



**Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004  
at 7.30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Gerrard, Chairman  
Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Mrs. Getgood, Mrs. Keely, Hiscocks, Langston and Sandle  
The RFO V. Hully also present

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received, and accepted, from Cllrs. Moore and Spiers

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2004 was proposed by Cllr. Langston

**PROPOSED MEETING DATES**

The Chairman proposed the RFO to be present at four of the meetings:

- January meeting when the precept is set
- End of April to agree the account of the year just ended
- A meeting in September to check the state of the finances against the agreed budget and revise estimates if necessary
- A meeting in November/December to discuss the budget and precept requirements for the next year.

The RFO agreed and advised that this would be acceptable although he believed the burden of work has escalated since he first took on the job. The clerk was requested to look at the minutes regarding the RFO's employment, and any other information relating to his job description.

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

The RFO distributed detailed sheets of the income and expenditure to date as well as projected figures to the end of this financial year. He expressed concern regarding the grant for the refurbishment of the Crawford Hall and Bowling Club but was assured that,

at a meeting with District Councillors James and Slaughter on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the Council had been informed that the monies from this grant, for an amount of £250,000, would be forthcoming, which would result in the Council having reserves for the year 2005/06.

The following were discussed and agreed and the RFO asked to use these figures when producing the budget/precept for the year 2005/06

- Big Meadow car park – the fees to remain unchanged. It has been noted over the years that visitors are using the free car parks instead of paying the fee of £2.00. It was, therefore, unanimously agreed that it would mean even fewer people using it if the fees were to be increase.
- Burial and cemetery charges to be increased by £15 from April 2005
- Allotment charges to increase by 10% in April 2006. The tenants, who have to be given 12 months notice, to be advised in March at the same time as the rent collection requests are sent.
- Streetlight maintenance – 10 new street lamps (this would take into account the ones that WCC have already advised require replacement plus some new ones) Streetlight electricity to be increased to 10% to take into account increased rates as well as new street lights being adopted by the Council
- Village Hall expenditures we agreed at £5,000 – to include a grant to Broom Village Hall.
- Various councillors expressed the view that something should be done to improve the look of the village. It was proposed that some funds should be put towards installing some more benches around the village, as well as bicycle racks (or similar) and the sum of £5,000 was agreed. It was also proposed, and agreed, that Beautiful Bidford should be given £3,000
- It was proposed that the Councillors Allowance, recently adopted by the Parish Council, should be utilized to allow them to attend functions which would benefit and improve the managing of the Council
- Donations and Grants to be given on the same basis as the year 2004/05
- Staff salaries to be increased by 3%

### **BROOM VILLAGE HALL GRANT**

As requested, the Clerk had looked into this and it was agreed that the grant figure for the year 2004/05 was £2,500 part of which has already been spent. The balance to be used within this financial year. It was agree that if the Broom Village Hall Committee felt they required a photocopier then grant money could be used for this.

### **LIST OF PARISH COUNCIL ASSETS**

### **PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCES AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

It was proposed and agreed to postpone the above until the next meeting

**CLERK'S REMUNERATION**

It was proposed and agreed that the Clerks salary should be increased on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 six months from commencement of employment and independent from the annual increase due in April.

The meeting ended at approx. 10.15 pm