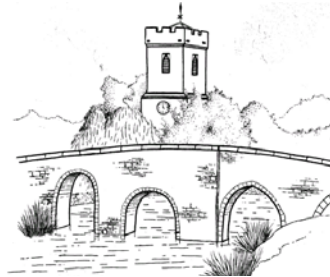


# BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

## In the County of Warwickshire



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way @ 7.30 pm**

### **PRESENT**

Chairman Cllr. Hiscocks  
Cllrs. Gerrard, Mrs. Getgood, Mrs. Keeley, Hendey, Langston,  
Sandle, Spiers and Williams

Also present. County Cllr. Barnes,  
District Cllrs. James and Slaughter  
11 members of the public and  
2 member of the press

In attendance: Mrs. E. Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council

#### **1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES**

*Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Hill.*

#### **2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION TO INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

All members of the Council are respectfully reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007 if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have Declared an Interest which could be personal or prejudicial they should declare so and leave the room.  
*None declared*

#### **3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010**

Cllr. Hendey proposed the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting be accepted as being accurate.

**RESOLVED** that Minutes should be accepted and signed by the Chairman

#### **4. YOUTH FORUM**

No youngsters present

#### **5. PUBLIC FORUM**

- A resident asked the Parish Council if it was going to take any legal action regarding the vandalism that had taken place on the allotments.  
The Clerk replied that the Council would seek advice from the National Ass. of Local Councils regarding this issue.
- A resident raised the issue that the culvert works recently carried out on Bidford Bridge were useless: the moment it rained heavily the stopped functioning.  
The Chairman replied this work was carried out by WCC, but that the Clerk would write to the appropriate department and take up the issue.  
The resident added that it was also obvious that the road surface on the bridge required work and asked why was it not all done at the same time, whilst the bridge was closed?  
Cllr. Barnes advised that any work to the bridge had to be authorised by English Heritage
- Where were the Agendas posted? And had the Participatory Budget been advertised in the papers and The Connection magazine?  
The Clerk replied that a Public Notice was posted on all notice boards advising that a full agenda was available on the notice board by the Parish Council Office and online (the Agenda being too long to post on all notice boards). Both the Stratford Herald and the Evesham Journal had carried notices regarding the Participatory Budget meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December, and it had been included in the Parish Council's monthly newsletter published in The Connection magazine.
- The main issue raised by other members present was in respect of the precept (in response to an article that had appeared in the Stratford Herald), of which the main points were:
  - Was it true that, as mentioned in the article, the Council had raised its precept by nearly 30%?
  - Was it not irresponsible to raise it so much in the current economic circumstances?
  - What was the intention of the Council with regards to the precept of 2011/12: would it reduce it by 29.5%? Increase it again?
  - What was the Council's reserve? He had been advised that it was a 6 figure sum
  - Why was the Council paying the Clerks' University fees
  - How much did the Clerk earn?
- There was also support for the Council from some residents:
  - Personal attacks and insults were unfair
  - All the money was spent in Bidford
  - The Parish Council was doing an excellent job; the village had greatly improved in the last years and the council was urged to continue

- The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee answered by stating the following:
  - He was proud to live in Bidford and to be part of the Parish Council working to implement the Parish Plan adopted in 2003.
  - This Parish Plan was currently in the process of being updated online.
  - He realised that in percentage terms 29.5% is a high figure, but that in real terms it was an additional £23 per household pa. and it is an ongoing project, making Bidford more attractive to residents and visitors alike. The Council wishes to continue this work to its conclusion, making Bidford a better place to live and work in.
  - The Council had attained Quality Status, which requires a council to complete various tests, including regular training for the Clerk and its Councillors. It should be noted that these training courses are often in the evening and/or Saturdays. For example, 3 councillors and the clerk were attending full day training on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March.
  - Another requirement for Quality Status is a qualified clerk. And it is in order to maintain this high standard of qualification that she is taking a Community Engagement and Governance Foundation Degree at the University of Gloucestershire, to assist and enable the Council to work to its full potential. The £3,500 will be spread over 3 years
  - The Clerk's salary was according the nationally agreed scales that took into account responsibilities, size of council, hours etc.
  - The Council has a number of tangible objectives:
    - ✓ Communication
    - ✓ Concerns regarding sand and gravel extraction in both Bidford and Broom
    - ✓ Concern about recreational areas
    - ✓ Housing for the village – not the large developments but smaller, affordable ones for the village young
    - ✓ Personal safety of its community
    - ✓ Bidford Fire Station
  - Regarding the precept for 2011-12, he was unable to make any comment on this as the Council cannot pre-judge what the circumstances will be towards the end of 2010 when the budget will be discussed again.
  - There is no 6 figure reserve. All reserves have to be allocated, eg:
    - ✓ Towards the cemeteries
    - ✓ Maintenance of Kings Lane and Millers Bank, Broom
    - ✓ Play equipment
    - ✓ Trees

## **6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- WCC had agreed a 2.4% rise. This would mean, amongst other things a reduction in staff of some 16%
- Police Authority's increase would be of 1.6%
- Cllr. Barnes would be attending a meeting of grants allocation and would be looking to raise £27,000 for the pelican crossing south of Bidford Bridge. There is support from SDC due to the new refurbishment of the Big Meadow

- Civic event was taking place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March @ 2.00 pm at St. Laurence. This would be followed by refreshments in the church.
- Cllrs. Barnes was asked how much the 2.4% rise represent in real terms did. After some consulting he replied that it would be £24 pa

#### **7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- SDC finalised its tax collection. It raised its council tax by 1.5%. this would mean that there would be cut in services with more pressure on Parish and Town Councils to continue these at their expense.  
In Bidford a Band D house would be paying a council tax of £1,560.09 broken down as follows:
  - WCC - £1,155.24
  - Police 174.09
  - SDC 129.32
  - P. Council 101.44
 Band A house would pay a total of £1,040.05 and a Band B £1,213.40
- Flooding – SDC agreed that households who suffer flood damage resulting in being homeless for more than 12 months or more, would be exempt of council tax

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting

- Consultation on SDC election process was taking place. This could also have repercussion on Parish and Town Council elections, which could be brought forward to 2011.
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee – reduced to one (from two)
- Keeping the three area committees until the Local Community Forum review was completed
- Stratford Area grants have now ceased
- It had been agreed that a cross party consultation to work with Warwick District Council be set up with a view to reducing costs, including the sharing of a Chief Executive.

#### **8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT (circulated)**

This had been circulated to Councillors for their information, which it noted and is attached to these Minutes.

The Clerk gave a short, verbal update on the replies received from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire and West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services. It was noted only West Midlands had replied to the consultation expressing its grave concerns.

The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee took this opportunity to urge all those present to complete the current Parish Plan update survey as this is the ideal instrument to let the Parish Council, and its partners, know what the local community want for the future of Bidford

**9. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- **WCC –**
  - Local Transport Plan 3 – consultation on transport strategy. Ends 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
It was **RESOLVED** Cllr. Hiscocks prepared the reply
  - Letter from Jenny Murray, Alcester Bidford Community Forum offering to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to explain the benefits of the Local Community Forums  
It was **RESOLVED** to invite Jenny Murray to the Annual Parish Meeting
- **WALC –**
  - Newsletter – January (circulated)  
**NOTED**
  - Nominations for attendance at Royal Garden Party on Thurs. 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010  
**RESOLVED** to m=nominate Cllr. Gerrard
- **Environment Agency** Consent received for the refurbishment work to b carried out on the Big Meadow.  
**NOTED**
- **CPRE –** January Newsletter (circulated)  
**NOTED**
- **Bidford and District History Society –** letter of thanks and update on the project  
**NOTED**

**10. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPLY ON THE BUDGET/PRECEPT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

This had already taken place in the Public Forum when the Chairman replied to the various issues raised by members of the public

**11. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES WORKING GROUP RE THE ANNUAL PLAY GROUND INSPECTION REPORT**

The Amenities Working Group had gone through the report and noted nothing of serious importance. Those issues that required attention had been raised with the appropriate parties for their attention.

**NOTED**

**12. TO CONSIDER PLANTING ROUND AROUND THE WAR MEMORIAL (RESIDENT REQUEST AT LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING)**

It was proposed that two boxes be installed at each side.

**RESOLVED** – to install two planters by the war memorial

It was proposed the British Legion be contacted and asked whether they would like to maintain them

**RESOLVED** to contact the British Legion

**13. TO CONSIDER INSTALLING A FENCE ROUND MARLEIGH PARK (LIKE THE ONE ROUND THE YOUTH SHELTER AREA)**

The Council agreed that this area was completely different to the Youth Shelter site, it being an open space area, with play equipment for younger children

**RESOLVED** to maintain the current picket fence

**14. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF FLOODSAX (MODERN SAND BAG UNDER S137)**

- **Cost per door pack £26 delivered**
- **Cost per box (6 x door packs) £150**

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to establish the number of houses that would require them and take the decision at the next meeting.

**15. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM CAB**

Proposed and **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £100

**16. TO CONSIDER LANDSCAPING THE BANK (FROM B439 TO PIPPIN CLOSE)**

Cost £929.00m inc. Turfing, seeding, replanting and infilling

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation

**17. TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM STANLEY FREEMAN TO SET UP A FAMILY FUN FAIR OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS AND AGREE AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED**

**RESOLVED** to agree to the fun fair. The Clerk to negotiate charge with a minimum of £250 + VAT

At 8.55 pm the Chairman proposed to adjourn the meeting to allow a resident to speak. **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting and re-open the public forum

The resident apologised and added it was his first Parish Council meeting and he was unsure of the procedures. He wanted to apologise on behalf of the floor as he had been astounded by the behaviour of some of the members of the public.

The meeting resumed at 9.00 pm

**18. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS**

Due to the sensitive nature of the item, the Chairman proposed to exclude the public under Public Bodies (Admissions of Meetings Act) 1960 s1(2).

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public

- Flower boxes  
**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Limesbridge Rural Services Ltd at £4,475. 00 pa
- Sole Catering Rights on the Big Meadow for the 2010 season  
**RESOLVED** to accept quotation from Mr. M. Dobson at £400
- Sole Ice Cream Selling Rights on the Big Meadow for the 2010 season  
**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Mr. G. Ford at £1,100.00
- Sole Rights to an inflatable on the Big Meadow for the 2010 season  
**RESOLVED** to accept quotation from Mr. J.T. Dobson for £200

**19. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MONTHS PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTS**

**Purchases :** £ 2,883.97  
DDM 1,679.53  
Wages: 2,392.13

**Payments Received:**

Sport pitches £1,401.00  
Cemetery 105.00

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts and that Cllrs. Gerrard and Langston sign the cheques.

The meeting closed at approx. 9.15 pm

# BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

## In the County of Warwickshire



### CLERKS REPORT – February 2010

- **MATTERS ARISING**

- Orbit were contacted re the issues raised regarding Jubilee Close and The Leys
- A meeting took place with Bidford Juniors FC regarding the goal post for the open space area to the rear of Dugdale Avenue, and the Parish Council and Bidford Juniors are working together to obtain the best quote and looking into the possibility of a grant. Once all the information has been received, it will be put to the Council to consider and decide.
- Details of the Best Village Competition have been sent to:
  - Barton Village
  - Bidford Support Group
  - Bidford Area Community Choir
- Letters were sent to the neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services. As they are being considered under the Freedom of Information Act, only Northants has replied: they have not retained the correspondence once it was decided that it chose not to respond to the consultation.
- CPRE – a letter was sent with the suggestion that it should test the lack of planning control in court. The reply received is that it does not have the funds to go to court.

A letter was sent to Paul Lankester regarding 85 Westholme Court. A reply was received from the Head of Planning, Pat Reid, which was considered and noted by the Parish Council at its Planning committee Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010. It also considered the retrospective planning application received.



- **SPEED AWARE** –was developed to address the speed concerns of the local community and its aim is to promote a better understanding and compliance of speed limits.
  - Signs have already been installed in Broom (High Street and Mill Lane) and have been requested for the B439
  - Speed checks have been requested for Victoria and Waterloo road – a site on each has to be agreed.
  - Smiley SID (temporary flashing speed warning signs) already in operation in Broom (High Street) and Bidford (B439)
  - Bright yellow stickers to be stuck on wheelie bins have been requested. These can be very useful as they are clearly visible by drivers on the day these are placed at the front of each house.
  
- **BIDFORD PARISH SURVEY**- this is an update of the Parish Plan B50, adopted in 2003. It is important that as many residents as possible complete it, to enable the Parish Council, together with its partners, County and District Councils, to plan for the future of Bidford. It is an online survey (very 21<sup>st</sup> century!!) and it should take no more than 15/20 mins. to complete. Hard copies are available for those who prefer to complete them this way – contact the Parish Council Office (778653/07718628925). It is the future of **YOUR** village that is being surveyed – so may sure **YOU** have **YOUR** say.  
To ensure all the community is involved, there are also versions for Young Bidford (teenagers) and Young Bidford (under 12s).
  
- **SDC PLANNING CORE STRATEGY** – an informal drop in consultation is being planned to allow residents to look at and ask questions about the proposed sites for development in Bidford from 2011 – 2026. This is an excellent opportunity for you to let District Council know what you think about future developments in Bidford. Dates,, time and venues still to be confirmed – but it should be about 3 hours in the afternoon in mind-March.
  
- **MEETINGS**
  - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 @ 7.30 pm Planning Committee Meeting
  - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010 @ 7.30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

All the above meetings are held at the Parish Council Meeting room, Bramley Way unless otherwise specified