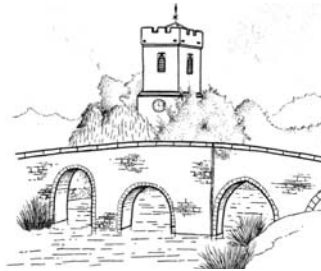


# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at The Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley (Chairman), Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hill, Hiscocks, Langston, Sandle, and Spiers

County Cllr. Barnes

District Cllrs. James, Pemberton and Slaughter

Mrs. E> Uggerløse Clerk to the Parish Council

Also present : approx. 9 members of the public

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

She welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting, especially the guests David Morgan and Dr. Jackie Lawrence, who replaced Emma Clarke.

She introduced the members of the Parish Council present; Cllrs. Hendey and Williams had sent in their apologies

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman
2. The Chairman then read this year's Report which is attached hereto.
3. The Chairman then invited David Morgan , Project Manager – Parish Plans and Rural Outreach to make a presentation. The Parish Council is reviewing and updating its current Parish Plan and Mr. Morgan had suggested using an online based system instead of the traditional paper questionnaire.
  - Mr. Morgan thanked the Parish Council for the support it had shown which was much appreciated

- He proposed using a commercial market research software system, adapted to be image led (making it user friendly) to re-survey the Village for updating the Parish Plan.
- The survey would be image led – not those long, complicated and not easily accessible questionnaires that are often used, which can be quite off putting.
- It will provide every home with the opportunity to either
  - Use their own home computer
  - Use the Community Computer by the Parish Office
  - Use the library computers
  - To be visited by a volunteers who will come with a mobile internet connection and laptop – and he offered himself as top volunteer for this job!
- By using commercial software – and he would be using SNAP provided by SDC – the analysis would be virtually instant, reducing the costs and timescale of publishing the updated action plan, which could then be made available online on the Parish Council’s website as well as printed copies in the library etc.
- The cost should be approx. £500 and not more than £1,000.
- Every household would be given a unique access code to ensure they completed the form only once. It should also be able to identify whether to reply comes from Barton, Bidford, Broom or Marlcliff.
- When Cllr., Gerrard, who had spearheaded the original Parish Plan, asked about the time it would take to complete this – in the past it had taken between 1 and 1½ hours to complete – Mr., Morgan replied that it should take no more than 30 mins.

The Chairman thanked Mr., Morgan for a very interesting presentation and advised the Council would consider this at its next Parish Council meeting, which was only a week away, and would revert with its decision.

4. The Chairman then invited Dr. Jackie Lawrence, of Warwickshire County Council’s Climate Change Team, to make a presentation on how the local communities can get more involved.
  - Dr. Lawrence advised that the current emission in Warwickshire were 4.6 million tonnes per annum and, although there has been a reduction in the domestic emission, there has been an increase in the industrial/business sector.
  - The Local Area Agreement had been set up with the aim of reducing the emissions to 1 tonne per capita by 2010/2011 and it was estimated the population of the county would be approx. 540,400.
  - A lot must be done locally. A number of Climate Change Community Groups had been set up, supported by Parish and Town Councils. These groups get together on a monthly basis and discuss and share experiences and pick up tips from each other. This has resulted in a

very effective way of involving the community and improving the carbon footprint.

- Villages without Borders – these aim to become completely carbon neutral and there are links amongst villages worldwide.
- Two local examples are Snitterfield,, which has its own website Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change, which engages the community to try and lower carbon emissions etc., and Southam, which became a plastic bag free area – this was so successful they are looking at other such schemes.
- New policies and strategies will not be implemented if they result in increased emissions
- Dr. Lawrence also made reference to Transition Towns, which ask the question “what do we do when the work runs out of oil?” and work towards finding alternatives.
- It is also the ideal opportunity to get youngsters involved – it is their future!
- A number of leaflets were distributed and a resident enquired as what an “Owl Monitor” was. Dr. Lawrence replied that it measured the amount of electricity used in the house, and how much can be saved by switching things off.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Lawrence and then declared the Open Forum

- A resident advised about the dangers of crossing Bidford Bridge and, once on the south side, crossing over to the Big Meadow. A number of mothers with small children were extremely concerned and dog walkers often drove to the Big Meadow, took the dogs for a run, and drove back, so as not to have to cross the bridge. Many visitors do not use the facilities of the village because they are too afraid of crossing over. In view of this, she asked o if a pedestrian crossing could be placed south of the bridge. She had approached the Parish Council regarding this before, and appreciated the support she had received

The Chairman agreed the Council had long been concerned about this issue, which was getting worse not better with the increasing number of vehicles using the bridge and confirmed the continued support of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Barnes advised that County Council were looking at this and hoped to be able to come up with a scheme.

Another resident did mention that whatever scheme was introduced, it had to take account of the traffic, and perhaps a traffic survey

should be carried out, as it should not create a gridlocks.

- Another resident raised the issue of the two eyesores on Waterloo Road, namely Friday Furlong and the old Geodis building. He asked what powers District Council had and if they have them, why are they not using them>

Another resident added the disgraceful state of the landscape area on Wharrads Close and said that visitors using the very popular Bungo's Barn, have to drive passed these areas – not a very good advertisement for the village!

Cllr. James replied that under Planning Law, SDC had no powers. A meeting was being arranged between the legal department, building control and the three District Councillors between 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May to discuss the old Geodis building. SDC could arrange a clearing up of the site, but there is no budget for this.

Regarding Friday Furlong, an outline planning application was currently being considered. However, it had to be taken into account that the developers did not own all the land, are not prepared to build either affordable housing or give any funds to improve and benefit Bidford.

The Chairman of the Parish Council intervened stating the Parish Council strongly objected to no affordable housing as it had investigated this issue and was aware that at least 114 people were currently on the list – and she was adamant the Parish Council could not accept Bidford should have to put up with this.

As to Wharrad's Close, this is currently under investigation as the developer has a statutory duty to maintain the landscaping, but no more could be said due to legal reasons

It was requested that, when the new Parish Plan survey is produced, perhaps it should contain the question as to whether residents would like the old Geodis to be developed for dwellings instead of industrial, as is the current SDC policy.

Cllr. James said that care should be taken to balance the housing needs and those for employment. Small businesses are also need to offer employment to the young residents of the village. The industrial estate is well run and very sought after.

At the end of the Open Forum session, Cllr. James said that on behalf of the District Council, County Council and the local community he would like to thank the Parish Council for all the work it has carried out the last year. He made special reference to the site to the rear of the Fire Station which the Parish Council had, against some small but vociferous opposition, developed giving the teenagers somewhere to meet, and to achieving Quality Status. He added it was inclusive, carrying out regular Parish Council surgeries to listen to local residents, and supportive of neighbouring councils.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. James on behalf of the Parish Council for his kind words and brought the meeting to a close at 9.05 pm