

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Monday 5th December 2011 @ 7.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr. Atkins
Cllrs. Fleming, Gerrard, Hill, Hiscocks, Mrs. Keeley, Langston, Spiers and Williams
Cllr. Sandle arrived late

Also present: 1 member of the public arrived after the start of the meeting

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies. Cllr. Sandle arrived after the start of the meeting

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 14th NOVEMBER 2011

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

4. No one present at the time. One member arrived late
5. **TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT OF THE TWO DROP- IN SESSIONS HELD BY THE PARISH COUNCIL**
It was noted that no one had attended either of the sessions which had been arranged for a Monday evening and a Saturday morning. Despite this, it was **RESOLVED** the council would continue to offer the community the opportunity to discuss the budgets in a more informal way than at a meeting.
6. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU (CAB) FOR FUNDS TO OPERATE ITS OUTREACH PROGRAMME FROM BIDFORD COMMUNITY LIBRARY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/12. AMOUNT REQUIRED IS £3,909.00 (REF. FM Minutes 141111/6)**
the excellent work carried out by the CAB was discussed to ensure the programme offered value to the local community. It was thought that in these tough economic circumstances, their services will be much in need and it was proposed and **RESOLVED** to approve the grant.
7. **TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF THE CLERK'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS AND THE INSTITUTE OF LOCAL COUNCIL MANAGEMENT AT A COST OF £263.**
RESOLVED to approve the expense
8. **TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE COMMUNITIES OF BARTON, BROOM, BIDFORD AND MARLCLIFF IN REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET (circulated)**
Recent communications with the office indicated that the communities had not made a final decision and it was proposed this be postponed until the March 2012 Parish Council meeting.
RESOLVED to make the final decision at the March 2012 meeting. In the event the communities had not made a final decision, this would be made by the Parish Council.
9. **TO CONSIDER GRANT REQUEST FROM BIDFORD CRICKET CLUB FOR A GRANT OF £500**
The Chairman of Bidford Cricket Club was invited to support the request. He advised that it was to extend the practice facilities to take into account the expanding junior section of the club. The club had obtained a £2000 grant from WCC and was raising between £1,000 – £1,500 itself.
RESOLVED to approve the grant for £500.00

10. TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2012/13

The Chairman advised that he would like to work towards a “no change” precept. The RFO reminded the council that best practice recommended the council had reserves of between 6 and 9 months.

Members and the RFO went through the expenditure figures and it was

RESOLVED the following items be included for the 2012/13 budget:

- Big Meadow Toilets : £ 8,000 (to bring electricity)
- Village Liaison Officer £ 600
- Neighbourhood Plan £10,000.
- Street furniture/Signs £ 6,500
- Legal/Professional fees £ 2,500
- Training £ 3,000
- Donations/Grants £20,000
- Big Meadow Trees £ 5,000
- Participatory budget £ 2,000
- CCTV monitoring £ 2,000
- Community links £ 744
- Youth Project £ 5,000
- Bidford Community Library £ 5,000
- Cemetery gate £ 2,000

It was also **RESOLVED** that:

- Cemetery charges would go up by £10 (approx. 5%)
- Allotment charges – as these increased have to be advised at least 12 months in advance, at considerable cost to the council, these should be considered after the new council has been elected in May 2012.
- Grants – a strategy of how the grant funds should be managed by the council to be considered and approved when the new council has been elected in May 2012.

The RFO to produce a budget on the above for approval by the council

The meeting closed at approx. 8.55 pm