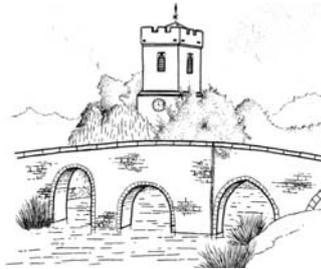


# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 7.30 p.m. at The Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Cllrs. Hiscocks (Chairman), Gerrard, Mrs. Getgood, Hendy, Hill, Langston, Sandle, Spiers and Williams

District Cllrs. James and Pemberton

Mrs. E. Uggerløse Clerk to the Parish Council

Also present : approx. 8 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

Invited speakers:

Amanda Wilson-Patterson, Localities and Community at County Council - presentation on the importance and success of the Local Community Forums  
Robert Weeks – Head of Environment at District Council

Cllr. Hiscocks, , Chairman of the Parish Council, chaired the meeting

He welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman
2. The Chairman then read this year's Report which is attached hereto.
3. The Chairman then Robert Weeks, to make his presentation on the new refuse and recycling.
  - The new service had now been running for 2 years and has been very successful
  - The change had been necessary:

- Residents, who were already recycling some 43% of their refuse wanted to do more and the Council had to make changes to meet these expectation.
  - The government introduced a landfill tax, which meant if the Council did not recycle more, the cost of the landfill tax would result in higher council tax
  - District Council had to wait to the end of its lengthy contract before it could introduce changes.
- The change finally took place in August 2008, and it was quite a challenging time for all. There were some immediate good news, with the amount of recycled material doubling almost overnight as a result of the new, larger blue bins.
- The new contract also offered better value for money: the system was rationalized, better vehicles and fewer staff resulted on a saving of 33% off the council tax – the current cost per household is £50 pa.
- Replacing the black sacks with bins also made sense. Apart from the £100,000 annual cost of the sacks themselves, there was also the resource cost of their manufacture, plus the transport from China to UK, their distribution within the district area and they then ended up in landfill!
- The new system is continuing to work well and SDC are preparing more roadshows and events with more information regarding the new materials that can now be recycled such as:
  - Clean foil
  - Food trays
  - Yoghurt pots
  - Metal (biscuit) tins

However, no cellophane or plastic bags, please!
- Green bins – SDC would like to encourage the recycling of food in the green bins; wrapped in newspaper or brown paper, they can be included in the green bins and sent for compost. The less rubbish put in the grey bins, that is sent to landfill, the better
- Communication with residents was a problem this winter when the snow created havoc with the collections! It was difficult to keep everyone informed on time. Residents with access to a computer are encouraged to register, they will then receive an email advising them of any change to the normal schedule.
- SDC is launching a TV channel, which will be available on Freeview, and it is hoped this will facilitate the dissemination of information to the communities.
- There will be no further suspension of green bin collections
- There will be an expansion in the range of materials that can be recycled

- Green bins are sent for compost. Although currently the resulting compost is not for sale, County Council is looking into the possibility of extending this service
- Blue bins are taken to a plant in Ettington, where some is processed and then sold to the recycling market in the UK. The rest is sent to a plant in Swindon for processing, and again this is sold to the recycling market in the UK. Contaminated materials are disposed of safely. The plant in Ettington should be fully functional from February 2011, which means it will process ALL materials

#### Questions

- A resident raised the issue of the lorries making the collection, stating they could hardly be called “green”.  
Mr. Weeks replied that he agreed, but that the whole process was a balance. Smaller vehicles would have to make more trips to the plants and thus end up being less economical than the larger vehicles that made only the one trip per day. The vehicles are the best they could find in the market and are well within the required European Standards – they are rated 5, one off the most economical which are rated 6.  
Alternative fuels have been looked at and are continued to be tested.
  - Is the sorting carried out manually or mechanically?  
some is still hand sorted but once the Ettington plant is fully functional in February 2011, it will all be mechanical
  - Resident from the High Street explained the problems residents who still have to use sacks have: after two weeks they tend to leak, and are very heavy. Plus not enough green sacks are supplied,  
Mr. Weeks replied that more recycling boxes could be offered as well as a kitchen caddy for the disposal of food. And he would send more green sacks!
- Residents expressed their satisfaction with the service being provided

The Chairman thanked Mr. Weeks for his presentation.

#### 4. The Chairman then invited Amanda Wilson=Patterson to make a presentation of the importance and relevance of the Local Community Forums

- The Local forums had now been running in Stratford District for 18 months.
- There were 6 Local Community Forum areas, including Alcester and Bidford, which included 17 other villages
- They are local meetings for local people to raise local issues
- They are attended by members from County, district and Parish/Town councils, as well as officers and members of other partners such as NHS, Voluntary Service, and Police.

- Alcester/Bidford has an very good Chairman in Cllr. James who is very good ant ensuring issues are taken forward.
- It must be noted that Local Forums are an advisory body, but Cllr. James does make sure the issues raised are taken up by the appropriate party and that they report back at the next meeting (usually three months).
- There is usually an informal 30 minutes surgery before each meeting where residents can raise confidential issue, and when the Police gauge what matters are concerning the local community.
- The Police will then priorities' three issues per meeting, based on popular demand!
- Examples of successes are:
  - Young people in Alcester whioc attended a forum saying there was a lack of youth facilities in the town. This was taken up and a new facility is being created by The Pavillion
  - Bidford Fire Station – the threat of its closure was taken up and a single issue forum took place in November, where the portfolio holder was invited to attend together with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, and the local residents were given an opportunity to ask question and make their alternative presentation. It was extremely well attended.
  - Gritting policy – this matter was ra\ised by a number of local forums resulting in County Council reviewing the policy and contacting Parish and Town councils asking for their local input
- Publicity/Promotion
  - Leaflets sent out with the Council Tax
  - Schools
  - Parish/Town Councils
  - Press releases
  - Newsletters
  - Websites (County, District, Parish/Town, NHS, Police etc.)
- Clerk to Alcester Town and Bidford Parish Councils very supportive and work closely with their colleagues at County and District.
- Cllr. James added that the measure of success of a Local Community Forum is the number of local residents attending – not the number of officers.
- There is some work going on to see if funds can be made available via Local Forums.
- Cllr. Gerrard stated that he had always been interested in community development (such as that offered locally by The Jolly Teapot, the Village Liaison Officer and the Appraisal Group) and he saw the local Community Forums as an extension of this development.  
There is still some work to be done in respect of bringing in health to

the meetings as well as members of the smaller villages who are still to attend

The Chairman thanked Amanda Wilson-Patterson and then declared the Open Forum

- Marleigh Park – the signpost that had been removed from the footpath was being used to damage the fence.  
The Clerk advised it had finally been removed from the area by County Council, and added the fence was being replaced.
- Big Meadow:
  - Why had the work on the play area started just before the Easter break and then left for a period of 4/5 days?  
Due to the conditions of the grant that had been awarded, the work had to start in the financial year 2009/10. Work should have started slightly earlier but, due to the bad winter weather, the company installing the equipment was delayed.
  - Why had compost been put around the trees?  
Extensive tree work had been carried out, and it had been agreed that in order to protect the tree trunks from the mower and other vehicles, it would be a good idea to plant wild flower seeds round the trunks, which would also, hopefully, improve the area.
- Skate Park – what was happening?  
A site visit was taking part next day and it is hoped designs and costs would be available soon for the Parish Council to discuss. Cost was an issue due to the area being on the flood plane.
- United Carriers/Friday Furlong what was happening?  
SDC had met with the owners of both and have given a deadline for proposals to be sent. There had to be a balance between what the owners would be prepared to do and what would ideally be expected.
- Medical Centre – this has to move soon (it is already overcrowded) and there was the fear it would move outside the village.  
The developers of Friday Furlong have now reached agreement of S106 – the number of affordable houses – and are prepared to transfer the land for the medical centre to the doctors.
- Some residents enquired if the Parish Council would support events on the Big Meadow, such as the carnivals etc.  
The Council's reply was positive but it added that a lot depended on volunteers, which were not forthcoming. A number of proposed events had not been able to go ahead due to lack of response. In respect of the carnival itself, the particular issue here was the new health and safety regulations and requirement for risk assessments that had made it too burdensome for the event to continue.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm – members of the public clapped and thanked the Council.