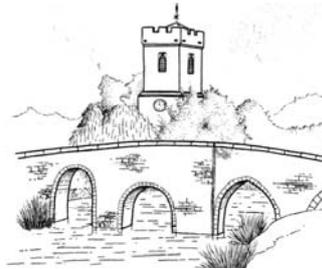


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 5th March 2007 at 7.30 p.m.
at The Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

ATTENDANCE

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley (Chairman), Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hendey, Hiscocks, Langston,
Sandle, Smith and Ms. Varga

County Cllr. Barnes

District Cllrs. James & Pemberton

Also present : 15 residents – many representing various organizations and groups such as:

- Womens Institute
- Bidford Community Group
- Bidford Youth Club
- Village Liaison Officer
- Twinning Association
- Tennis Club
- St. John's Badgers and St. John's Cadets
- BARG
- Bidford Fire Service/Young Firefighters
- Rev. David Hall
- Bidford School Ass.
- Village Crier

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

She welcomed all

1. Cllr. Keeley then read the Chairman's Report, which is attached hereto.
2. Cllr. Barnes then made a comment, following on from a point mentioned in the Chairman's report in respect of Bidford Fire Station.
 - He advised that Council required the independent review to be carried out by 2/3 persons – and it will include a cross border review to include amongst others West Midlands.
 - He added that he had arranged for Hugh Digley to visit the station to look at the excellent work carried out by the young firefighter – he had spent considerable time with them and had left highly impressed.
3. Bidford Fire Service then took the opportunity to thank the Community and the County, District and Parish Councillors for their support and work and advised that it was their intention to set up a working group to prepare its campaign against a possible closure.
4. The Chairman then advised that, as the main subject of the meeting was the Calor Village of the Year competition, which was being judged on Monday 23rd April, she would appreciate ideas, open discussion etc. as to how best to present the community spirit of Bidford.
 - As Salford Priors had been in this position last year, she asked Cllr. James, Chairman of Salford Priors PC if there was any assistance he could give. He advised that as the award was for the “community spirit” this is what Bidford should concentrate on – judges were not concerned about it being either pretty or well kept – other categories cover this. Salford Priors had taken the judges round the various businesses and the judges had been invited to meet with members of the community etc.
 - Cllr. Barnes added that he had met a couple who had been visiting Bidford for the first time and, on being asked their opinion of the village, had replied how impressed they had been at the industrial estate – how clean and well kept they had found it, and the variety of businesses that operated from it.
 - A member of the public, who had only recently moved into the centre of the village, added that she had decided to move to the village because of the great community spirit it had and the number of groups and associations it offered. She did not regret it and was really enjoying the village life offered by Bidford.
 - The Chairman advised that the judges would be staying at Salford Hall and that they had been directed to the Crawford Hall car park as this offered plenty of space, was the Village Hall and the entrance to the village.
 - The tennis association would try and arrange for a ladies' foursome to be playing at the time.

- It was agreed that Bidford Community Group could arrange for an extra Jolly Teapot morning to take place at the Church Hall on that Monday, as this was always very well attended by many in the village – normally by some 40 people – as this would represent an excellent opportunity for the judges to see the community spirit in action. Refreshments, arranged by members of the group, would be offered to all.
- It was also agreed that as many groups and associations as possible would have display boards, showing their activities etc. Display boards would have to be found and various people would look into this. In view of the limited space available at the Church Rooms, Rev. Hall offered the use of St. Laurence as an additional venue for the displays, which was gratefully accepted.
- The clerk to speak to the School Headmistress, Mrs. Honeybunn, and see whether it would be possible for the judges to visit a class to see the interaction.
- Bidford Fire Service suggested a visit to its fire station – in view of the current situation, this was thought an excellent idea
- A visit to the Industrial Estate was also agreed, dropping in to visit who have charity connections, as well as Bungo's Farm, which has only recently started and has been such a huge success.
- There was a suggestion that a poster showing all the groups and associations of the village should be prepared together with an "Events Calendar" showing how many things go on in the village throughout the year. It was agreed this was a very good idea and should be pursued.
- It was agreed that Bidford Cars should be contacted and the use of their 8 seater requested to take judges and others round. A trial run, to ensure time was well spent, should take place. It was stressed that the judges would arrive at 9.30 and leave promptly at 11.30
- As it is always difficult to reach all groups and associations, the Clerk requested those present to pass on the word to others, so that as many as possible would participate.
- The Crier would be asked to raise the enthusiasm of the village to ensure a good spirit would be prevalent on the day.
- Another display idea was proposed - using photographs and a projector. If the equipment could be found, with someone to work it successfully, this should be considered.
- It was agreed that a village litter pick should take place on the week end of 21/22nd April. Although not entering for the Best Kept Village, it would show that the community takes pride in its village.

The Chairman thanked all for their ideas and the Clerk reminded them that this was only the beginning. There was much work to be done with residents

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm