consecutive Mondays. The first had been well attended, the second less so. The Chairman expressed disappointment that not more local residents/members of the community had attended as they had been quite lively. As a result, the workshop group agreed to proceed with an intergeneration project

which it decided to call BIG (Bidford Intergeneration Group) and to proceed with the following projects:

- An Intergeneration Newsletter
- A Community Day to take place in Marsh/April next year
- Bidford Youth Centre rebuilding Project
- Town Crier Youth Corps

It is hoped the whole community will get involved in one or more of the above in various capacities – this will be especially the case of the Bidford Youth Centre which lends itself to assistance from professionals living locally such as architects, engineers, interior designers etc.

15. REVIEW OF PLAY RISK ASSESSMENT

Currently a weekly visual inspection is carried out. Any issues are dealt with in situ unless spare parts are required, in which case this is reported to the Clerk who will order the necessary for installation.

An annual inspection is carried out through SDC and the PC review this and risk assess each adverse comment and act accordingly

This was reviewed by WALC and approved as being in order.

16. PLANNING APPLICATION

- **08/01079/FUL – Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council**
Land at Rear of the Fire Station, - Retrospective change of use from vacant land to play area (Class D2).
As the applicant, it was agreed the Parish Council would send a letter of support clarifying its position.
- **08/01207/FUL – Mrs. Amanda Gallagher, 1 Old School Mead, B50 4AW**
Increase and replace existing kitchen window to allow view of garden and increase light into house (existing windows 96 x 88 cms. Proposed new window 96 x 200 cms)
No representation

17. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT AND REVIEW

These had been circulated to councillors together with the points raised by the Internal Auditor and the reply to these. It was proposed they be approved and this was unanimously carried. The Annual Return form was duly completed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk

The Clerk was requested to write a letter to the RFO thanking him for his work which the Council had found greatly improved.

18. ACCOUNTS

Purchases :	
Wages:	2,048.61
Donation	850.00

Payments Received
Meadow Hire Charges
Burial fees
Allotment rent
Copying fees

The Clerk advised that the following cheques had been completed but did not from part of the list:

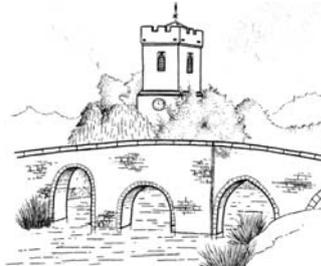
- BT
- H. Bennett – fuel

It was resolved Cllrs. Hendey and Sandle sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT JUNE 2008

• **MATTERS ARISING**

- Replacement of 5 street lights. The Parish Council opted for the cheaper old type lanterns at a cost of £6,236.56 – but expressed a preference for the type of lantern installed outside Durrants on the High Street. On inspection, it appears this lantern is of the new, electronic type – the cost of which will be £6,960.76.
A decision is required as to which to opt for.
It was resolved to install the new, electronic type. The Clerk to instruct installation as soon as possible.

- Instructions have been given for the installation of two further street lights to improve the CCTV cameras (Ref. Clerks Report April 2008)

- Lengthman has been instructed to
 - Clear the undergrowth along the B439 from the roundabout to the road sign
 - Cut and spray the weeds along the footpath by the school
 - Tidy up along The Bank; spray and tidy the god cakes by the roundabout and the War Memorial

- **KING'S LANE PLAY AREA, BROOM** - The installment of the play equipment and leveling out of the football pitch has now been finalized and 2 picnic benches have also been installed
Instructions for the fencing off of the field, as per the lease agreement, have been given and the work should be carried out around mid July

- **DOG FOULING** – Once again it has been brought to my attention that some dog owners (and I am sure it is a minority but nonetheless...) are not picking up their dog's fouling but are leaving them on public open space areas, play areas and footpaths frequented by children. I cannot stress enough the importance that dog foul be picked up and deposited in the bins – it is not only messy when picked up by children – and adults – but dangerous. I will add that a Dog Fouling Order is currently going through in Stratford District Council which will result in fines being applied to all irresponsible dog owners.
The Parish Council was able to confirm the Dog Fouling Order had been adopted at the West Area Joint Committee Meeting of 26th June 2008
- **FLOODING** - I ordered, and have received, a copy of the Draft Severn Catchment Flood Management Plan. It is on a CD and is, as can be imagined quite long. However, it is available should anyone wish to look at it. I have also received information on property protection systems that the PC could consider for the grant it is applying for to SDC.
- **LAND AT THE REAR OF THE FIRE STATION** - I have noticed that green waste is being dumped on this site making it unsightly and should be grateful if whoever is doing this will cease. The Parish Council is trying to keep this area, as well as other play areas, as clean and tidy as possible.
- **PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER** – Can I remind residents that a monthly newsletter is published on The Connect magazine, which is distributed to most residences within the area. It also gives full details of the Rural Cinema screenings.
- **INFORMATION** The award winning Parish Council website is packed with information relating to the village, its groups and associations as well as links to other sites. Why not visit it and see for yourself: www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk If you do not have a computer, please note there is one available, free to all residents, in the library/Parish Council Office lobby, where you will also find information leaflets etc.
 If you wish to discuss an issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available daily in the office (next to the library) from 10.00 am to 12..30 pm – except when attending a seminar/workshop – and on the phone 778653/07718628925, and my email: info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk – I will always try my best to assist.