



**Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

**PRESENT :**

Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Mrs. Keeley, Gerrard, Hiscocks, Langston and Sandle.  
The RFO, Mr. V. Hully

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Langston proposed Cllr. Gerrard as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Sandle. Cllr. Gerrard was duly elected Chairman of the Committee with the full support of those present.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received, and accepted, for Cllrs. Mrs. Getgood, Moore and Spiers.

**FREQUENCY OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Chairman proposed that the committee meet once every alternate month and asked the RFO if he would be able to produce the required financial data for these meetings. The RFO replied that currently the system is not set up for this and he would have to look into the matter and let the Parish Council know.

Meeting once a quarter was also proposed.

It was resolved that the Committee should meet six times a year.

**REVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE FINANCIAL BUDGET 2004/05**

The RFO gave all the councillors up to date figures of income and expenditure and explained these in detail.

The following items required immediate attention:

- SDC had not remitted the agreed amount of £5,434.52 in respect of the Agreement between SDC and the Parish Council for St. Laurence's Churchyard – the clerk was requested to contact SDC regarding this matter

- The Parish Council has not invoiced The Upper Avon Navigation Trust Ltd for services rendered re water supply and collection of rubbish at Bidford moorings since June 2001.  
The clerk was requested to calculate the amounts due in years 2002, 2003 and 2004, with the assistance of the RFO, and invoice accordingly.
- The Parish Council has not invoiced Mark Smith for the use of the mower to fulfill his contract from April to end September 2004 at the rate of £1 per hour as per the contract.  
The clerk was requested to raise the appropriate invoice
- Basketball pitch – to cover the expense of the new basketball pitch, it was agreed that funds should be taken from the play area renewal reserve which would go overdrawn this year.  
The play area in Jubilee Close will require separate funds.
- Crawford Hall and Bowling Club grants – Copy of the SDC Minutes when this was granted to be made available and a meeting with SDC Cllrs. James and Slaughter to be arranged as soon as possible.

#### **PREPARATION OF THE 2005/06 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

- The RFO requested the Clerk to contact SDC and obtain the tax base figure to enable him to make the necessary calculation
- Mention was made that the Parish Council had a historically low precept demand, especially compared to other, smaller Parish Councils who had higher figures, and it was proposed that the precept demand for 2005/06 should be substantially increased to allow the Parish Council to improve the services to the Village.
- It was agreed that at the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> December, the councillors would detail their demands and give figures to the RFO for him to make the necessary calculations for the precept demand.
- It was resolved that a third meeting would be arranged in January 2005, when the RFO would present the precept demand figures.

#### **EXTENSION TO THE BROOM VILLAGE HALL GRANT**

It was agreed to extend the period of the grant and the Clerk was requested to verify the amount the Parish Council had agreed to give the Broom Village Hall Committee from previous Minutes.

It was proposed that a similar arrangement be made as with the Crawford Hall i.e. that the Parish Council be the custodians of the Broom Village Hall and the Clerk was requested to obtain details of the legal status of the owners of the Broom Village Hall and obtain advice from the legal department at SDC.

The meeting ended at approx. 9.45 p.m.