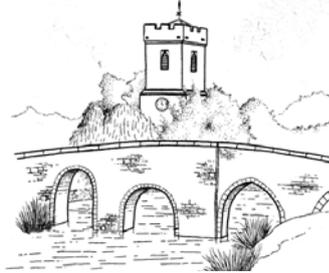


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th October 2014 at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms, Bramley Way, and Bidford on Avon, after the Annual Parish Council Meeting

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Harvey (Vice Chairman of the Council)

Cllrs. Atkins, Hiscocks, Mrs Keeley, Knight, Mrs Randell and Spiers

Also present: District Councillor Howse
13members of the public

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

1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES

Cllrs Fleming and Pound had sent their apologies, which were accepted.

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.

None declared

- 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 29th SEPTEMBER 2014

Cllr Mrs Keeley proposed the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting be accepted as being accurate subject to typographical amendment on page 3 Item 10, which should read “..annual return is in accordance”.

RESOLVED the typographical error having been amended and initialled, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting be accepted as an accurate account, and signed by the Chairman.

4. YOUTH FORUM

There were no young people present at the meeting

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- Vintage Gathering – dates for 2015 were provided and the Clerk asked to advise Bidford Juniors FC accordingly.
- Skate ramp – it is now 3 months since the work started, can pressure be put on for the job to be finished.
- Youth Forum – the Council should think of ways of attracting young people to come to the Parish Council meetings – they are the future.

6. COUNCILLOR FORUM

- 30 MPH sign on Welford Road, towards Barton, it is now over 18 months since it was brought down, and it still has not been replaced.
Clerk to chase
- Environmental Health department was not very responsive to the Clerk’s request that they attend Broom High Street: the residents have been suffering from foul odour for approx.2 months and Highways had advised the Clerk to refer the issue to Environmental Health.
- Clerk also advised that it often takes too long for the Planning Dept.,. To answer – up to 10 minutes.

7. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Brain had sent his apologies.

8. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Draft Core Strategy had been submitted at the beginning of October and had been received. Peter Drew, who is the inspector carrying out the review, has booked Council Chambers for January 2015 and the result is expected shortly after that.

9. CLERK’S REPORT

Verbal report regarding the current situation of the skate ramp which was **NOTED**.

10. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE FROM NALC/WALC

- **Transparency Code Update** (Circulated, together with report)
Council had received the information and **RESOLVED** to note it and await further information before approving a Transparency Code Policy.
- **Precept Capping** – (report circulated)
RESOLVED to note the information circulated.

- **Notice of Amendment to the WALC Constitution** (circulated)
RESOLVED to note the information.
- **Report on NALC Representation at the Political Party conferences** (circulated)
RESOLVED to note the information.

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S WORKING GROUPS

- **AMENITIES WG** – Report circulated
The Chairman of the Amenities WG was invited to present the report.
 - **GRANTS**
 - **Bidford Area Community Choir**
The choir, which is open to all ages/needs/liabilities/experience and sings to raise money for local causes, has grown in number and now requires extra staging to enable it to accommodate a larger choir and perform to the best of its ability.
Cost: £1,000
Amount of grant: As much as the Parish Council feels it can grant
RESOLVED to grant £300
 - **Bidford Pantomime Group**
Arranges an annual pantomime for the village, involving children and adults who gain much from the experience. It is a much loved community event and any profit is given to a local cause or charity. The grant would be towards to January 2015 production to cover the costs of:
 - Scripts
 - Costumes
 - Scenery
 - Hire of light/sound equipment**Cost: £1,420.00**
Amount of Grant: As much as the Parish Council feels it can grant
RESOLVED to grant £350
 - **Barton Village**
To purchase a defibrillator for Barton
Cost : £1,995.00
Amount of Grant : £1,995.00
RESOLVED to grant £1,995.00 on the understanding the machine would be fully maintained and managed by Barton Village and would be installed in a prominent public place.

➤ **Broom Village Hall**

To purchase a defibrillator for Broom.

Cost : £1,995.00

Amount of Grant : £1,995.00

RESOLVED to grant £1,995.00 on the understanding the machine would be fully maintained and managed by Broom Village Hall where it would be installed.

➤ **Alcester Academy**

Due to a decline in the number of pupils, and the biggest changes to GCSEs since the move from O Levels in 1988, especially for Maths the dept. finds itself having to make tough choices, which may involve a compromise on numbers of books purchased.

30% of the intake is from the Bidford-on-Avon parish area.

A key strategy to the new team is to ensure that students have the correct equipment. They have recently received a grant of £800 from Salford Priors PC which has enabled them to invest in customized “exam packs” and calculators and are now seeking further grants or sponsorships to assist them further and have put together two Options:

○ **Option 1 - £941.60** (class calculators PLUS Classroom Equipment Packs)

○ **Option 2 - £693.60** (Class calculators)

Amount of Grant: £941.60 or £693.60

RESOLVED not to award a grant as the items requested are considered basic equipment that should be supplied by the school.

➤ **Bidford Participatory Budget**

○ Proposal for a paving slab with “LEST WE FORGET” carved into it to be put in front of the memorial.

RESOLVED to approve the proposal by 6 in favour and 1 against

○ **MARLEIGH ROAD PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE**

Mark Smith cuts the grass. However, the perimeter trees, shrubs and hedges, which are encroaching on the play area and the footpath, need some attention.

The work to be carried out consist of:

➤ Cutting back the perimeter hedges which are 1, 2 and 3 metre high, to clear excessive growth from the bushes and trees.

➤ Lifting of tree canopy up to 2.5 metres throughout the entire play area and public open space at the east end of the site.

➤ Large ivy bushes on the southern boundary to be heavily pruned back to clear the play area grass.

➤ The play area hedgerow, which is encroaching on the public walkway to the north of the site, will be cut back to the inside of the play area fence to ensure public safety.

➤ Reduce all the pruning waste to woodchip that will be spread tidily under the hedgerows for environmental benefit.

Cost: £750.00

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure.

○ **WAR MEMORIAL**

The cost of replacing the War Memorial ranges between £11k and £24.5k – depending on the type of replacement.

However, George Wilcox (Granite) Ltd, who do a lot of the headstones in Salford Road Cemetery, have inspected the memorial and, in their opinion, the only issue of concern (due to safety) is the cross. And their quote to make this safe is: **£780 + VAT.**

RESOLVED to approve the George Wilcox (Granite) Ltd. quotation for £780 + VAT and to start a reserve fund for the future replacement of the memorial.

○ **SHAKESPEARE'S ENGLAND**

Shakespeare's England is the official destination management organisation for Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Kenilworth, Royal Leamington Spa and the surrounding areas.

The proposal is for the Parish Council to become a member to assist it to

- Attract more event users to the Big Meadow – by having this information on the Shakespeare's England website, it will be advertised further afield and reach more potential users.
- Better advertise the Big Meadow during the summer months and any events held there, and it will be an added attraction to visitors to the area.

The cost would be **£200 p.a.**

RESOLVED to approve the expense and proceed with the membership.

○ **ROADSIDE MEMORIAL POLICY**

After some research, two motions were presented for Council to consider:

- To request WCC to enforce the removal of a memorial after 90 days, and of flowers after 14 days. Council is mindful of the family's grief but believes these memorials are a danger to others and a balance must be sought: the longer it is allowed to remain, the harder it is to get it removed.

RESOLVED to approve this proposal.

- That a tree be planted on the Big Meadow with a plaque (or similar) saying "IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES KILLED ON THE ROADS".

RESOLVED by a unanimous vote not to approve this proposal.

• **ACCOUNTS QUARTERLY REVIEW**

Verbal report was made stating that the review had taken place on Wednesday 15th October: 4 months had been fully reconciled with no issues raised. It was also noted that payments by Standing Order and Direct Debit Mandates made this exercise easier.

RESOLVED to note the verbal report.

12. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE FROM WARD MEMBERS REGARDING THE QUESTION RAISED AT THE COUNCILLOR FORUM OF THE SEPT. 2014 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING S136

All correspondence and a report had been sent to Councillors for their information. A motion was put forward that the Clerk should contact the Portfolio Holder and raise this issue.

RESOLVED to approve the motion.

13. TO CONSIDER SETTING UP AN ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP, ITS REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP

Report, setting up proposals for the remit of the group had been circulated and the Chairman put forward a motion that these be approved.

RESOLVED to approve the remit of the WG should be:

- To agree the issues that require attention, and how the question should be put to the community.
- To collate the responses.
- On the basis of the responses, to propose a 5 year Action Plan/Strategy to the Parish Council

With regards to the membership of the WG, it was **RESOLVED** to postpone this until all members of the Council were present. Membership to be between 3 and 4 Councillors and the Clerk.

14. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **14/02628/FUL – Mrs Agata Kuban, 18 Blenheim Close, B50 4HW**
Proposed replacement conservatory to rear.
RESOLVED no representation.
- **14/02772/FUL Mr George Longstaff, 18 Wilkes Way B50 4QA**
Proposed conservatory to rear.
RESOLVED no representation.
- **14/02641/FUL Mrs Rebecca Gittus, 4 Orchard Close, B50 4BT**
Proposed two storey side extension.
It was noted this application was not included on the Agenda, but a comment was required by 31st October.
RESOLVED No representation.

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, the Council may resolve to exclude the public (Public Bodies (Admissions of Meetings Act) 1960 s1(2)) for items 15 and 16.

RESOLVED to exclude the public due to the sensitive nature of the items under consideration.

15. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MS FORD

Two application had been received. The Council considered both and **RESOLVED** to co-opt Ms A. Deacon, who has been a Parish Councillor and would bring stability and experience in the period up to the May 2015 elections.

16. TO REVIEW THE CLERK'S SALARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CLERK'S CONTRACT

The Clerk left the room

RESOLVED to acknowledge the Clerk's achievement in obtaining a BA Second Class Honours, First Division in Community Engagement and Governance (University of Gloucestershire) and award a 1 point increase in the salary scale to 33.

17. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THIS MONTH'S PAYMENTS AND ACCOUNTS

Full details had been circulated:

- **High Interest Deposit account investment**

The RFO had recommended the following investments be made

- £50,000 for 4 months @0.57%

- £50,000 for 6 months @ 0.70%

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation.

Expenditure

Wages	£2,579.89
As per cheque list	5,637.78
DDM	1,327.01
HID Deposit	<u>200,000.00</u>
Total payments	£209,544.68

Income

Car parking	1,330.00
Room hire	12.00
HID deposit	<u>200,432.28</u>
Total	211,818.29

The Clerk advised that cheque No. 6129, signed at the September PC meeting and payable to SDC for the CCTV contribution, had been for £1,960.00 although the cheque list showed it as £1,926.00 which was the correct amount. SDC would be reimbursing the £34 difference.

RESOLVED

- To approve the accounts, which showed the above overpayment.
- That Cllrs. Mrs Keeley and Mrs Randell sign the cheques.
- That £30,000 be transferred from the deposit to the current account to cover payments.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.40pm.