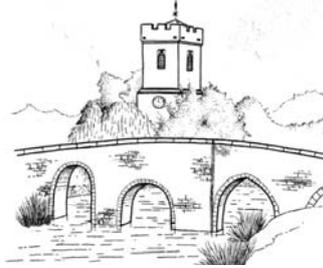


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 23rd November at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT:

Cllr. Gerrard – Chairman

Cllrs. Ms. Deacon, Mrs. Keeley, Hendey, Hiscocks, Langston, Sandle, and Spiers and the RFO

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. Ms. Varga and Smith

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25th OCTOBER 2005

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley as being accurate and signed by the Chairman

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members agreed to comply with the advice of External Auditors and amend question (b) of Section 3 to NO. The Clerk was requested to inquire from WALC whether this would make a difference in the Council's aspirations to acquire Quality Status.

4. CRAWFORD HALL

Members expressed concern that previous Parish Council Minutes in the months of July and August refer to "loans" made to the Crawford Hall and Bowling Club. It was agreed that the Minutes are inaccurate as all the improvement work carried out at the Crawford Hall and Bowling Club had been ordered and paid for by the Parish Council – therefore no loans had been made to either institution.

It was acknowledged that Stratford District Council had misled the Parish Council on a number of occasions when it was not made clear that the grant for £250,000 toward the improvement work at the Crawford Hall and Social Centre had strings attached.

The result is that the capital reserve of the Parish Council is now reduced by £50,000, although it should be noted that Members have requested this £50,000 should be given, in its entirety to the Broom Village Hall Committee, thus keeping the grant within the Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council and for the benefit of its Village Halls.

5. GRANTS

Three requests had been received :

Bidford Community; St. John's Ambulance; Bidford-on-Avon Sports Club

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that

Bidford Community be given £400

St. John's Ambulance £500 and

Bidford –on-Avon Sports Club £1,000

It was also resolved that the usual donations to local charities and institutions be continued.

6. ANTI VIRUS – AUTHORISATION TO RENEW

The Council's computer's anti virus package is due for renewal. The cheapest and most effective way of renewing this is on line. However, this requires payment by credit card. It was therefore resolved that the clerk could use her private credit card to renew the anti virus package. It was also resolved, that authorization should be sought and given annually.

7. PREPARATION OF THE 2006/07 BUDGET

Members discussed the various improvements they would like to see in the village in the forthcoming year, as well as the additional costs that the withdrawal of Section 136 , the taking on the fields at the rear of Dugdale Avenue and the adoption of Midsummer Gardens amongst others.

The RFO took note of these and will prepare figures for discussion at the next meeting date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.45