

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- Resident raised the issue of Wharrad Close and how untidy it looks. Cllr. James assured her that enforcement measures were in hand,
- Residents raised concern regarding Bidford Fire Station and added that a small group had been formed to steer the campaign to fight for the station and assured the Parish Council that it would work with it. They requested the Parish Council continue its pressure to have the papers released.
- A resident confirmed that the signed petition for a pedestrian crossing to the south of Bidford Bridge had been officially sent to WCC.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr. Barnes advised he had visited the Conservative Party's office to discuss the future of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service and advise them that he is unhappy with the current arrangements
He also advised that he, and members of the other parties, will be meeting with the Chief Fire Officer to discuss the contents of the consultation papers on 12th September.
- Application had been made for the Long Marston Army Camp site which would impact on Bidford. He had, therefore, made a request under the planning agreement (S106) for pressure pads to be installed on Bidford and Welford Bridge to monitor HGVs and thus, hopefully, reduce their impact.
Cllr. Barnes left the meeting

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- The planning application received for Long Marston, which was a mixed development consisting of housing, leisure, employment and railway, was part of the District Council policy and had been the subject of consultation. The application was, therefore, welcome.
- Enforcement issues are confidential, due to the sensitivity of the issue. However, several prominent sites within Bidford are currently being looked at legally and it is hoped that major changes will follow.
- Bidford Fire Station – District Council has issued official invitations to attend the special Local Community Forum to:
 - Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Hobbs
 - Chief Fire Officer, Paul Fuller and his Deputy
 - Leader of the Cabinet, Cllr. Farnell
 - WCC Chief Executive Officer Jim Graham
 - Fire Brigade Union
 - Cllr. Barnes (County Ward Member)
 - John Maples MP
- West Midlands Regional Assembly Phase 3 consultation has now finished. On the main issues pertaining to this area, the following replies had been sent:
 - Gypsy sites : Bidford had enough of gypsy sites and other areas should be found
 - Housing : local need choice should prevail
 - Minerals : once Marsh Farm was finished, there should be no more extraction in this area.
- Car Park Card was being reintroduced

Cllr. Gerrard reminded those present that the Parish Council is in the process of revising the Parish Plan, where the above issues would be raised, and it was hoped to have a widespread response from the community to be considered.

8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

This had been circulated to Councillors for their information and is attached to these Minutes.

9. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- **WCC** – Notice of Adoption Plan of Stepping Stones and Paddock Close under Highways Act 1980 Sec. 38 -

Noted

- **SDC/BT** – adoption of the telephone boxes in Barton and Marlcliff (correspondence circulated)

The Marlcliff Residents Group has also requested the Parish Council to consider adopting the telephone box in Marlcliff – the consensus is they do not object to the actual service being removed.

Various issues regarding this were discussed, amongst them the cost of maintaining the adopted boxes and the consequences. The Clerk advised she had sought information from WALC which should be forthcoming. It was proposed any decision be deferred until this advice was received.

RESOLVED; to defer the decision until WALC's advice had been received

- **WALC** – List of events Sept. 2009 – March 2010 including the AGM on 29th Oct. @ 7.30 pm at Shire Hall (circulated)

Noted – RESOLVED representation would attend the AGM

- **Warwickshire Lieutenancy Office** – Queens Award for Voluntary Service

Noted RESOLVED the Clerk to request poster and/or information be emailed so that the information could be posted on the website.

- **Mercia Canoe Club** ; request permission to finish the annual canoe race in the Big Meadow

RESOLVED to give permission for this popular annual event.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

The Committee had met on Monday 17th August. The Committee Chairman proposed the Council adopt the Budget Virement Policy, which had been circulated, with effect from 1st September

RESOLVED – to adopt the Budget Virement Policy

The Committee Chairman also proposed that the Finance and Strategy Committee should only have the power of recommendation and only the full Council have the power to adopt changes

RESOLVED that changes could only be made by the Parish Council

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT - AUGUST 2009

- **MATTERS ARISING (for information only)**
 - Advised Highways of the complaint in respect of the height of the trees on the roundabout.
I have received a reply stating that there are no safety issues with the trees and shrubs growing on it nor are there encroachment or visibility issues which may have implications on highway safety. Therefore no work is considered necessary.
 - I have written to both WALC and the Housing Minister regarding the Extension of Planning Permission Period. Although I have received an acknowledgement from the Minister of Housing that the letter has been received, I have not received a reply. I have sent a second email requesting a reply.
WALC has advised that no other council has written regarding this issue.
 - Local Works – I sent a letter to John Maples MP to ask if he was supporting the Sustainable Communities Bill and he has replied that the Conservatives strongly support the Act and that it will work to ensure that real power is handed back to local communities.
- **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY – BIDFORD WARD**

Following the recent resignation of Cllr. Ms Deacon due to demands of her job, notice of the vacancy has been published on 12th August 2009, and posted on the notice boards and the Parish Council website, in accordance with Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- **BIG MEADOW PLAY AREA**
 - The steel frame of the swings showing sign of corrosion due to age. It is recommended that it be removed and replaced in the near future.
I have advised the Parish Council's contractor that the plan is to replace the equipment on this play area so to continue to monitor it.

- I have invited play equipment companies to send in plans and quotations for the replacement of play equipment for U`12s, as well as for a new play area based on Playbuild criteria, for ages up to 16. These will be put to consultation with parents and youngsters in due course.

I have had confirmation that there is a £21,320 this is from agreement reference 790, Waterloo Rd Development. The lead officer for this money at SDC is Chris Fennel, who will need to be satisfied that the proposals meet the terms of the legal agreement. Pat Reid (Head of Planning Dept.) is getting the mechanism through which SDC can release S106 monies agreed with Councillors at a Planning and Regulation Committee Meeting in September.

I am also looking at some grants under Playbuild although this will be for 2010/11, this is also through Chris Fennel.

- **MARLEIGH PARK PLAY AREA**

I received complaints about rude graffiti on the bench, which has now been removed. One person also complained about the bench having been placed in the play area, although I have also received support as many parents/grand parents use them. I would add that all play areas have a bench

- **ANNUAL REPORT**

This is being distributed by the Young Fire Fighter to all households. Copies are also available in the library and Parish Council office, both in Bramley Way

- **EXPENSES**

I authorized the following:

- Weeding around the War Memorial
- Painting of the bollards by the War Memorial
- Varnishing/painting of the bench and notice board by the War Memorial

- **LOCAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

This took place on Tuesday 11th August at 7.00 pm at the Crawford Memorial Hall. Due to the great concern the various rumours about the possible closure of Bidford Fire Station, it was very well attended. The Parish Council hopes residents found the meeting both informative and helpful and that as many as possible will continue to attend them and use them as an opportunity to raise issues of importance and concern to the local communities.

- **MEETINGS**

- Planning Committee Meeting on Monday 14th September @ 7.30 pm
- Parish Council Meeting on Monday 28th September @ 7.30 pm
- Bidford Youth Action Group AGM on Tuesday 29th September @ 7.00 pm

All meetings in the Parish Council Meeting Rooms, Bramley Way