

# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 @ 7.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way**

**PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr. Gerrard  
Cllrs. Atkins, Fleming, Harvey, Mrs. Keeley, Pound,  
Mrs. Randell , Spiers and Squires

Also present: 1 member of the public

In attendance: Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

*Apologies received, and accepted, from Cllr. Hiscocks*

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012**

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

As the member of the public was attending in respect of Item 5 on the Agenda, the Chairman moved that this item be considered. This was unanimously supported

**4. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR EXTRA FUNDING FOR THE SPORTS PAVILLION PROJECT ; TO WATER PROOF THE ROOF**

**Total cost: £2,500. Contribution to the either 33% (£825) or 50% (£1,250)**

The Chairman of Bidford Cricket Club explained the reasons for this request : during the refurbishment it has become apparent that the damage caused due to condensation under the roof is quite extensive and, in order to protect the investment of £69,000, he believed waterproofing the roof was essential. The quote received is for £2,500: however, due to the pitch of the roof, it was still uncertain whether this system could be used. If not, it would require dismantling the roof , which would be much more expensive.

Members of the council expressed concern about the uncertainty of whether the system would actually work and, whilst sympathetic to the request, it was felt there was insufficient information to hand for it to make a considered decision.

**RESOLVED** not to consider the request at this meeting. Bidford Cricket Club to work together with the Amenities Group to ascertain the waterproofing could be done and at what cost, and the Amenities Group to present a recommendation to full council at its next meeting.

**5. TO CONSIDER THE HALF YEAR SUMMARY (APRIL – SEPT. 2012) AS PROVIDED BY THE RFO (circulated)**

- Chairman noted the Cemetery and Parks expenses exceeded the income. The latter was no doubt due to the very poor summer.
- All members of the council expressed concern that the very high figure of £27,058 had simply been put under the heading of “miscellaneous expenses”

**RESOLVED** the RFO should be asked to give full details of the items included under this heading

- It was proposed that it would be useful to have forecast to the end of the year as there were a number of costs that were fixed:

**RESOLVED** to request the RFO to produce a forecast to the end of the year

**6. TO CONSIDER**

- **Correspondence from WALC regarding Precept Setting 2013/12 and Tips on Budgeting**

- **NOTED** that Government would be deciding on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2012 whether or not Parish/Town Council should be capped. This would not affect the Precept should it remain unchanged, be reduced, or be increased by no more than 2%

- **NOTED** that the Council should consider the possible following expenses:

- Projector to be used at Planning Committee Meetings.
- Professional Fees – there could be an increase use of professionals due to planning application challenges

➤ Reserves – apart from the allocated reserves for such things as

- ✓ Grange Road cemetery wall
- ✓ Cemetery drive
- ✓ Funds towards play equipment that will have to be replaced in 20/25 years time

There should reserves to cover approx.. the cost of 9 months at any time.

- **Notification of WALC's Subs levels for 2013/14 (circulated)**  
**RESOLVED** to approve the level of £887.00

#### 7. **TO CONSIDER BUDGET/PRECEPT 2013/14 (first draft circulated)**

The Chairman asked each councilor whether there was anything he/she was keen to see carried out in the parish the next year:

- **Community Directory** – this will no longer be provided by Bidford Community Group, but it was seen as an important source of information for all residents and should continue. It was stressed, however, that it should be at zero cost to the council. It was proposed that the advertising be increased to cover costs
- **Participatory Budget** - £2,000 to be allocated for this - £500 per settlement
- **Parish Plan** – if unused by the end of this financial year, the allocated £510,000 should be transferred to the next financial year and a further £5,000 allocated

The Council then considered the figures presented in the draft

- Concerns were expressed regarding presentation which made it difficult for councilors to be understand them.
  - Again, the term miscellaneous expenditure was very high at £130,362 and unexplained – and it was impossible for councilors to guess what it covered
  - The figure of Other Income at £81,000 was likewise unexplained.

Under these circumstances, the Council felt it was impossible to be able to even consider a budget and it was **RESOLVED THAT:**

- A further Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting be called for either 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> December to be attended by the RFO
- The RFO come prepared with ALL figures
- Allotment and Burials Working Group meet and revise costs
- Amenities Working Group meet to consider the costs to be charged by groups using Parish Council facilities

The meeting closed at approx.. 9.10 pm