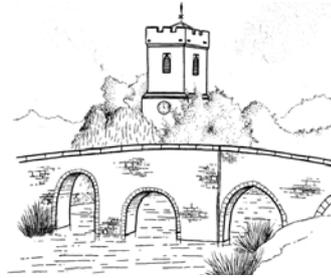


# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 @ 7.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms, Bramley Way, B50 4QG

### **PRESENT**

Chairman                      Cllr. Fleming - Chairman of the Council

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

Also present:                County Councillor Brain, District Councillor Cargill  
Approx. 25 members of the public

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

The Chairman welcomed all those present and, for the benefit of those attending their first Parish Council meeting, clarified that it was not a public meeting, but a meeting of the Parish Council which was open to the public and at which they could participate in the Open Forum.

He then proceeded to make a statement regarding what the Parish Council was doing to try and assist the High Street, and other, businesses, as the Parish Council was aware that, due to a number of circumstances, including the closure of the bridge, things were difficult. He advised that, together with Stratford-on-Avon DC, the Parish Council would be carrying out a benchmarking exercise that would help to identify the issues and that, once the results were collated, together with the local businesses, it would work to put a strategy in place to improve the situation.

The Clerk then read a statement from the Bidford Bridge Project Manager that confirmed the time for the work to be finalised was till end October, and not the 18 months that are stated in the Legal Order, and explained that this is a requirement of such an order.

The Chairman then opened the meeting

**1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES**

*Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Taylor*

**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 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012, if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) they should leave the room.
  - *Cllr Mrs Keeley declared an interest in Item 12 – Amenities WG Report – Grant request from the Parochial Church Council.*
  - *Cllr Hiscocks declared an interest in Planning Application No. 15/02576/TPO as he is a neighbour*
- 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 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2015**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate account, and signed by the Chairman.

**4. YOUTH FORUM**

None present

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

- Resident raised the issues that
  - Highways had closed the Honeybourne Road whilst chipping, aggravating the problem of the closed Bridge
  - Contractor for County Council Highways had driven over Welford Bridge despite being over the weight limit.
- Resident from Marlcliff raised concerns that the High Street businesses were suffering due to the Health Centre and the Post Office moving out of the High Street, and then the closure of the bridge. Could the Parish Council offer any financial assistance?  
The Chairman advised that this was not within the remit of the Parish Council and that the assistance it could offer had been explained in the statement made at the start of the meeting
- Steps should be taken to reduce the risk of a similar incident occurring again and how long would this take after the bridge reopens.  
Talks regarding a strategy to safeguard the bridge are taking place, but any implementation of same would take time. There are problems with reducing the width as this would prevent buses and agricultural vehicles, and funding for a new bridge would be difficult.

- Business owner asked why the Parish Council could not waive the £2.50 charge for visitors entering the Big Meadow.  
The Chairman advised that free parking had been made available on Monie Meadow, 100 metres from the bridge, immediately the Bridge was closed. The Parish Council is also a business, and it is also suffering from the bridge closure as the income from the Big Meadow has fallen drastically – it cannot, therefore, agree to waive the entrance fee which is a source of income to cover the cost of this popular recreational area.
- Resident asked if the Parish Council could do something to revitalise the High Street – holding events etc. citing Alcester and Shipston-on-Stour as examples.  
The Chairman invited Cllr Cargill, who is also a member of Alcester Town council to reply: Cllr Cargill advised that the local businesses in Alcester are members of a local Chamber of Commerce and it is it that organises the events etc. assisted by the Town Council.  
It was suggested the local businesses get together and form an association and come forward with ideas that would be positively considered by the Parish Council.
- Broom resident expressed concern about the new application on Land to the Front of Mill Lane. Only two amendments to the original application that had been refused and both made matters worse! He hoped the Parish Council would continue to object.

## **6. COUNCILLOR FORUM**

A Councillor advised that the current Standing Orders do not state that the Chairman of the Council is automatically a member of any Working Group. It was proposed that the Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk to make the necessary amendments for Council to approve at the August meeting

## **7. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- **Bidford Bridge** –
  - Cllr Brain confirmed he liaises regularly with the Project Manager of the bridge repairs
  - County Council is looking at ways of reducing the risk of such an incident happening
  - Police have finalised their enquiries and no further action is being taken
  - No funds available for a second bridge from the A46

## **8. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- Cllr Cargill had attended a training regarding high energy efficient buildings, which he had found most impressive. It is an amazing concept from Passivhaus which reduces the cost of heating a house to £150p.a. It is being used by Warwickshire Rural Housing in its development of social housing at Wootton Wawen and would be a great way of getting people out of fuel poverty.

- He had attended a number of local events, including the Open Day at Murray House which he had greatly enjoyed, and the opening of the Post Office at Warner's Budgens.
- **Core Strategy** – The Council had now approved the new number at 14,480 with 5%-7% headroom. The Main Rural Centres (MRC) of which Bidford-on-Avon is one, have not been allocated any further sites.
- **Wellesbourne Parish Council** worked with developers and have obtained a multi million benefit

## 9. CLERK'S REPORT

Report was read out and **NOTED**. It forms an integral part of these Minutes.

## 10. TO CONSIDER REQUESTING WCC TO INCLUDE THE PARISH COUNCIL IN ITS TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER A TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOLLOWING THE RECENT DAMAGE TO BIDFORD BRIDGE AND THE CONSEQUENCES TO THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF THE VILLAGE

Council agreed this was essential and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk make the request.

## 11. TO APPROVE UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT – TO INCLUDE ITEM 28a

this had been circulated to Councillors and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the amended document

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

- **Amenities WG** – Report with recommendations circulated
  - **Grant Applications**
    - **Bidford Youth Club**  
Request for the Canoe Club part of the club which is currently running in partnership with the children's Kayak Charitable Trust. Young people are provided with all the equipment needed and are asking the Council to fund the following
      - i. 12 wind cheaters
      - ii. 1 large first aid rucksack and contents
 Total cost: £477.40  
 Recommendation – to award the full amount  
**RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation and grant the full £477.40
    - **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**  
Request for assistance towards the cost of repairs to the church tower roof and gutter to prevent water leaking into the tower affecting its structure, clock mechanism and bell chamber.  
 Total Cost : £14,356.80 (inc. VAT)  
 Grant request : £2,000 (min)  
 Recommendation to award a grant of £1,000  
 Councillors raised the issue of insurance: did the church have insurance and if so, why had the PCC not claimed under it.  
 After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** by 7 voters in favour, 1

against and 1 abstention, to approve the recommendation and award a grant of £1,000 subject to clarification of the insurance matter.

o **MILLERS BANK - BLACK POPLAR**

- Canopy reduction by approx. 12 metres and removal of all arisings  
Cost: £825.00
- The above work to be carried out every 4 years – recommended that £200/250 be earmarked in tree reserves in the budget
- Netting to prevent cotton fluff – contractor considers this to be unfeasible both from an environmental and economic point of view.  
Cost: £8-10,000

.Recommendation:

- To accept the quotation for canopy reduction subject to approval by SDC
- Not to accept the proposal of netting the canopy to prevent the cotton fluff on the basis of cost and potential damage to the tree and other wild life.

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation for the canopy reduction, and this programme to be included with the tree management schedule at Millers Bank.

To accept the recommendation and refuse the proposal of netting the tree canopy.

- **Strategy WG** – Report circulated  
The Chairman of the WG advised that the main issue was to approve the Terms of Reference as stated in the circulated report.  
Motion was put forward to approve the reduction of the number of members from 5 to 3, with Cllrs Hiscocks and Knight becoming reserve members.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the reduction  
**RESOLVED** to approve the Terms of Reference
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan**  
The Chairman gave a verbal report which was **NOTED**

**13. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- **15/02237/FUL – Mr B Young, Iona, High Street Broom**  
proposed replacement porch and single storey rear and first floor garage extension  
**RESOLVED** No representation
- **15/02401/FUL – Mr James Baker, 3 Smiths Close, B50 4PP**  
Installation of external wall insulation to all elevations of the dwelling  
**RESOLVED** No representation
- **15/02402/FUL – Mr James Baker, 8 Smiths Close, B50 4PP**  
Installation of external wall insulation to all elevations of the dwelling  
**RESOLVED** No representation

- **15/02576/TPO – Mrs Deborah Andrews 3 Warner Court, B50 4FP**
  - T1 – Horse Chestnut – reduce crown by 1 m
  - T2 – Horse Chestnut – reduce limb over car park by 1 m; reduce back 1 m from neighbouring property; lift crown over road by 2 m; lift crown by 1 m over garden

**RESOLVED** No representation

- **15/02288/FUL – Linfoot Country Homes Ltd Land Fronting Mill Lane, Broom**

Proposed erection of dwelling house with garage and new access (resubmission of 14/02289/FUL)

**RESOLVED** to continue to object on the same grounds, namely

- This development would be detrimental to the character of its neighbours, which lie within the Conservation Area of Broom, in particular Yew Tree House which is a Grade II listed building, as the new development will be within its curtilage
- The development will be visible from the Heart of England footpath which runs alongside Yew Tree House and will have a detrimental effect on Yew Tree House and its neighbouring dwellings within the Conservation Area
- The access is onto Mill Lane, a narrow countryside land, which the Council considers unsafe
- Furthermore the access will require the removal of a considerable number of trees and hedges, which the Council strongly opposes. Their removal will be out of character with the surrounding street scene and will make the new development highly visible, emphasising its impact on the neighbouring Conservation Area.
- The proposed development would have a detrimental impact on the preservation of local heritage assets, both building and environmental and would be contrary to Policy ENV 8 (preservation of Heritage Assets) of the emerging local Neighbourhood Development Plan

#### **14. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

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

#### **15. 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>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£9,634.86</b>

**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>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£115,537.20</b>

**RESOLVED**

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

The meeting closed at approx. 8.15 pm.



# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



### **CLERKS REPORT – July 2015**

#### **EXPENDITURE**

- **BIDFORD ANGLERS**

As requested, I met with Mr Saunders to discuss the sign re canoe launching.

Site for the sign was agreed as was the wording

*NO LAUNCHING OF CANOES FROM THIS SITE BEFORE*

- *1.00 pm from 16<sup>th</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> October*

- *2.00 pm from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> March*

*BY ORDER OF BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL*

**Cost: £299.98 plus installation**

- **BIDFORD CEMETERY**

We have been having problems with the Salford Road Cemetery gate as, when the contractor goes to lock it, there are often vehicles (from the allotment tenants) parked in the area, which means he will lock them in. In view of this, it has been agreed that a sign be posted on the gate giving the opening and closing times:

*THIS GATE WILL BE OPEN FROM*

- *8.00 am – 8.30 pm April – October*

- *8.00 am – 4.30 pm November to March*

*BY ORDER OF BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL*

**Cost : £132.95 plus installation**

- **BIDFORD BRIDGE**

- Although the diversion signs do state the business on the High Street are open as usual, it is difficult for drivers to read and, furthermore, it is accepted that people will not read further than Road Closed!!

In order to assist both the High Street shops and businesses as well as visitors to the Big Meadow and the Car Boot sale, I have obtained permission for two banners to be installed on the roundabout saying: *All High Street businesses, The Big Meadow and Car Boot open as usual Bridge open to pedestrians and cyclists*

**Cost: tbc**

- I have met with Dave Webb and Nancy Singleton, officers at SDC, to discuss what can be done to assist the High Street shops and businesses following the closure of the Post Office and the temporary closure of Bidford Bridge.

I am meeting them again in early August, and will be arranging two drop in sessions – one at The Frog and another at premises on the industrial estate – which we hope will allow businesses to raise their concerns and assist us to consider ways of addressing them. The invitation will be included in a letter sent by SDC.

**UPDATE** – it appears that the majority of High Street businesses already are getting rate relief or are considered small businesses to pay rates, so SDC decided not to send out the letter.

Also, as we will be carrying out a benchmarking exercise (date to be decided at the meeting next week) this has replaced the drop in sessions.

Benchmarking is a tool that has been developed to address the real issues of how to understand, measure, evaluate and ultimately improve town/village centres.

- Richard Roberts, the Project Manager, continues to keep us all updated. Mao has been upgraded so that only the bridge is shown as closed (originally the red line extended to the crossroads which was confusing!)

WCC are doing all they can to ensure the repairs are carried out as quickly as possible, but the other agencies, especially Historic England, do not appear to have a 24 hours email response! Time scale remains 4 – 6 months from the date of the incident.

- There are still issues with drivers moving the temporary barriers to drive across – these have now been weighted with water which should prevent this from happening
- I have advised the insurance company of a possible claim for loss of income due to the Bridge Closure

## **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CORE STRATEGY**

I attended both the Cabinet and the Full Council meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> as I was aware there were two issues of importance to Bidford-on-Avon PC

- **Council Charter** – this was finally approved
- **Core Strategy** – the following was approved by full Council:
  - The number of dwellings as per the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing be set at 14,480 for the period 2011-2031 (724 per annum)
  - That the requirement for “headroom” in the supply figure in the region of 5-7% in addition to the above be noted
  - That the following strategic sites be included:
    - Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath (increased number)
    - Long Marston Airfield (increased number)
    - Land west of Bishopton Lane, Stratford
    - Land south of Alcester Road, Stratford
    - Land south of Daventry Road, Southam
  - Regarding Bidford on Avon – the approved recommendation was that *“the village has grown rapidly over the past 30 years or so but supports a relatively limited range of shops and services; it has no secondary school for example. There are a number of potential strategic sites on the edge of the village but given that the current Plan has already provided 450 dwellings (and there are two non-strategic sites at appeal), the view is taken that making a strategic allocation at Bidford is not justified. There are no obvious overriding benefits to the local community in doing so”*.

I have spoken to both David Nash, the main officer of the Core Strategy document, and Paul Harris, and both confirm that the above will be the policy though the NDP should look at allocating at least one Strategic Reserve site, otherwise this will be allocated by SDC. Safeguards to ensure the site only becomes available if and when required, can be put in place by the NDP policies.