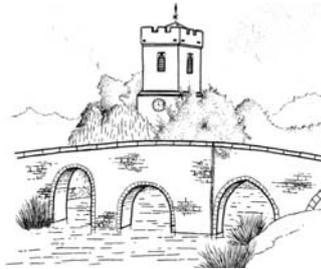


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2012 at 7.30 p.m. at The Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

ATTENDANCE

Cllrs. Gerrard (Chairman), Atkins, Fleming, Hill, Mrs. Keeley, Sandle, Spiers and Williams

District Cllrs. James

Mrs. E. Uggerløse Clerk to the Parish Council

Also present: 20 members of the public.

Invited speakers:

PC Pete Essex and PCSO Becky Morris, Warwickshire Police

Balvinder Heran, Head of Customer Services at Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Cllr. Gerrard 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 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman
2. Chairman's Report 2011/12: this was read out by the Chairman and is attached hereto.
3. The Chairman introduced the first guest speakers: PC Pete Essex and PCSO Becky Morris from Warwickshire Police .
 - PC Pete Essex introduced himself and distributed sheets containing contact details for himself and his team.

- He assured members of the public that there was continued police cover both by himself and his team and, in their absence, the reactive team from Leamington.
- In case of an emergency the number to call was still 999. For non emergencies call the mobile number and, if the team was not on duty, then call 101 – this is a new number that takes the caller directly to the Police
- The Police was aware of the anti-social behaviour that had taken place on the Big Meadow last year and had met with the Parish Council and West Mercia Police to discuss this – the main reason was that traveller site at Cleeve Prior .
He stressed the importance that all incidents be reported directly to the Police not through Elisabeth (the Clerk).
The Big Meadow was a Community Forum Priority (there are 3 agreed priorities chosen at each forum) and will, therefore, receive attention.
- Police would be making cards with contact details available so they could be given to users of the Big Meadow
- PCSO Becky Morris introduced herself – she has been in Bidford since December 2011 and was getting to know the area and agreed the big Meadow was one of the main problem areas, especially in the spring/summer.
- Speeding was another big concern for a lot of residents.
- Welford residents had expressed a wish to become involved in Community Speedwatch: members of the community receive training to use a speed gun. Training requires 12 people to be interested, Welford had 4 and PCSO Morris was inviting interested Bidford residents to take part in this partnership working.
Offenders are sent caution letters.

Residents raised the following issues:

- There were still many HGVs crossing Bidford bridge on a regular basis.
The Police asked that registration numbers and/or company names be taken and the police duly informed.
The Clerk advised that she should be informed of any Spanish HGV and she would contact them directly.
- Drugs
Police depend on information supplied by residents. Information sheets were available and were very useful to the Police

The Chairman thanked Warwickshire Police

4. The Chairman then introduced Balvinder Heran, who made a presentation regarding Broadband: Improving Rural Broadband in Stratford District, which is attached hereto.

The main points were:

- SDC wants to be able to deliver online services throughout the district. In order to be able to do this, it requires a good Broadband service and has gone into partnership with the University of Coventry, who have a good record in obtaining external funding.
- Government has given funds of £4m to Warwickshire County Council to allow it to improve the Broadband service in the county – Stratford District is the area with the largest percentage of poor reception.
- SDC has successfully approached lottery funds on behalf of Parish/Town Councils and has prepared some application forms on their behalf for approval by the individual Parish/Town Councils should they wish to take up this offer.
- More details will be made available regarding the mapping of the black, grey and white areas within the parish
- It was important residents complete an online questionnaire prepared by County Council – the more people respond the better the chances of an improved service as demand for this improvement will be measured by the number of completed questionnaires in the area.
- The grey areas will be funded locally by SDC – the black areas will be covered by the telecommunication companies as they will get a good return and the white areas will be covered by the Government funding – SDC is keen that the grey areas are not lost!
- The aim is to achieve 10Meg of actual speed
- Orbit, the main social housing provider has been approached and agreed to fund low income families the monthly cost of having broadband for a period of 2 years.
- Procurement was now starting. Government timetable was for all households to have faster broadband by March 2015 – Balvinder stressed her aim was to see this happen in Stratford District much faster.

Balvinder then explained the new Community Access which was being installed in the new community library

- Offers face to face experience
- Users will be able to scan and send documents directly to SDC; pay council tax bills etc.
- Has proved very successful in other places it has been installed such as Alcester and Southam
- Excellent use for Bidford Community Library Ltd

Balvinder thanked the Parish Council for its support

5. Perkins Trust Report

Cllr. Spiers, together with Cllr. Hiscocks, the Parish Council's representative on the Board of Trustees, read a report which is attached hereto.

6. Bidford Community Library Ltd (BCL)

Before inviting Kim James, as Company Secretary, to give an update on BCL, the Chairman took the opportunity to thank Cllr. James, for his diligence and hard work on behalf of the Parish Council and the local community, over the last 10 years: he would be sorely missed.

Cllr James thanked the Chairman and proceed to present the update

- BCL opened its doors for the first time on Monday 2nd April @ 10.00 am
- There had been a steady flow of people, including children throughout the day
- BCL was being run by approx. 50 volunteers at different levels of training. It was very pleasing to see the number of people who so enthusiastically gave up their own time to ensure the library remained open
- All volunteers and directors were CRB vetted
- There were currently 7 directors
- BCL needed between £9 – 15k per annum and the £5,000 grant from Bidford Parish Council was a great help and allowed the directors to sleep easy.
- The Directors were determined to make BCL a success and to support the volunteers who would make this possible,
- The opportunity of becoming a Friend of BCL was being offered at £5 per household which give the right to a vote at the AGM

Cllr. James finished by saying that BCL had been possible thanks to the Parish Council which always put the community first and was always at the forefront of any campaign – had it been in place 20 years ago, the High School would probably not have closed! It had been an honour and a privilege to work with them the last 10 years.

7. Open Forum

- Would it be an idea for the Parish Council to contact the local MP Nadim Zahawi to see what could be done about the old United Carriers building

The Clerk advised that the Council had received an email on Friday (30th March) from the representatives of the owners of the building, asking for a meeting with the Parish Council, which had been set for the next planning meeting on Monday 16th April.

Cllr. James added that the owner appeared to be keen to dispose of the site and there were two large multinationals who have expressed interest.

- Ash tree - were there any “before” photos?
Contractor was looking into this and would let the Council have them if available, In the meantime, the arboriculture offer at SDC had seen the “after” photo and although he agreed that it looked drastic, he believed the tree would survive as ash trees are resilient.
- Neighbourhood Plan – what was the time scale?
 - Contact details were on the leaflets
 - Required between 20 -25 interested people to form the steering group which should be as diverse as possible
 - |Launching meeting would be at the Crawford Memorial Hall where residents would be invited to register their interest
 - Questionnaires have to be prepared, delivered, collected and analysed – it should be easier this time that when the original Parish Plan was prepared in 2002 as:
 - The original questionnaires are still available
 - Simon Purfield from SDC, an expert in this field, would be working with the steering group

The Chairman ended the meeting by thanking all who attended.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.50 pm