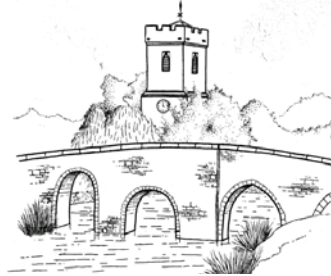


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th March 2011 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way @ 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Hiscocks
Cllrs. Fleming, Gerrard, Hill, Mrs. Keeley, Langston, Sandle, Spiers and Williams

Also present: County Cllr. Barnes
District Cllrs. James and Slaughter.
1 member of the press

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

1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES

Apologies were received, and accepted, from Cllr. Atkins

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 20th 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 OF 28th FEBRUARY 2011

Cllr. Langston proposed the Minutes be accepted as being accurate
RESOLVED that Minutes should be approved and signed by the Chairman

4. YOUTH FORUM

There were no youngsters present

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- A resident raised the following issue via a councillor: tyres and plastic was being burnt at the Friday Furlong site: the Fire service had to attend.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- the mobile library service to Broom was ceasing
- Back and Forth has been saved
- School figures remain the same,. However respite for disabled pupils was being cut. Efforts were being made to set up a charity so that children under 16 could continue to receive some respite care. Some of these pupils wer Bidford residents..
- Environment Agency will be carrying out a tree and hedge survey in Marlcliff in connection with the proposed flood defence.
- Library : Welford-on-Avon Parish Council were concerned about the proposed closure of Bidford Library as was Salford Priors PC whose letter in response to the consultation was read out

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Written report attached hereto
- SDC had greatly improved its recycling resulting in a reduction of 275T to landfill per annum.

The Parish Council raised the question about the possible closure of public toilets and was advised that consultation documents would be sent shsortly.

8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

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

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Clerk's report.

9. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- **WCC**
 - **Bridge Maintenance** - Repairs to parapet planned for evenings between 3rd and 6th May. Bridge will be closed from 10.00 pm – 6.00 am
NOTED
 - Notification of Reductions in Levels of WCC Financially Supported Services - proposals include
 - ✓ Bidford – withdrawal of evening service
 - ✓ Broom – no change**NOTED**
 - **Waste Core Strategy: Emerging Spatial Options** – consultation document (consultation period 21st March to 20th May 2011)
RESOLVED The Chairman make the appropriate response

- **WALC** – March Newsletter (circulated)
Dates of Induction courses for new clerks and councillors
NOTED
- **CPRE** – Newsletter (circulated)
NOTED
- **Bidford Juniors F.C** – advising they will not be pursuing the lease of 7 acres of land adjoining the Big Meadow (Ref. PC Mins. Dec. 2010 (11))
NOTED The Clerk to advise the Charity Estate of Alice, Duchess Dudley accordingly.

10. TO CONSIDER THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY FORA

The Parish Council agreed that the Local Community Forum has made a lot of progress in Bidford, giving the community the opportunity to raise issues with officers from County and District councils, and had made good use of it. However, there are problems such as situation reports being delivered at each meeting. The Parish Council proposes that the agenda contents should be considered more carefully as the basis of the fora was that local people should be able to raise local issues. There was no criticism of the Chairman of the Alcester/Bidford Local Community Forum, who runs and manages the meetings extremely well.

RESOLVED to make these comments known to the Chairman of the Forum

11. TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE CURRENT SCHEME OF SPEEDWARE (WCC)

- **Option 1 – SpeedAware Package** (cost £250+) carried out by WCC
- **Option 2 - Community SpeedAware** (free) requires local volunteers (min. 2) who will be duly trained

Members considered both options and **RESOLVED** to approve Option 2, subject to sufficient volunteers being available.

Requests for volunteers to be posted on the website, included in newsletters and the press.

12. TO APPOINT 3 MEMBERS TO THE LOCALISM BILL STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED To appoint Cllrs. Hill, Hiscocks and Williams

13. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LIBRARY (circulated)

NOTED

14. TO CONSIDER APPOINTING 3 MEMBERS TO STEER THE LIBRARY CAMPAIGN RESOLVED:

- to approve the nomination of a steering group
- Cllrs. Fleming, Gerrard and Mrs. Keeley duly nominated
- To arrange a meeting with a WCC library service representative on Tuesday 5th April @ 7.00 pm

15. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE HIGH STREET BUSINESSES (WEST SIDE) THAT A 2 HOUR PARKING LIMIT BE INTRODUCED FROM THE JUNCTION TO CHAPEL GARDENS (start of the residential section)

Members acknowledged this section of the High Street was a problem and it was **RESOLVED** to support the request and write to WCC

16. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE STREET LIGHTNING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH WCC FOR 2011/12 @ £6.38 PER LIGHTING POINT (TOTAL ANNUAL COST £1,208.91)

The Clerk advised this represented a saving of £2,304.54 compared to 2010/11 due to WCC employing a new contractor.

RESOLVED to accept the terms and conditions offered

17. TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE WALC ANNUAL FEE @ £739.00

Members agreed that the Parish Council regularly used the services offered by WALC and that it was excellent value for money. They also noted the fee remained unchanged from last year.

RESOLVED to approve renewal of the membership

18. TO CONSIDER POLICE RESPONSE TO NUMBER OF HGVs CROSSING BIDFORD BRIDGE ON 15TH MARCH

On being advised by a resident that 5 lorries were regularly crossing the bridge on 14th/15th March, the Clerk had duly informed County Highways who, in turn, requested the Police to attend and enforce the weight limit. Regrettably, the Police did not attend, it sent a PCSO on the understanding that County Highways were dealing with the matter. County Highways reiterated that this was not the case as only the Police can enforce the weight limit. Furthermore, Highways had to demand an incident number as this was not forthcoming.

In view of the damage being caused to Bidford Bridge by the regular illegal crossing by HGVs it was **RESOLVED** to write to the Police expressing concern and disappointment at the lack of response to the above incident.

19. TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATORY BUDGET FOR 2012/12 INVOLVING BARTON, BROOM AND MARLCLIFF

The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee had attended a meeting on Participatory Budgeting at the recent One Day Briefing event organised by WALC. He proposed the Council consider introducing this for the next three years, on a trial basis, inviting the residents of Barton/Marlcliff and Broom to participate by proposing a scheme that would benefit its community and given them a sense of ownership. He further proposed sum of between £500/1,000,

Members agreed this would be an excellent way on enfranchising the communities of the smaller villages/hamlets of the Parish and **RESOLVED** to include Participatory Budgeting in the next three years.

20. TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACTS FOR

- Environmental Operative
- Salford Road Cemetery Guardian

Both are carried out by local residents of the village who do an excellent job.

RESOLVED to renew the contract from 2011/12

21. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF EXERCISE WATERMARK CARRIED OUT ON MONDAY 7TH MARCH BETWEEN 7.00 -9.00 PM

Verbal report **NOTED**

22. TO RECEIVE UPDATE OF MEETING WITH BUSINESSES

The Clerk had attended the meeting together with officers from SDC who are facilitating the efforts of the High street Businesses to increase the footfall of the High Street.

The Council **NOTED** the verbal report

23. TO APPROVE MEETING RE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TRAINING FOR MONDAY 16TH MAY FOR 2 HOURS (Ref. PM Mins. Oct. 2010(6))

RESOLVED to approve the meeting to take place at 7.00 pm

24. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION

- **11/00515/FUL Mr. and Mrs. G. Williams 18 Westholme Road B50 4AL**

Proposed dormer to garage roof

Members made the following comments:

The Parish Council would like the following condition to be attached:

For incidental use of the family of the residents of 18 Westholme Road only

25. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MONTH'S PAYMENTS AND ACCOUNTS

Purchases :	19,750.25
Repayment (SDC overpaid)	2,409.00
Wages:	2,369.41
Customs & Excise	<u>2,322.39</u>
(as per cheque list)	26,851.05
DDM	<u>2,009.98</u>
Total payments	28,861.03

Payments Received	
Room hire	£35.25
Youth Club rent	43.72
Burials	655.00
Playing field rent	125.00
VAT Refund	7,692.11
Meadow Rights	672.00
SDC reimbursements (S106)	<u>16,251.42</u>
Total received	£25,474.50

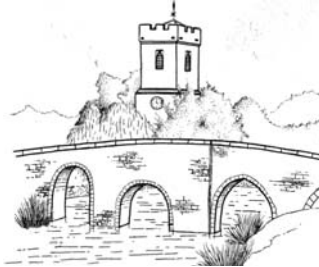
No inter account transfer made

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

The meeting closed at approx. 8.55 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT - MARCH 2011

- **MATTERS ARISING**

- Signage at Jubilee Close : having contacted SDC it has been established this is Orbit's res[possibility]. A sign had been made following a similar request in 2008 and it was agreed that Orbit and SDC would meet to find a suitable site.
- Smith Close – SDC have been advised
- Big Meadow: Warning signs x 2 have been ordered at a cost of £28 each.

- **SKATE RAMP**

Claim has finally been accepted and repairs to the ramp started on Wednesday 23rd. It is envisaged it will take about a week, to finalise

- **BIG MEADOW TOILETS**

The extreme bad weather this winter also meant that most of the pipes in the toilets burst and had to be repaired in time for the opening of the Big Meadow on 1st April.

- **BROOM AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Newsletter clarifying some of the issues raised during the drop in consultation held on 17th February was sent to **all** dwellings in Broom between 19th-21st March (with thanks to Henrik for his help)

- **WHARRARD CLOSE**

Following the information received from Taylor Wimpy (who took over Laing Homes the original developer) that the land in question had been transferred to the owners of the adjoining homes, I am awaiting written confirmation of this from the legal department.

- **PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (THE PADDOCKS/STEPPING STONES)**

The Parish Council has reached agreement with Persimmons for the transfer of this land, which now needs to be legally formalised. The transfer fee is £9,000 and Persimmons to pay for all legal and land registry fees.

- **PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY**

This was held on Saturday 19th at Warner's Budgens and, although a limited success, it was felt that it was a better place to hold it than the Parish Council Meeting Room as it was more "the Parish Council going to the local community than the local community coming to the Parish Council". The management of Warner's Budgens are happy to continue to offer this community service. It was also agreed that next time a banner stating "Parish Council Surgery" would help residents know who were at the table!

- **MEETINGS**

- Monday 4th April 2011 @ 7.30 pm. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**
- Monday 11th April 2011 @ 7.30 pm Planning Committee Meeting
- Monday 18th April 2011 @ 7.30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

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

The Council at its meeting on Monday 28th February agreed the budget for 2011-15 this has resulted in 12 posts being made redundant, so senior management are trying to ensure this decision is effected with the minimum of disruption to the Council.

The opportunity has been given for staff to apply for voluntary redundancy.

The position will be a clearer in the next two to three weeks, but during 2010/11 and as part of the budget for 2011/12 **44.5 posts have been lost.**

Posts At Risk of Redundancy as part of Budget Decision- February 2011 - Total 13

Redundant Posts 2010-2011 – Total 11.6

Frozen and Vacant Posts 2010-11 to be deleted as part of budget 2011/12 – Total 19.9

The average Band D figure for the Stratford on Avon District Council households for the 2011/12 financial year remains at £129.34, the lowest in Warwickshire.

This means that all the services provided by the council costs £2.49 per week for a Band D household.

Final Council Tax Valuation Bands 2011/12 (WCC / SDC / Warwickshire Police / Parish)

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Bidford	1040.02	1213.37	1386.71	1560.05	1906.71	2253.39	2600.07	3120.08
Salford	1029.52	1201.12	1372.71	1544.30	1887.46	2230.64	2573.82	3088.58
Wixford	1019.11	1188.97	1358.82	1528.68	1868.37	2208.08	2547.79	3057.34

The Council also agreed a number of other matters including the following: -

- A new corporate strategy;
- A financial strategy;
- A budget to help with technical assessments for the Council's response to the High Speed Rail link (HS2)- the consultation on the route has been launched, with responses to be made by July.

The Cabinet has also considered several items including: -

1. Fees and charges- the bulk of the items were deferred for further consideration at the April meeting;
2. Capital and revenue budget monitoring- officers were asked to prepare a report on the capital budget to consider the medium and longer term position;
3. The budget for the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework- even if the Localism Bill receives Royal Assent, the Council will still be required to produce its local development framework;
4. Future Provision of Temporary Accommodation for housing.

Localism Bill

A Members' Seminar/ Workshop on the Localism Bill will be held and the Council's way of implementing the Big Society. This will take place in April and inform a cabinet report later in the year.

It is important this approach is member led, and it will be interesting to see if it is viewed there should be different approaches in different parts of the District.

Meetings on the Web

Following a successful webcast of Planning Committee (West), the Chief Executive is keen to webcast future key council meetings.

Webcasts are considered an excellent way to give the wider community an insight into local democracy and will provide everyone with an opportunity to view local decision making affecting their community.

The District Council is working with our partners at Stratford College to make use of technology.

This will enable as many people as possible to view the proceedings live or at a time that suits them, from their workplace, home or any other place with access to the Internet.

Planning in General

Several contentious planning issues have been the subject of much public interest of late. These include: -

- Application for housing development at the Cattle market site, Henley in Arden- this was approved by the Planning Committee (West).
- Cank Farm, Tanworth- A prosecution against the owners for breach of planning regulations was unsuccessful due to a technicality. Local ward members have been briefed and a new prosecution is to be launched, while progress is being made with implementing the stop notice;
- Kipling Road, Stratford- The decision to not oppose an appeal due to a change in the prevailing situation for housing developments has resulted in the developer deciding not to seek damages from the Council which would have been in the region of six figures.
- Gypsy & Traveller site at Temple Grafton refused planning permission by Planning Committee (West)

Moor Hall Farm Wixford

For information Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service's Archaeology Unit have been instructed to undertake investigative archaeological works at Moor Hall Farm.

The investigation will entail the excavation of trial trenches in the open field to the east of buildings.

It is not yet known when the archaeologists will visit the site, but this will entail the use of JCB type machinery in the field.

Community Forum News

Budget Briefings were given to the Community Forum.

Warwickshire County Council

The County Council approved its 2011/12 budget on the 15th February 2011.

Key Headlines

- No increase in council tax in 2011/12
- £15.5 million of new investment in services to meet rising costs and increased demand
- £32.9 million of savings over the following two years
- Estimated job losses of up to 1,855 over the next three years
- Property stock to be reduced by 30%

The County Council has set aside £10 million to meet the estimated costs of redundancy

Capital Programme

The focus of the capital programme is to only fund the minimum level of capital maintenance over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review to reduce the pressure on the revenue budget.

New schemes investing £44 million in 2011/12 have been approved:

- £17.5 million to maintain school buildings and provide additional space where needed.
- £10.3 million for road maintenance
- £6.8 million for the maintenance and safe operation of existing county buildings
- £1.0 million for replacement fire engines, associated equipment and command & control systems.

Warwickshire Police Authority

On 23rd February the Police Authority met and agreed the budget for 2011/2012 together with the level of council tax. Members approved a budget of £97.188 million which is £3.581 million less than 2010/2011.

This budget will be supported by £2.970 million of reserves and will also rely on the delivery of £3.6 million of savings during the year.

Council tax has not been increased for 2011/2012. For Band D properties it will remain at £174.10 p.a.

Instead the Police Authority will receive government grant of £0.9 million which equates to 2.5% of council tax.

This grant is a one-off initiative by central government to encourage authorities to not increase council tax in 2011/2012.

NHS Warwickshire

NHS Warwickshire spends £820 million each year and is predicting a break even budget for the end of the 2011/12 financial year.

Next year they are facing a significant gap in their budget allocation, which has seen a 2.2% increase, and the cost of healthcare that providers in Warwickshire are predicting.

NHS Warwickshire will be working to narrow the deficit gap by working with clinicians to look at more efficient ways of referring patients for surgical procedures.

Other Forum News

The forum set the following three Local Policing targets for the next three months.

- Anti social behaviour in Alcester & Bidford on Avon
- Speed Enforcement – School Road Salford Priors
- Acquisitive Crime (Burglary, Car Thefts etc)

The future of the Library Service in Warwickshire

A special forum meeting has been called to discuss the future of the Warwickshire County Council Library Service and especially the library at Bidford.

The forum will be attended by senior officers and councillors of Warwickshire County Council to address this matter.

The meeting will be held at the Crawford Memorial Hall Bidford on Avon on:

Monday 9th May 2011 at 7:00pm

Local Development Framework – The Core Strategy

Through the news-update sheet, I will provide a current update on the LDF process.

LDF Workshops for Parish Councils

- Thursday 24 March **6:30-8:30pm** – Studley Village Hall
- Friday 1 April 2011 **6:30-8:30 pm** – Harbury Village Hall

The key issues identified to date are

- Flood risk – Biodiversity – Heritage - Design and distinctiveness
- Landscape and countryside - Housing needs including affordable housing
- Local services provision and improvement - Transport and accessibility
- Public confidence and safety - Leisure and culture - Investment
- Retail and commerce – Tourism- Lifelong learning and skills

Objectives identified in Consultation Core Strategy (February 2010)

The following objectives (set out in no particular order of priority), seek to encapsulate the future needs of the District and provide an overarching framework to ensure that subsequent policies and proposals will help to deliver the overall vision.

Planning to provide for housing needs

1. To make sure there are enough extra new homes provided to satisfy the targets set out for the District in the Regional Spatial Strategy, including that for affordable housing.
2. To make provision for the required number of new homes in locations and in forms that meet the needs of existing local residents and communities and of people moving into the District, including those whose needs are best addressed by means of specialized accommodation.
3. To assist the specific provision of sufficient affordable housing throughout the District to meet the needs of those who cannot afford property on the open market.

Planning to promote and diversify the local economy

4. To have sufficient employment land available in the District throughout the plan period to meet the requirements of the Regional Spatial Strategy, in order to provide scope for businesses to set up, expand and move into the District.
5. To ensure a diverse local economy and a wide range of business and employment opportunities, with a particular focus on attracting technology and knowledge-based jobs into the District, and providing greater scope for people to work close to where they live.
6. To promote tourism across the District in order to spread its benefits over a wider area, and to enhance the internationally important tourism and cultural centre of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Planning to support the main commercial centres

7. To ensure that Stratford-upon-Avon retains its position as a strategic town centre in accordance with the Regional Spatial Strategy.
8. To maintain the role of the larger rural settlements as providers of a wide range of shops and services for their local areas.

Planning to protect the character of settlements and the countryside

9. To preserve the open and tranquil nature of the countryside, while providing scope for rural recreation.
10. To maintain the District's character as a predominantly rural area with attractive and distinctive small market towns and villages.
11. To make sure that development is located where it will have least impact on the attractive nature and setting of towns and villages.

Planning to meet the need for improved infrastructure and services

12. To ensure development takes place where there is sufficient infrastructure capacity or that necessary improvements to infrastructure are made in tandem with new development.

13. To provide for the land use needs of education, health, water, transport, leisure and other infrastructure providers.

Planning to increase the use of sustainable transport

14. To make the District increasingly pedestrian and cycle friendly in urban and rural areas and to provide scope for increasing the share of trips by public transport, particularly by improving services for rural settlements.

15. To locate most development in a manner that does not require journeys to be made by private car for a range of purposes.

Planning to meet the challenges of climate change

16. To meet necessary standards for greenhouse gas reduction and to locate and design development to minimise energy use.

17. To locate and design development so that it manages water effectively and will not worsen flood risk.

Planning to protect the District's heritage and distinctiveness

18. To preserve and enhance the important built heritage, habitat, biodiversity and geodiversity features in the District.

19. To protect the character of the District's varied and historic landscapes, in particular the quality and setting of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

20. To promote distinctive, high quality design that enhances the appearance and image of the District.

Display Energy Certificates (DEC's) - the main council buildings

DEC certification indicates how much energy is being used to operate the building each year. Detailed below are the bandings for the leisure centres and Elizabeth House, a rating of A-D is above threshold of performing well, a rating of E-G is below the threshold.

Southam Leisure Centre	Studley Leisure Centre	Shipston Leisure Centre	Stratford Leisure Centre	Elizabeth House
Band C (53)	Band C (75)	Band D (95)	Band C (75)	Band D (84)

A score of 100 and Band D rating would be typical for a leisure centre or a building the size of Elizabeth House.

Meeting Diary

Date:	Meetings Attended
16-02-11	Chairman's Briefing – Planning Committee (West)
16-02-11	Planning Committee (West)
22-02-11	Local Development Framework Working Group
24-02-11	Planning Site Visit – Maudsley Park Great Alne Care Home Retirement Village
24-02-11	Planning Site Visit – 50,000 Green Burial site
24-02-11	LDF Core Strategy Members Workshop
01-03-11	Facilitator – Planning Enforcement Ward Issues
03-03-11	Planning Appeal Case Conference – Counsel – Solicitor – Planning Officers
08-03-11	Alcester & Bidford Community Forum
09-03-11	Chairman's Briefing – Planning Committee (West)
09-03-11	Planning Committee (West)
	Future Meetings Diary
15-03-11	Meeting with County Council Area Support Manager / Forum Issues
15-03-11	Wixford Parish Council
16-03-11	Equality Impact Assessments – Member Champion
17-03-11	Green Belt – Planning Issues – Members Group
24-03-11	Audit & Regulation Planning
28-03-11	Bidford on Avon Parish Council
29-03-11	Local Development Framework Working Group
30-03-11	Chairman's Briefing – Planning Committee (West)
30-03-11	Planning Committee (West)

Councillor: Kim James

12th March 2011