

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Thursday 2nd December 2010 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.

PRESENT:

Chairman : Cllr. Gerrard
Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley, Hill, Langston, Sandle, Spiers

Also present: 2 members of the public

In attendance: Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council
Vaughan Hully, Responsible Financial Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Hiscocks and Williams sent their apologies which were accepted by the Council

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 8TH NOVEMBER 2010

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley as being accurate, subject to a typographical error regarding Item 7 being corrected: it should read £2,000 and not £2, 00. This was amended and initialed by the Clerk. The Minutes were then accepted and signed by the Chairman of the Committee.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

- The Council should take the present economic climate into account
 - There are many pensioners whose pensions have been frozen
- Members of the Council pointed out that 5 of the members present were also pensioners, but they were also proud to live in Bidford and would continue to try and improve it.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN REGARDING THE PARISH PLAN UPDATE (circulated)

The Chairman referred to the report which had been circulated and added that there was still a long way to go, but that the Council wishes to continue the improvement, where possible, to ensure it is a forward looking village..

6. TO CONSIDER BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2011/12 INCLUDING REPLIES FROM THE TWO DROP IN CONULSTATIONS

Updated figures for the 2010/11 Budget together with précis of the comments received had been made available to members.

The RFO gave a verbal report on the figure to which there were no queries raised.

Regarding the 2011/12 budget it was **RESOLVED** the following items be included by the RFO in the budget proposal:

- General increase of 3% to take into account any increases that may occur in services used by the council
- Renewal of 5 streetlights @ £7,500. This will enable the Council to transfer the responsibility the lights on Holder close and Cox Close back to WCC
- Big Meadow - £5,000 toward the refurbishment of the toilets
- Picnic benches x 6 : £900
- Ollerton benches x 3 : £1,875
- Lengthman (verge and grass mowing maintenance); £10,000
- Grants : the Council agreed that there would be a great demand for grants from village groups and association as it became more difficult to obtain funds from other parties. It therefore **RESOLVED** to put aside £20,000

The Council **RESOLVED** the following increases:

- Entrance fee to the Big Meadow car park to be increased to £2.50
- Cemetery charges to incase by £10 across all items
- Charges to Bidford Juniors FC for the use of the playing fields to the rear of Dugdale Avenue to increase to £200
- Charge to the Sports Association for the use of the playing fields to increase to £1,500

The Council discussed a proposed increase to the Allotment fees. However, in view of the cost involved in advising tenants, due to the statutory legal

requirements in force, it was **RESOLVED** it would be better to increase it by a larger amount in 2015 to make it more cost efficient,

7. TO CONSIDER SWITCHING OFF THE PARISH COUNCIL STREET LIGHTS AT MIDNIGHT

The Clerk advised that:

- Saving on electricity would be of approx. £3,000 per annum
- The cost of changing the photocell would be approx £5,000
- As WCC is responsible for some streetlights within the village, it would mean some areas being lit whereas others would be dark after midnight and this could create some problems.

In view of this it was **RESOLVED** to wait until it became economically beneficial and to learn what WCC's lighting policy would be.

The meeting closed at approx. 9.10 pm