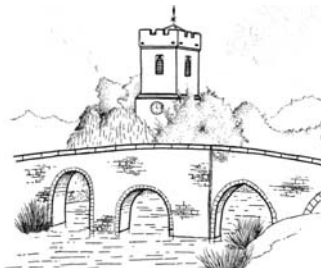


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Participatory Budget Meeting of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Monday 7th December 2009 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.

PRESENT:

Chairman : Cllr. Gerrard
Cllrs. Mrs. Getgood, Mrs. Keeley, Hendey, Hill, Hiscocks,
Langston, Sandle, Spiers and Williams

Also present: 5 members of the public, which included 2 youngsters.

In attendance: Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

All members of the Council are reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20th August 2007 if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have Declared an Interest which could be prejudicial, they should withdraw from the room and not seek to improperly influence a decision about that matter

None declared

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY MEETING OF 17TH AUGUST 2009

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

This being a Participatory Budget Meeting, the Parish council had invited residents to attend to make known their thoughts and wishes for improving

Bidford and the quality of life of its residents.

The 5 members of the public that did attend were very keen for the Parish Council to install a Skate Park in the Big Meadow Area. They were aware that plans had been put forward, following a consultation in October, and wished to make their support known to the Council.

The Committee made it clear that the refurbishment of the Big Meadow play area was a 2/3 year project, but that it understood the importance of the skate park. The proposals put forward were:

- Look at the skate park in Studley and speak to the Youth Club for advice and tips
- At least start the groundwork, which should be done in one go, not piecemeal
- Contact businesses in the industrial estate for possible sponsoring
- Look into ways to minimize the installation costs by investigating possibilities of contractors digging up the area and removing the top soil at no, or very little, cost
- Once the tarmac was laid, then the installation of the equipment itself could be done in phases, building it up as funds become available

The Committee agreed to look into these proposals and include some of the costs involved in its budget.

5. TO REVIEW THE QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS JULY- SEPT. 2009 (circulated)

The Committee noted the documents sent by the RFO were now easy to read and follow.

There were some queries which required clarification from the RFO, namely:

- S137 – the expenditure appeared to be very high and exceeded the budgeted amount
- £7,500 miscellaneous expenses – details required
- Bad debt – clarification of this item required
- General expenses – details required

RESOLVED – the Clerk to seek clarification from the Responsible Financial Officer

6. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXPENDITURES:

- Gully cleansing – between £3,500 and £4,000 (depending on number)

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure

7. INCOME PROPOSALS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CLERK

The following expenditures for 2010/11 were proposed:

- Continue the installation of seats and bins throughout the village
 - Cost of seats £3,300
 - Cost of litter bins : 780
 - Cost of dog bins : 1,500

- Continue the programme of street light replacement
 - Cost of 5 street lights 7,460
- Planting of flower boxes – increase the number from 12 to 16
 - Cost : 5,000
- To continue the lengthman project
 - Cost 10,000
- Play equipment – in addition to the expected funds from two S106 agreements and a Play Builder Grant:
 - Cost 40,000
- Tree planting project for the Big Meadow
 - Cost 10,000
- Funds for the cemetery reserves
 - Cost : 2,000
- Purchase of 2 CPR units for the local First Responder Team
 - Cost : 2,000
- Village Gateways
 - Cost 4,000
- Office Computer
 - Cost 750
- Towards Youth Transport Scheme
 - Cost 900
- General repairs following vandalism
 - Cost 3,000
- Purchase of 2 mobile speed activated signs
 - Cost 5,000
- Bidford Youth Club
 - Cost 5,000
- University of Gloucester (2 year course starting Sept. 2010)
 - Cost 3,500
- Parking area on Big Meadow (towards reserve)
 - Cost 1,000

RESOLVED the above list to be given to the RFO to be included in the first Budget Proposal to be presented to Committee at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – all other, normal, expenditure items to be increased by 5%

RESOLVED Income figures to be agreed at the next meeting

The meeting ended at approx. 9.30 pm.