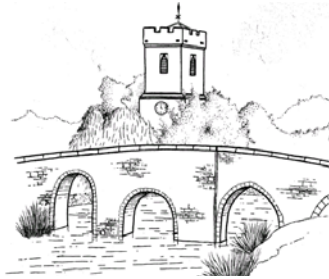


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th October 2013 @
7.30pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way**

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Fleming

Cllrs. Atkins, Gerrard, Harvey, Hiscocks, Mrs Keeley,
Mrs Randell, Spiers and Squires

Also present: County Cllr. Brain
District Cllrs. Howse, Pemberton and Spence
4 members of the public

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

1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Pound

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF 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 30th July 2012, if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) they should leave the room
 - *Cllrs. Hiscocks and Squires declared a non pecuniary interest in item 11. Grant request for Bidford on Avon Primary School*
 - *Cllr Harvey declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 11 – grant request by Broom Village Hall*

- Written requests for Dispensations for DPI should be received by the Clerk no more than 24 hours prior to the meeting.
Dispensations will be granted as appropriate
None required

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2013

Cllr. Gerrard proposed the Minutes be accepted as being accurate

RESOLVED the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman

4. YOUTH FORUM

No youth present. However, the Councillors who had visited the Bidford Youth Club on Monday 14th October expressed their satisfaction at how well the youth club was progressing and how encouraging it was to see the Parish Council funding being put to such excellent use.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- A resident expressed her great disappointment at the Parish Council's response to the planning application requesting an increase in the number of pitches on the Greenacre site.
The Council acknowledged her concerns, but advised that there were no material reasons to oppose the application, especially as the Planning Inspectorate had stated there was sufficient space for an increased number of pitches. It added that it had received assurances from District Council that in the event of a further breach, it would be straight to court with no further notices being served.
- The Chairman of the Council raised the issue of the apparent proposal to close the Young Fire Fighters, which is such a great success in Bidford on Avon.
Cllr Brain advised the County Council has to save up to £92 million and is looking at all possibilities.
The Clerk reminded all present that there is an online budget survey and encouraged as many people as possible to complete this.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Brain's report is attached hereto.

Issues raised were:

- Change of High Street parking regulations
- Honeybourne crossroad
- Weight mitigation on Bidford Bridge
- The Pleck (resurfacing)
- The Extra Care Home at the rear of the fire station

The verbal report was **NOTED**

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- **Council Tax Reduction Scheme** – At its meeting of 7th October, the Cabinet approved that it should remain unchanged as of April 2014.
- **Destination Manager Organisation** – this the body to promote tourism within Stratford on Avon District and was officially launched at the RSC Theatre on Tuesday 22nd October.

It is hoped it will work to increase the number of visitors not only to the main towns but also the smaller villages such as Bidford on Avon.

- **Old Geodis Site** – meeting was held with the agent who has carried out a retail study which will now be considered by SDC. If accepted a planning application can be submitted at the beginning of the year. The proposal is for a super market, of similar size to Budgens, but different retails offer

The verbal report was **NOTED**

8. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CLERK

A written report, which forms an integral part of these Minutes, was circulated and the contents were **NOTED**.

9. TO CONSIDER

- **Audit Report for the year ending 31st March 2013**

The Parish Council **NOTED** that the Auditors Report stated that in their opinion *“the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to (their) attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirement have not been met”*

- **Other matter raised by External Auditors**

External Auditors brought to the attention of the Parish Council the amount insured under the Fidelity Guarantee, which was well below the amount held by the Council in the bank.

The Clerk advised that:

- The majority of the funds held in the bank are in either High Interest Deposit Accounts (3 to 6 months) or the Investment Account – none of which have cheques, so withdrawals are not possible
- The current account usually holds only sufficient funds to cover the month's payments and a little more in the event of an emergency.
- The current insurance cover, effective from 1st June 2013, increased the level of cover from £83,000 to £205,000

Taking all the above into account, the Recommendation was to reduce the cover to £150,000 as this would save the council £82 per annum.

RESOLVED to reduce the Fidelity Guarantee cover to £150,000.

10. TO CONSIDER ACCOUNTS APRIL – SEPTEMBER

These had been circulated to councillors. No issues of concern were raised at the meeting.

RESOLVED to note the 6 months account review and budget/actual income expenditure account.

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS (if applicable)

- **Amenities WG** – Report with recommendations (circulated)
 - **Grant Applications**
 - **Bidford Health Centre**

A grant of £3,000 was recommended : £2,000 from the street furniture budget and £1,000 from the grants budget
RESOLVED to approve the grant of £3,000
 - **Broom Village Hall**

a grant of £500 was recommended.
The councillor for the Broom Ward proposed this be increased to £1,000. A vote on this motion was carried out:: 3 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention
RESOLVED to approve the recommended grant of £500 be made
 - **Bidford on Avon Primary School**

a grant of £1,500 was recommended
RESOLVED by 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention, to approve a grant of £1,500
 - **Resident – start up project to introduce people to a gentle form of exercise – suitable for all ages and promoting relaxation, self reflection and multicultural understanding**

a grant of £500, to cover the costs of 3 months to gauge response and popularity, was recommended.
RESOLVED to approve the recommended grant of £500
 - **Bidford Cricket Club**

a grant of £750 was recommended
RESOLVED by 7 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention, to approve the recommended grant of £750.00
 - **Tree work at Miller Bank**

Recommendation to approve the tree work required for safety reasons
RESOLVED to approve the quotation of £4,325 for the tree work to come for the S106 Millers Bank budget
 - **Big Meadow**
 - **Fireworks display** was approved by the Amenities WG under the delegated powers given to it at the PC Meeting of 23rd Sept. 2013
 - **Overflow Parking facility (Monie Meadow)**

Recommendation: due to the 28 day restriction, that the area be only opened from 1st April to 30th September when it can be managed by the Big Meadow Gate Keeper under contract
RESOLVED to approve the recommendation

- **Skate ramp**
this popular piece of equipment will be 4 years old in Spring 2014 and is due for an overhaul
Recommendation:
 - ✓ That the side panels be replaced with galvanized steel sheets at a cost of £3,500
RESOLVED to approve the recommendation
 - ✓ That the Council approve the replacement with maintenance free concrete, approx.. cost £12,000, and budget for this for the financial year 2014/15
RESOLVED to approve the recommendation
- **Bidford Juniors FC**
Recommendation that the cost of hiring the pitches on the Big Meadow and Dugdale Sports Field remain at £50 and £200 respectively
RESOLVED to approve the recommendation
- **Bidford Youth Club**
Recommendation
 - That the £1,100 fees to pay for 2 x youth workers be released
 - That £600 towards activities be released
 - That the Participatory Budget for Bidford on Avon for an amount of £500 be awarded to Bidford Youth Club**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation
- **Allotment and Burials WG**
 - **Allotments**
At a meeting held on 7th October 2013 the tenants voted in favour of setting up an Allotment Committee and its members were voted in at a second meeting of 21st October 2013.
 - **Grange Road Cemetery**
The recommendation is that the quotation of £1,594.36 for necessary remedial work to Grange Road cemetery be approved
RESOLVED to approve the recommendation

12. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE FROM NALC/WALC

- **Policy Consultation PC69-13** – Standing for Election in the UK (circulated)
The Council is being asked to decide
 - Does it wish to reply to the consultation
 - In the event it does, how does it wish to proceed**RESOLVED** to note the consultation
- **Legal Topic Note LTN 5** – Parish and Community Councils Meetings (circulated)
The Council is being asked to note the procedures. As updated Standing Orders are being drawn up to present to the Council at the November meeting, attention is drawn to
 - Para 17 regarding “*electronic service of summons and agenda*”
RESOLVED Standing Orders to allow electronic service of summons and agenda

- Para 31 regarding the right to approve or refuse recording of a meeting

RESOLVED Standing Orders to state that recording of meetings are not allowed

- **Newsletter and Bespoke Guidance ADH/108/3/2013** (circulated)
The Council is requested to note the contents and draw attention to any item therein it finds of interest.

- Local Councils Explained – published by NALC. Cost £56.00.

RESOLVED to note the briefing and not to purchase the book due to its high price.

13. TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY HELD AT WARNER'S BUDGENS

Verbal report made and it was NOTED that no issues were raised and residents praised the website which they found informative and easy to navigate.

14. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE

- **CPRE** -October newsletter (circulated)
NOTED
- **SDC** – Approval of Flood Defence Assistance Grant of £450 to clear the brook by Steppes Piece
NOTED

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

These had been circulated to councillors together with a report.

Purchases	
Wages	£2,535.06
Grant	1,700.00
As per cheque list	12,134.95
DDM	<u>783.46</u>
Total payments	£17,153.47
HID Investment	200,000.00

Payments received	
Car Parking	190.00
Burial fees	570.00
Allotments	574.50
Directory Advertisement	648.40
Photocopy charge	0.50
HID returns	<u>150,386.63</u>
Total Received	£152,370.03

RESOLVED

- To approve the accounts
- To approve payments
- That Cllrs. Mrs Keeley and Mrs Randell sign the cheques
- That £7,500.00 be transferred from the deposit account to the current account.

A report had been circulated with the accounts in respect of an investment made on 4th October 2013. On 2nd October the bank advised that 2 of the HID accounts were maturing and that a special offer of higher interests were available but only until 4th October. In view of this, after taking advice from WALC, and taking into account the Parish Council's wish to maximise its investments, the Clerk, together with the RFO and the Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee took the decision to invest

- £100,000 in a 3 month HID account offering 0.85%
- £100,000 in a 6 month account offering 1.01%

The Council was asked to consider delegating powers to the Clerk and RFO, in conjunction with the Chairman and Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee to make similar investments in the event special offers occur and there are sufficient funds **RESOLVED** to approve this delegation of power.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.30 pm