

4. YOUTH FORUM

There were no youngsters present

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- A resident from Broom gave an update on the flooding situation of Millers Bank
 - Flood Defence proposal had received approval by the Levies Board subject to match funding.
 - Severn Trent are looking at ways to deal with the continuous flooding at the bottom of Mill Lane – various proposals have been suggested, the latest being an improved pumping system
 - Once SDC have advised the Parish Council of the amount of the grant, residents of Broom who were flooded would like to be considered.
- A resident requested:
 - Could something be done about the landscaping by the new development on Wharrards Close. The Clerk instructed to contact Laing Homes
 - Jubilee Close – the numbering is very confusing and the resident had seen an ambulance get confused when arriving at Jubilee Close trying to find the right house. The Clerk to contact street scene and South Warwickshire Housing Ass.
 - Some play equipment or similar to be installed in the green square at the end of Crompton Avenue. The Clerk to discuss this with South Warwickshire Ass.

6. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Fire Station - following the Cabinet meeting on Monday 22nd he could advise that there would be no redundancies in the next 2/3 years – simply natural wastage
- B439 – despite some difficulties, including objection from the Police, agreement had been reached for the speed limit on the B439 to be reduced from 60 mph to 50 mph – this would include the stretch on the Salford Road after the current 40 mph to the roundabout.

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Off street park charges – this was debated and it was agreed to postpone any decision until the consultation with Parish and Town Council had finalised. Cllr. James added that he had requested information as to the £40,000 cost of the two car parks in Bidford, asking the dept. to quantify this,
- Flood Risk Management – this debate had to be postponed as the information presented was out of date and quoted figures referring to the 1998 floods not the 2007.
- The announced changes to the procedure at Planning Committee meetings have been suspended following a rather chaotic presentation in August. It will now revert to its former structure, although the number of plans and photographs shown at the presentation may be reduced at the discretion of the

officers. This was due to the fact that some councillors felt it was not possible to vote on something they could not visualize.

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

- **WCC** - Minerals Local Development Plan –Summary Statement and Request for Potential Strategic Sites – *The Clerk advised she was keeping informed in respect of the proposed extension to Broom Court Farm by regularly phoning WCC to see if any interest in this site had been received. To date there has been none.*
- **SDC-**
 - Off street car parks – proposals re charges (circulated)
The Parish Council was unanimously opposed to any charges being made on the two car parks in Bidford as this would be detrimental to the High Street shops, as had been demonstrated by the recently carried out Business Survey where the parking facility in the village was considered a great advantage. The Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly
 - Public Liability Insurance High Street Car Park – Bidford
Members expressed surprise at this as they are unaware of the Parish Council owning any car park on the High Street!
- **WALC**
 - Newsletter August 2008 (circulated) – *Noted*
 - Invitation to AGM 28th Oct. @ 7.30 pm – *Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Ms Deacon and Gerrard to attend together with the Clerk*
 - The Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004 (circulated) – *Members noted that the current insurance covers them under the Statutory Instrument 2004 Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004, but that it does not cover them under the Code of Conduct. It also understand NALC are negotiating with underwriters to include the Code of Conduct.*
 - Programme of Briefings and events to March 2009 (circulated) – *Noted. The clerk will circulate these individually*
 - WALC – County Committee – confirmation of continuation of current member *It was proposed and carried that the Clerk continue.*
- **Communities and Local Government** – Consultation on making and enforcement of byelaws. *The Clerk to read through this and reply*
- **Worcs. County Council** –
 - update of its Mineral and Waste Development Scheme 2008 - *noted*
 - South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy – preferred options paper – *noted*

- **CPRE** – September newsletter (circulated)
- **British Legion Poppy Appeal** – Remembrance Sunday 9th November – *it was proposed and carried that a donation of £25 be made for a wreath*
- **The Jennifer Trust** (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) Request for financial assistance either by buying its Christmas Cards or donation – *it was proposed and carried that this be discussed at the next meeting*
- **Mercia Canoe Club** – Canoe Race on Nov. 9th –permission to use car parks etc. – *it was proposed and carried that permission be given as in previous years.*
- **Thank you letters from various institutions to whom donations were given**

10. CALENDAR ACTION – REVIEW OF STREET LIGHTS AND TREES, HEDGES ETC.

- **Millers Bank** – As has been reported, the Clerk was contacted by a resident of Millers Bank regarding some willows that were encroaching in his garden. The Clerk, together with SDC planning officer/forestry Iain Clark visited the area and it was agreed that 5 willows should be coppiced. The appropriate Planning Notification has been sent as the trees are in a conservation area, and a quotation received £550.
Whilst in the area, the clerk carried out a risk assessment of this amenity area and, due to the potential danger to members of the public and/or property, agreed the following work be carried out:
 - Limbs from three large Crack Willows to be removed. Cost is £125,
 - A very large poplar to have its crown reduced by some 50% at a cost of £845
 - The old play area, at a cost of £425 as the weeds etc. have wholly taken over this small amenity area, including the benches which at present cannot be used due to the overgrowth.
The Council approved the expenditure authorised by the Clerk
- **Ditch by Saxonfield car park** – members, once again expressed dissatisfaction with the state of this ditch which is very overgrown and unsightly. The Clerk advised that WCC would not consider any expenditure on this area and it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the lengths man to discuss what could be done and at what cost.
- **Update of streetlights**
 - The two streetlights installed to improve the CCTV cameras are still awaiting connection by E-on. WCC, the Parish Council's contractor is following this up.
 - 4 of the street lights authorized under the Council's replacement programme have been installed, namely:
 - ✓ Churst Street No. 1
 - ✓ Westholme Road No. 1
 - ✓ The Crescent No. 2
 - ✓ The Meadows No2.

Holland Close No. 1 has still to be done. Again, WCC is following this up with E-on

- It was also noted that the new streetlight on the footpath by the school had still not been connected and the Clerk was instructed to take this up as this was used by many residents taking their children to the Primary School.

11. TO CONSIDER WASTE RECYCLE SERVICE FROM NOVEMBER 2008 TO MARCH 2009

As instructed, the Clerk had looked into the possibility of the Parish Council arranging a collection of the green waste once this service was temporarily suspended by SDC.

A quotation from Verdant was received offering a two hour service on a Saturday at £305.

It was proposed, and carried, that the Parish Council should arrange this service on 2 Saturdays in the months of November and March as well as 1 Saturday in January to allow for the green waste following the Christmas festivities (Christmas trees etc.). The proposed site would be Wards Lane car park, as this is central and not used on the weekend, and permission to be requested from SDC who own and run this car park.

12. TO CONSIDER MAKING MARLEIGH PARK AND JUBLIEE CLOSE PLAY AREAS ALCOHOL FREE SITES

This issue had been brought up during the drop in consultation session regarding Marleigh Park play area.

It was proposed, and carried, that these two areas, like Dugdale and the site to the rear of the Fire Station, also be made alcohol free areas.

13. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY – REPORT

Only one resident had made use of this facility on Saturday 27th September. He raised various issues such as overhanging trees, blocked drains which the Clerk was advised of and she has now brought this to the attention of the proper authority/party. The Clerk advised the Ex Carnival account had now been closed. The balance on the account was £52.45 and it was proposed this amount be donated to the Bidford Youth Action. This was carried.

14. UPDATE ON FLOODING ISSUES (BROOM AND MARLCLIFF)

- The Clerk confirmed the information in respect of Millers Bank, which the Broom resident has given to the Parish Council
- The Clerk advised that the Parish Council was still awaiting news from SDC with regards to the grant and how much would be forthcoming. She stressed that the number of houses that SDC took into consideration differed from that of the Parish Council as only houses that had reported being flooded were included. The evaluation would be calculated as follows:
 - V (value for money rating) = $\frac{C}{P}$ (amount of the bid)
P (number of households being helped)

- Marcliff – a meeting had taken place to which John Maples MP had been invited. The proposed flood defense programme had not been approved as too few houses would benefit. It was proposed that perhaps the cleaning out of the ditches and the opening up of some pools – that had been covered up in the 1960s, could help, and it was agreed this should be pursued.

15. AMENITIES, PLAY AREAS, YOUTH SHELTERS AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

It was agreed the working group would meet on Monday 13th October, following the Planning Committee Meeting, to discuss

- Marleigh Park play area following the drop in session
- Kings Lane play area Broom following the inspection

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **08/02216/FUL Blenheim Nursery 7 Stratford Road**
Removal of temporary mobile home and replacement with permanent workers dwelling
No representation
- **08/02317/TREE Paul Triggs, 7 Icknield Street B50 4BX**
T1 – walnut – lift crown and thin by 40%
Support subject to approval by the arboricultural dept.

17. ACCOUNTS

The Clerk brought to the attention of the Councillors the list of DDM paid and noted. She also advised that, as agreed with the RFO, the amount to be transferred to the deposit account was increased by £35,000 as payment to Record RSS (play equipment for Broom play area) was being withheld pending satisfactory post installation inspection.

It was also noted that a cheque for £117.50 had been raised to pay NALC when the application for Quality Status had been sent.

Purchases :	17,990.48
DDM	1,911.84
Wages:	2,147.61
Inland Revenue	2,044.09

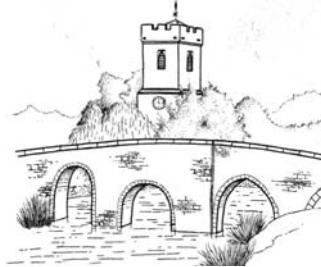
Payments Received	
Car Parking	580.00
Cemetery sales	300.00
Precept	72,950.00

It was resolved Cllrs. Hiscocks and Mrs. Keeley sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008

- **MATTERS ARISING**

- **Allotments** – as instructed, I wrote to WCC to enquire if there was any land available for the Parish Council to lease. I have received a reply stating that it has no land available – all is currently leased. It will advise the Parish Council if any of the current leaseholders does not wish to continue with their leases – this includes Broom Allotments. I have also looked into a garden sharing scheme, which was suggested as an alternative. Neither the Parish Council nor the National Association of Allotment recommend this. The latter pointed out that, as the gardens would be private property, the scheme could not come under the Allotments Act.
It was proposed the Clerk contact Stratford District Council and South Warwickshire Housing Ass. To see if they had any available land. This motion was carried
- **Quality Status** – As had been agreed, the Parish Council sent the required Portfolio to the Panel. This was followed by an interview of the Chairman and Clerk and the Parish Council is very pleased to advise that it was granted Quality Status on 25th September 2008! In view of this, I have authorized the printing of 2,250 copies of the Annual Report, at a cost of £495.00, to be distributed to every household in the Parish by the Young Firefighters.
- **Annual Accounts** – The External Auditors, Clement Keys, have again given their unqualified approval of the 2007/08 Annual Accounts of the Parish Councils.
The external auditors required clarification of some points of the

accounts, which were satisfactorily answered.

The main points raised were::

- *Copy of the risk register of risks faced by the Council and the steps taken to mitigate same – a satisfactory reply was sent*
- *Copy of minutes at which the annual review was considered – copy of the this was sent*
- *Copy of the bank reconciliation for the Current Account as it showed an overdrawn balance – this was forwarded together with the explanation which is that a transfer into the current account is made prior to cheques being sent for payment, which effectively means the account is not overdrawn*

- **Independent Inspection of Play Area** – as instructed, I have sent details to SDC and the inspection will take place later this year.
- **Business Survey** – The Parish Council was extremely disappointed at the poor turn out by the businesses on the industrial estate to the meeting it had arranged to discuss the main issues raised in the survey. The Police were invited, and attended, despite Sgt. Wilde being on leave that day. One suggestion, which was that the lowering of the hedge on Waterloo Road coming up to the roundabout opposite the estate has been passed on to Highways and it is hoped this work will be carried out shortly.
Highways has confirmed the order for this work has been placed
- **Benches/litter bins** – the two Ollerton benches have now been installed – one on the corner of Waterloo Road and the B439 (by Falcons Crescent) and the other in the Kings Lane Play Area in Broom. Extra litter bins have also been installed.
I would request authorization to purchase 6 more litter bins at a cost of £1,088.40 – this is to cover the need to replace some bins on the Big Meadow and some to have as reserve. –*The authorization for this expenditure was proposed and the motion passed.*
It was also proposed that another bench be purchased to be placed at the corner of Waterloo Road and The Leys and this was carried subject to a suitable site being found.
- **Millers Bank** – I have authorised the following work to be carried out:
 - Three large Crack Willows by the riverside – identified limbs will be removed as they pose a danger to users of this amenity.
Cost £125
 - The very large poplar (approx. 40- M high) will have an upper canopy reduction by some 50% to relieve the danger to property and public.
Cost: £845 – as this is above the current Financial Regulations

limit this is subject to approval by the Council. However, I have given the order as the tree is considered dangerous.

- Major clearance to the ex play area :
Cost £425

I have also identified 5 willow trees for which the Parish Council is responsible and which will be coppiced at a cost of £550 once authorisation has been received from the conservation dept. The other two trees belong to a resident on Mill Close who has been duly contacted.

- **SITE TO REAR OF THE FIRE STATION** – it is proposed that an Arena Meeting Point, with hard core, be installed and the site fenced with 1.8 M high mesh fencing followed by some landscaping. Quotations have been requested by Bidford Youth Action (BYA).
- **BIDFORD INTERGENERATION PAPER (BIG)** – following on from the two Intergeneration Workshops that took place in June this year, and as agreed at the Parish Council meeting of 30th June 2008, an Intergeneration Newsletter – The B.I.G. Papers – was distributed to all households, by the young firefighters, this month. The intention of this newsletter, as stated in the Clerks Report of July 2008 is for it to be a means of communication/dialogue between all local residents, of whatever age. Of course it will also be an opportunity to advertise local events and for the Parish Council to keep you advised, but, its main function, is to encourage **communication** between local residents. Contact details can be found on the first issue and the hope is that this will help develop **intergeneration communication**. Please send in your contributions by 30th November for the next quarterly issue due in December.
- **BUS NO. 28** – I received an email from a resident who was dismayed to find that the bus to Stratford ran only once an hour. When I contacted WCC regarding this issue, I, and the resident, were delighted to learn that from 1st September the service was being improved so that buses now run twice an hour – the number of the second bus is **28A** – a bus timetable has been posted on the website.
- **TRAFFIC IN BARTON** – residents have expressed concern about the number of HGVs travelling through Barton and enquiring if anything can be done about this. I have contacted WCC regarding this issue and, as a first measure, have requested the residents of Barton to monitor the commercial traffic. Once this information has been gathered, it will be sent to WCC for their consideration.

- **BIDFORD FIRE STATION** – an update has been received from Cllr. Hobbs, Portfolio holder which will be posted on the website. The next step will take place at a meeting in December.
Cllr. Hobbs reply was read out and it being posted on the website
- **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE** – May I remind all residents that a lot of information, including agendas, minutes, contact details, events, notices, links etc. are available on the Parish Council's award winning website – www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk and is easy to navigate. I am aware that not all households have access to a computer – but the library offer an excellent service which includes learning to use the Internet with Silver Surfers, free of charge, every Friday from 10.00 – 11.00am.
Another way if keeping in touch is by becoming part of the Village e.mail group. I send regular emails with information to the group and your email address will not be publicised as they are sent as a blind copy