

# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 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

In attendance: Vaughan Hully, Responsible Financial Officer and  
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**

*Cllrs. Gerrard declared an interest as his wife is the Village Liaison Officer*

**3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

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

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

*None present*

**5. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LOCAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION SERVICES (WALC) IN RESPECT OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE PRECEPTS TOGETHER WITH REPORT (CIRCULATED)**

The Clerk was able to make the following updates:

- Tax Base figure for 2013/14 was confirmed at £1,769.40
- Council Tax Support Grant figure was confirmed at £23,830.
- The Government had made the decision **not** to cap Parish/Town Councils in 2013/14

**RESOLVED** to note the report and the update

**6. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM THE ALLOTMENTS AND BURIALS WORKING GROUP (circulated)**

After some discussion regarding the Parish Council's policy as to whether the Parish Council's policy should be to cover all cemetery costs, including the maintenance of the closed churchyard and the closed Grange Road Cemetery, or whether it should be subsidies by the Precept, it was **RESOLVED**:

- To note the Allotments Report
- To approve the recommendation of the Working Group regarding the burial charges but that the Working Group should consider the policy options and make a further recommendation to be applied in 2014.

**7. TO CONSIDER BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2013/14**

Figures showing Parish Council's actual income/expenditure to November 2012 and the forecast to the end of the Year had been circulated to all Councillors. Projected figures for next year's Budget were also circulated.

Members went through the income and expenditure figures for the current year with the RFO

- **Income -**
  - **Big Meadow**
    - Car parking fees – it was noted these were down due to the very bad summer
    - Sundry Hire and lettings – there was an increase to the expected income and Councillors requested a breakdown to establish whether this was a hike or a trend
  - **Allotments** – charges to remain the same for this year. Changes following meeting with the Midlands representatives of the Allotments Association to apply from 2014.
  - **Cemeteries** – new charges, a recommended by the Working Group, and approved by Council, to apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013
  - **Interest** – interest from the High Interest Deposit Account to be included
- **Expenditure**
  - **Big Meadow**

- Toilet cleansing – increase by 3%
- Lease – unchanged
- Lease of The Leys – unchanged
- Water rates : increase to £500
- Waste disposal – an extra £500 to be used for recycling
- Buildings (toilets) - £8,000
- Trees - £1,575
- Major repairs £750
- Sundry expenses ; £1,010
- **Cemeteries**
  - Wages – delete (it is now on contract)
  - Rates –
  - Buildings - £500
- **Streetlights**
  - Electricity supply – increase by 5%
  - Floodlights £320
  - Maintenance £4,000
  - New streetlights - £5,500
- **Agency work**
  - Mowing £10,000
  - Hedging and ditching £1,600
  - Play area maintenance £12,710
  - Litter picking £3,70
- **Allotments**
  - Water rates £610
  - Maintenance £780
- **Grants**
  - Increase to £25,000 – the following amounts already allocated
  - Bidford Community Library £5,000
  - Sports Pavilion Project : £5000
- **Lengthman** – increase by 5%
- **Tree Maintenance** £530
- **Village Liaison Officer** £220
- **Village Hall etc.** Item to be specified as Sports Pavilion
- **Parish Plan** – This year’s allocation to go into reserve (£10,000)  
Further £10,00 for 2013/14
- **Village Improvements** : £10,000
- **War Memorial** - £500
- **Street furniture** £5,360
- **Professional/Legal Fees** £5,000
- **Audit fees** £2,000
- **Subscriptions** £1,500
- **Insurance** £5,140

- **Reserves** – all items to be allocated the normal annual increase

**RESOLVED** The RFO to recalculate the budget based on the discussions held and present new figures at the next meeting to be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January (after the Planning meeting)

The meeting closed at approx.. 10.15 p.m.