

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 7th June 2005 at 7.30 p.m. at
The Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

ATTENDANCE

Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hiscocks, Mrs. Keeley, Langston, Sandle, Smith and Spiers

District Cllrs. James and Slaughter

County Cllr. Barnes

Approx. 200 residents of the Parish

Guests : Chief Insp. Nav Malik and Sgt. Stuart Wild from Alcester Police

Jasbir Kaur and Matthew Williams from the Planning Dept. WCC

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, Chairman of the Parish Council, chaired the meeting.

She apologized for the slight delay and welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting – a meeting for the residents of the parish.

Before Starting the meeting, the Chairman stated that she wanted to clarify a misconception that had been voiced at the abandoned Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May:

- Members of the Parish Council are not remunerated. They can receive reimbursements for travel and other costs but have chosen not to take up this option.
- The only people paid are those employed by the Council such as the clerk and contractors
- Councillors are elected every 4 years. Since the last election, there have been 3 vacancies on the Council due to the resignation for private reasons of 3 of its members. The council advertised all the vacancies on the public notice boards. On two occasions only one candidate came forward for each vacancy – both are

now councillors. The third vacancy was still open and residents wishing to join the council were welcome to write to the clerk – closing date 24th June.

The Chairman then invited Insp. Nav Malik to speak, which he did on the following matters:

- He was aware of the fact that Anti Social behaviour is of great concern to local residents, and he explained how the Police procedures to deal with this item. He stressed the importance of local residents to call the station and have any incident of Anti Social behaviour logged – this was essential to put these procedures in place.
- He advised that, as the local P.C., Peter Gateley, had recently undergone an operation and would be off sick for a period of approximately 2 months, P.C. Johnson was being appointed as a full time P.C. for the area.
In the meantime, the area had been patrolled by a yellow police van – when asked the frequency, Insp. Malik replied that it was 3 times in a period of 4 weeks. The resident advised that she had not seen the van and that trouble in The Leys with late drinking was a problem, especially for the younger children.
- A resident from Salford Rd. mentioned speeding – he was asked to contact the police when this occurred as this would enable the Police to monitor the situation and do something about it.
- The continual problem of drugs was mentioned – Insp. Malik requested the resident speak to him after the meeting to give him fuller details, Insp. Malik advised that the Police had recently visited all the local pubs and spoken to the landlords regarding this matter.
- The problem of accessing the police on the telephone was mentioned. Inps. Malik admitted it was a nightmare, even he suffered from this problem, but asked that callers should be patient and persist in calling as this was essential for the incidents to be properly recorded.
The idea of a national non-emergency number, such as that for Crime Stoppers, is under review and this could be a possibility in the future that would make things easier.
Another useful tool was the use of the voicemail – these are regularly retrieved and the calls properly recorded.
- When asked about the Police's thoughts on the proposed application for the quarry at Broom Court Farm, Insp. Malik replied that the Police had a proper department that dealt with these issues and he was unable to give an answer, although action would become necessary if and when the quarry was developed

The Chairman thanked Ins. Malik who left. Some residents who had voiced certain concerns accompanied him to discuss the issues in confidence and in more depth.

The Chairman then introduced Jasbir Kaur and Matthew Williams, from the Warwickshire County Council's Planning Dept. and invited Mrs. Kaur to talk to the residents. The Chairman made clear to the residents that, as planning officers, neither Mrs. Kaur nor Mr. Williams could discuss aspects of the quarry application. This was

restated by Mrs. Kaur who explained that they were bound by the Code of Conduct that only allowed them to discuss issues amongst themselves until such time as their Report is written and presented to the Regulatory Committee. The same, she added, applied to WCC Cllr. Barnes – if he discussed any of the issues at this meeting, this would prevent him from being able to speak at the Committee- he would have to declare an interest and retire.

The following are items raised by residents to Mrs. Kaur and Mr. Williams :

1. It appears that there is sufficient existing stock of sand and gravel for the next 9 years – in view of this why is this quarry necessary
2. Quarries are defined as a “statutory nuisance” – the site for this application is on the south west of a large village of nearly 4,000 inhabitants and the prevailing wind is from the south west – circumstances in the area have changed considerably since the Local Mineral Plan was drawn up Furthermore this is not considered a Preferred Site, of which there are 10 in the region.
3. The document presented by RMC contains a number of discrepancies: eg in the instance of the size of the site, 3 different figures regarding the number of hectares are mentioned. Here are other, technical discrepancies. Are these documents studied carefully at County Council and will these discrepancies be picked up and considered.
Mrs. Kaur replied that WCC have experts that study the documents and would pick up these discrepancies. She added these would be pointed out to RMC who would then be given the opportunity of redressing them. Mrs. Kaur added that when writing to the Planning Dept. residents should refer to any discrepancies and state the document, number of page etc.
4. Can the Regulatory Committee decide to make a site visit? The answer to this was yes
5. Would WCC look at ALL the relevant information required to make a decision, even if this information did not form part of the documents presented by RMC
Mrs. Kaur replied that the WCC Planning Dept. have experience in these applications and are aware of what to look for and what information is required; and yes if it did not form part of the documentation presented they would still obtain the information if this was necessary.
6. Would WCC take into consideration the views of Stratford District Council – the answer was yes.
7. Would there be any consultation regarding the number of residents suffering from respiratory diseases which could be exacerbated by the dust created?
Primary Health Trust is being consulted
8. Is there any way of ensuring RMC fulfill their promises? They are currently running overtime at Marsh Farm
9. The value of the properties in the area are falling, this represents the financial future of the residents – what is the position regarding this aspect
Mrs. Kaur pointed out that this is not a planning consideration

- 10.** Is there a check list regarding environmental issues?
 Planning Dept. is experienced and know what to look for
- 11.** Is there a time limit for the work to start once permission is granted>
 If permission is granted work must commence within 3 years. If it is refused, the appeal must be made within 6 months.
- 12.** Are there any other examples of a new quarry being bracketed with an existing quarry in another village which is already overrun
- 13.** To maintain impartiality, RMC had been invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting – would this same courtesy be extended to the Parish Council when WCC meet with RMC
 Mrs Kaur replied that, as with all planning matters, it was normal practice for the applicant to be able to discuss matters regarding the application directly with the planning dept. without others present. Any correspondence though would be made available.
- 14.** When would the report made by the Planning Dept. be available for the Parish Council and the residents to read?
 This document is made available 5 days prior to the Committee Meeting on the website. When asked who states that it should be 5 days, Mrs. Kaur referred to WCC's Constitution Document which is on the website.
 The Parish Council and others are allowed to make representation at the Committee Meeting.
- 15.** Have there been any discussions regarding any gains for Bidford-on-Avon
 None to date
- 16.** How do planning extension/s variations get stopped? What about the changes to Marsh Farm
 Each extension/variation involves a new application and each is considered on its own merit. The fact that Marsh Farm is still processing will be a point considered when looking at the application
- 17.** When is the Mineral Plan being updates
 It is currently taking place together with the Waste Plan – scheduled for the next 12 months
- 18.** How will it affect Bidford
 It should not as it will refer to new sites
- 19.** The fact that the quarry is near a river should be a concern
 Mrs. Kaur confirmed that the Environment Agency is being consulted
- 20.** Will WCC revert to the relevant Statutory Bodies if residents have raised points not picked up by them for their comments.
 Yes
- 21.** How can WCC ensure conditions are enforced and have they been at the existing Marsh Farm.
 WCC rejected the Marsh Farm application which was granted by the Inspectorate Mrs. Kaur and Matthew Williams would have to check papers to see what conditions applied. They did confirm WCC endeavour to visit all sites approximately every 6 months. Marsh Farm would be visited in connection with this application.

22. RMC/Cemex have a history of liquidating companies. Would WCC consider testing their credibility by requesting a Stage Bond being put in place to give residents some peace of mind that the work will be carried out within the prescribed time and full restoration, as suggested on the plans, made. What should not be allowed to happen is for RMC/Cemex to go into liquidation and leave the site in an unfinished state with restoration having to be paid by the tax payer or not at all. Marsh Farm should have been restored in stages but has not – why not? Mrs. Kaur replied that WCC currently only requests bonds for work carried out for Highways
23. Are the various Ambler Associations being consulted? The site contains a number of footpaths of great importance

Mrs. Kaur closed the sessions by stating that the planning department's report would be balanced and take into account all factors.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Kaur and Matthew Williams, as well as all the residents that attended the meeting. She again urged all those who had not written raising their objections to do so.

Before closing the meeting, it was agreed that a public meeting would be arranged to discuss the report, when published, prior to the Committee Meeting. The Chairman reminded residents that, due to the time limit between the publishing of the report and the Committee Meeting, the Public Meeting would have to be of short notice.

The meeting closed at approx. 9.45 pm