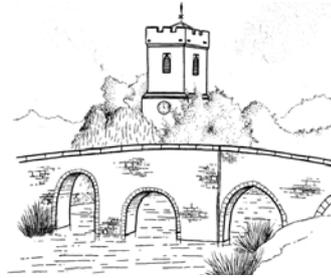


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd June 2015 @ 7.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms, Bramley Way, B50 4QG

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Fleming - Chairman of the Council

Cllrs. Ms Deacon, Harvey, Hiscocks, Mrs Keeley, Knight,
Pound, Mrs Randell and Mrs Taylor

Also present: County Councillor Brain, District Councillor Cargill
Over 30 members of the public

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

The Chairman welcomed all and asked if there was anyone wishing to film the meeting as, according to the adopted protocol, if this were the case, those attending who did not wish to be filmed would be moved accordingly. No one was intending filming or recording the meeting.

The Chairman then invited County Council Bridge Maintenance Officers, Richard Roberts and Steve Young, to give an update on the situation on Bidford Bridge and reminded members of the public that all questions should be via the Chairman.

Richard Roberts, Project Manager, then gave a detailed update as to the current situation and what was envisaged in respect of the repairs and assured all that the bridge would be open to pedestrians at all times, although it would have to be closed for safety reasons when there were deliveries and other movements within the building site.

They had given consideration to pontoon and baily bridges, but this was not a feasible answer to the problem, due to the wide span of the bridge, and was, therefore, not being considered.

It was calculated that the work would take between 4 to 6 months to complete.

Members of the public were then invited to ask questions:

- In some communications, it had been made clear that work could not take place over the winter months: this could result if any delay would mean the work not being completed in the summer months and ceasing over winter, thus closing the bridge for 10 months to a year.

Mr Roberts replied that the department was quite confident that work would be completed by end October, before the winter weather took hold.

- If the bridge can only be open either to pedestrians or vehicles, why not making accessible to vehicles only?

The bridge would not be wide enough whilst work is being carried out and, it was also a risk as pedestrian would continue to use the bridge. Under these circumstances it was decided that it should close to vehicles

- It was understood that a risk assessment was being made at Welford and Binton, could this be extended to Marlcliff as there had been an increase in the number of vehicles driving through since the bridge closure.

Mr Roberts agreed this would be possible and would be done

- Could WCC ensure it gave advance warning of when the bridge would be totally closed, so that users could schedule their days accordingly...?

This would be possible and a programme could be put in place and well advertised.

They were reminded that the car boot sale is on Thursday, and could this be taken into account as the bridge was well used that day

The Chairman closed the session at 7.55pm and thanked Messrs Roberts and Young.

1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Atkins

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 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH MAY 2015**

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

- **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH MAY 2015**

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

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Parish Council Meeting be accepted as an accurate account, and signed by the Chairman.

4. YOUTH FORUM

None present

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- Resident raised concern about dog fouling on Bidford Bridge.
Clerk advised that she had requested dog walkers to be responsible dog owners and considerate residents on the Parish Council's Facebook page. She had also ordered some bright coloured Chalk base spray to be used on the dog foul to highlight the problem.
- Speeding through Barton had increased since the closure of the bridge – could this be looked at
- Concerns were raised regarding the proposed development of Blamore, Falcon Crescent:
 - Height of the apartment block was imposing
 - Development was too close to the other dwellings on Falcon Crescent which had been carefully designed to follow the natural landscape
 - Currently the relief road is screened - this development will remove this as there will be access from the B439
 - This access to the B439 is dangerous as children will use it and go into a main road which carries heavy traffic
 - The development will have a detrimental visual impact on the street scene
 - Loss of green area
- Residents requested the Parish Council object to the new application received from Bloor Homes for up to 40 dwellings on Land South of Jacksons Meadow. This was, essentially, the same application than the one that the Parish Council objected to and which was refused permission by Planning Committee West when it met in March 2015.
- The Parish Council, and local community, were thanked for their contribution in having three major developments refused. These decisions, however, were being appealed, and it was hoped the Parish Council would continue to object.
- Resident mentioned that he had emailed the Clerk regarding the appeal that was being lodged against the decision to object to the development of Land to the South of Jacksons Meadow and would like the email read out
The Clerk confirmed receipt of same and that she had replied – the issue

concerned District Council, not the Parish Council. The Clerk further clarified that the issue in question was that District Council was not going to defend its objection at the appeal – she had advised the resident to take the matter up with his Ward Member, Cllr Pemberton, who is also the Planning Portfolio Holder. As far as the Parish Council was concerned, it would uphold its objection.

- Barton resident raised concerns about the retrospective application of Horse Shoe Barn which was in a Conservation Area and considered by Barton residents to be wholly inappropriate. Parish Council support to object to this planning was requested.

6. COUNCILLOR FORUM

None raised

7. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- **Bidford Bridge** – Cllr Brain had requested a full Police investigation as to the cause of the incident
- **Salford Priors School Library** – He had attended the opening of this which had received financial support from the Councillors WCC grant scheme, as had Bidford Youth Club
- **Broom** – new signage has been installed
- **Police and Crime Panel** – he has recently been nominated to this
- **Stratford Herald** - he has requested they do a feature on Bidford on Avon's local businesses

8. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- **Core Strategy** – Cllr Cargill was pleased to advise that parts of the Core Strategy had been adopted and could now be used when assessing planning applications.

Regrettably, the numbers issue was still to be resolved and it was envisaged this would be end of July.

It was still hoped that the Core Strategy could be adopted by the end of the year

SDC are well ahead of others: 2/3 to ¾ of its document had been accepted and adopted, whereas Warwick District has had to start from scratch as their entire submission was rejected.

- **Land to the South of Jacksons Meadow** – as already advised during the public forum, applicant has launched an appeal and also resubmitted the application. This new application will go to committee when the parish Council and local community will have the opportunity to express their views.
- **Froglands** – wind turbine application – he had personally objected to this
- **Speeding** – speeding in Salford Priors was one of this quarter's Police priorities

The Clerk raised the issue of Bidford Bridge and how its closure highlighted the lack of infrastructure in the village, something the Parish Council and the local Community were regularly raising when SDC consider planning applications, not only in Bidford on Avon itself, but the surrounding villages and towns that use

Bidford Bridge to access the A46 – the closure of the Bridge, due to unforeseen circumstances, has clearly demonstrated the detrimental effect this has on the economic sustainability of the village.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

Report was read out and noted

10. TO CONSIDER THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

This had been circulated to Councillors who had noted the comments which were supportive of the way the Council was managing its business. In particular in noted the advice given regarding awarding grants for capital items to local charities.

RESOLVED to accept the report and to implement the advice in respect of grant awards for capital items to local charities.

11. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2015

These had been circulated to Council. It was proposed they be approved

RESOLVED unanimously to approve and adopt the Accounts which were signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer

12. TO CONSIDER, COMPLETE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2015

This had been circulated to all Councillors

Councillors were requested to

- Approve the Accounting Statements for 2014/15
- Complete the Annual Governance Statement for the year 2014/15

RESOLVED Council approved the Accounting Statements and completed the Annual Governance Statement, which were was signed by the Chairman and Clerk

13. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S WORKING GROUPS (if applicable)

- **NDP** the Chairman gave a verbal report, stating the success of the consultation, especially at the Cottage of Contents (19th June), outside Warner's Budgens (20th June) and it would continue in Broom, The Jolly Teapot, the Crawford Memorial Hall and another session outside Budgens)
- **Amenities (report with recommendations had been circulated)**
 - **BIDFORD ANGLING CLUB**
 - **Annual Rent** (currently this is £1,036.00 and has remained like this for a good number of years. We have been charging VAT, for a further amount of £207.20, but investigating another issue, it has been established that this is not required)
Recommendation: fee to remain at £1,036.00 as by saving the VAT it reduces the fee payable by 20% for a period of 3 years

➤ **Canoe Launching**

Recommendation to approve the sign and also to look into the launching area close to the bridge. Obtain advice from the Youth Club Canoe Club

➤ **Tree pruning** – they would like authorisation to prune back overhanging branches that interfere with the anglers

Recommendation: to allow the anglers to carefully cut back offending branches

The Chairman of the Amenities Group moved a motion approving all the above recommendations

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation

○ **APPEAL BY MILLERS BANK RESIDENT**

Resident is unhappy at the decision made by the Parish Council not to sell the land to the east of his property and is appealing the decision. Members considered the reasons for the appeal which, in view of the fact councillors had visited the site, was not felt to be pertinent.

Recommendation: to uphold the council's decision as there was nothing in the argument put forward that would change the Council's mind. The area in question is Public Open Space and, unless there is a strong reason to dispose of it, it should remain Public Open Space

RESOLVED to uphold the Council's decision

○ **S106 – TO CONSIDER PROJECTS THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE, OR COMING AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE.**

I would remind Councillors of the S106 condition, that the projects must be *“towards the enhancement and upgrading of existing recreational facilities for children and adults outside the site but within the village of Bidford-on-Avon”*

The Chairman had done some investigation, and put forward the following proposals:

➤ **Marleigh Park** – purchase and install some equipment for 11 to 12 year olds

➤ **Outdoor equipment for all ages**

Members considered both proposals and decided unanimously to support the second as it would benefit all ages.

Recommendation: that Council approve the purchase and installation of outdoor equipment for all ages, to be installed on the Big Meadow, to be purchased using S106 funds as well as Council funds from Reserves.

The Chairman of Amenities moved a motion that he, Cllr Harvey and the Clerk would look at the various proposals, obtain quotes and present this to Council. Council to transfer funds from Reserve once the final decision was taken

RESOLVED to adopt the Chairman's proposal

- **BENCH AT BROOM**

The commemorative plaque on the old bench has disappeared, and Council has been asked to consider a replacement plaque saying "In commemoration of 50 years of peace 1945-1995".

Recommendation: that Council does not support this purchase. If the residents of Broom wish to install the plaque, the Council will have no objection

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation

- **ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT**

Update

- Parish Council's inspector has been given the report and has done the necessary
- Clerk has inspected the safety underlay.
 - Underlay under the swings on the Big Meadow needs to be replaced for safety reasons and a quote is being obtained
 - All other safety underlay is acceptable, but will have to be lifted, filled in with sand or top soil and then re-fixed using 6 inch nails and plastic clips.

Recommendation: to note that the recommendations on the Annual Play Equipment Inspection have been carried out.

RESOLVED to note the recommendation

14. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **15/01417/FUL Mr and Mrs A Remes, Blamore, Falcon Crescent, B50 4DB**

Demolition of existing house and outbuildings and construction of 3 terraced houses and 4 apartments

Councillors gave careful consideration to this application, and had carried out a site visit in the morning.

Comments made during the ensuing discussion showed the Council was not averse to the site being developed, but it considered the current application as overdevelopment of the site.

It was proposed that Council object to the development on the following grounds:

- The proposed number of units to be built on this site, which Council considered too many
- The height of the proposed buildings was considered detrimental and imposing on the street scene and its surround
- The number of parking spaces allocated which, the Parish Council believes is insufficient and will result in Falcon Crescent, which is a cul-de-sac being overwhelmed with parked vehicles making it difficult to manoeuvre and drive in or out of the area

- Falcon Crescent is a small cul-de-sac road, off Waterloo Road and close to its junction with the B439. The increase in the number of vehicles entering and exiting will transform this into a busy and potentially dangerous junction.

RESOLVED to object on the grounds as proposed

- **15/01517/FUL Mr James Baker (Orbit) 17 Steppes Piece, B50 4AT**
Installation of external wall insulation to all elevations
RESOLVED no representation
- **15/01698/FUL Miss P Taylor, Horse Show Barn, Welford Road, Barton B50 4NP**
Retrospective permission for the replacement of doors and windows
After some consideration, a motion was moved to make a “no representation” comment.
A counter proposal was moved to object on the grounds that the replacement doors and windows were inappropriate in the Conservation Area of the hamlet of Barton and was opposed by its local community.
RESOLVED by 6 votes in favour to object
- **15/01822/FUL Mr P Marshall, 15 Grange Road, B50 4BY**
Proposed single storey rear extension
RESOLVED no representation
- **15/01862/ADV Building and Plumbing Supplies Ltd Waterloo Industrial Estate Waterloo Road B50 4JH**
Installation of advertisement consisting of 4 No. large acrylic diamond signs, black lettering on yellow background, 1 No. rectangular acrylic sign containing opening hours, black lettering on yellow background, 5 No. rectangular acrylic signs containing yellow diamond with black lettering and coloured band with white lettering, 2 No. rectangular acrylic signs containing yellow diamond with black lettering and coloured band with white lettering, 1 No. small acrylic diamond sign, black lettering on yellow background
RESOLVED to support the application as it would benefit the business and the local community
- **15/01897/OUT Bloor Homes Western, Land to the South of Jacksons Meadow, Bidford on Avon**
Erection of up to 40 dwellings with public open space a new access and associated drainage, landscaping and drainage works
RESOLVED to strongly object on the following grounds:
 - **Highways** - concern over the large increase in the number of vehicles exiting onto a minor road, at the point where the speed limit is reduced to 30 mph, and their impact on pedestrians and cyclists using this road to access Bidford on Avon.
 - **Drainage** - the proposed site is often waterlogged after heavy rain - removal of a green area will exacerbate drainage issues along Steppes Piece and Victoria Road

- **Over development** - Bidford on Avon has already achieved, and surpassed, its allocated housing number.
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan** - this site is not under consideration in the emerging NDP's "contingency sites

15. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you letter from Cllr Spiers
This was read out and **NOTED**

16. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THIS MONTH'S ACCOUNTS

Full details had been circulated

RESOLVED to approve the Accounts for the month of May 2015 as presented

Expenditure

Wages	£2,281.97
As per cheque list	4,726.35
DDM	<u>2,626.54</u>
Total payments	£9,634.86

Income

Car parking fees	£2,129.16
Allotment rents	148.55
Big Meadow concessions	950.00
Hire of PC meeting room	75.00
Burials	845.00
Precept	110,865.00
Bank interest	<u>524.52</u>
Total	£115,537.20

RESOLVED

- To approve the accounts payable
- That Cllrs Atkins and Ms Deacon sign the cheques

The meeting closed at approx. 8.15 pm.



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CLERKS REPORT - June 2015

- **Play areas**

Safety underlay – contacted a specialist as recommended by The Play Inspection Company, who carry out the Parish Council's annual inspection, and visited the Big Meadow and Ward's Lane.

It would appear the only area that require new underlay are those with rubber tiles, which have separated and can be a trip hazard. Quotes will be received for this work to be carried out in the autumn, if approved.

The current rubber grass matting is acceptable and he has advised me how to remove, fill in and replace safely and I shall be working with the {Parish Council's contractor to carry this out.

- **SLCC Conference - Leadership in Action**

I attended this conference on Thurs. 18th and Friday 19th June as it was in Stratford upon Avon and I got a bursary!!

It is meant for larger Councils, nonetheless, I picked up some good tips which I will put in a report and circulate to Councillors.

- **Neighbourhood Development Plan – Consultation on Draft Policies**
 The first of the “roving exhibitions” took place at The Cottage of Content, Barton on Friday 19th June.
 Volunteers from the Steering Group were outside Warner Budgens’ on Saturday from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. It was quite successful and a large number of booklets were shifted – so much so that we have asked for a further 500 to be printed.
 Some more booklets were delivered at St Joseph’s RC Church on Saturday afternoon.
 There will be another shot outside Budgens next Saturday, and another volunteer will be delivering booklets at The Jolly Teapot on Thursday.
- **Waterloo Road**
 There have been many complaints about long grass along the wall of the Poplars on Waterloo Road. This is following the laying of some pipes by Utilities supplying the new development – it was not reinstated very well and contractors were concerned about flying stones causing damage. Following a further inspection, contractors will be carefully mowing the area and establishing whether there is a reinstatement issue, in which case I shall approach County Council.
- **Dog Fouling**
 This has become a big issue following the closure of Bidford Bridge – cause for this is unknown. I have ordered some brightly coloured chalk spray to be used over the offending dog foul in the hope that this will help deter dog walkers from leaving it behind – if they do, Bidford Bridge will end up looking like the icing on top of a cake!
- **Millers Bank – Mill Pool**
 At the request of a resident of Millers Bank, I inspected the area where a small stream supplies water to Mill Pond with the Parish Council’s contractor, with a view of having the vegetation removed if it was cutting off this water supply.
 The contractor has advised that this is a natural environment area, the water supply is not interrupted and that it should remain as is – removing it would be highly detrimental to wildlife and have little or no benefit to the pond itself.
 In view of this, no work will be carried out.

- **Millers Bank – Black Poplar**

There is a large poplar on Millers Bank between the river and the dwellings. It has a TPO which cannot be removed as not only are Black Poplars rare, but female Black Poplars are even more so, and this would appear to be one of only 400 left in the country.

However, the wind has caused a number of branches to fall, and these have been removed for safety reasons. It is also recommended a maintenance scheme is put in place, and approved by SDC, and contractor has been requested to provide a quote for this. Any work to be carried out in the Autumn.