

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



**Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Wednesday 3rd
December 2014 @ 7.30 pm at the Crawford Memorial Hall Meeting Room,
Salford Road**

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Cllr. Mrs Randell

Cllrs.

Atkins, Ms Deacon, Fleming, Harvey, Hiscocks,
Mrs. Keeley, Knight and Spiers

In attendance:

Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council
Vaughan Hully, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- All members of the Council are respectfully reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 30th July 2012, if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) they should leave the room

There were none

- Written requests for Dispensations for DPI should be received by the Clerk no more than 24 hours prior to the meeting.
Dispensations will be granted as appropriate

There were none

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2013

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

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None present

5. TO NOTE

- Increase in the cost of the unmetered electricity supply of 4.5% - from 10.5015p per KWP to 10.9961p per KWP

RESOLVED to note the increase

- Salaries applicable from 1st January 2015 (circulated)

RESOLVED to note the increase

6. TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT COST OF 5 STREET COLUMNS (report circulated)

The Clerk proposed the Council consider replacing 4 columns on The Leys with the 32W LED lantern columns at a cost of £1,311.89 each and with a 24W column at a cost of £1267.89, for the footpath – this follows WCC recommendations.

This would complete the replacement of all the street lights on The Leys which could then be returned to WCC.

RESOLVED to approve the proposal and replace the streetlights on The Leys.

7. TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET/PRECEPT

The RFO had prepared a draft document based on the new Tax Base, number of dwellings/residents to cover the costs of managing the Council, which had been circulated to Councillors.

- It was noted that the Council Tax Benefit Grant, had been reduced to £16,230.00
- Based on the projections presented, a motion was put forward that, to ensure Council continues to move forward in these challenging times, which included the costs involved with delivering the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the new Action Plan which will deliver the Council's 5 Year Strategic Plan, an increase of 1.5%, which is the rate of inflation, should be made.

This was immediately followed by a counter proposal that no increase should be made and Tax Band D rate should remain unchanged from the

previous year.

There followed a short discussion, during which it was noted that there had been no increases in the last two years which was followed by a vote on the counter proposal which received 1 vote on favour and 9 against.

RESOLVED to approve the motion that the Precept be increased by 1.5% which is the rate of inflation.

- Grange Road Cemetery Reserve: it was noted that the cost for repairing the wall on the south boundary would be approx. £18k leaving a balance of £17k which the Clerk had proposed be transferred to a newly formed War Memorial Reserve, as the Council has been made aware that this will have to be replaced due to safety issues.

However, it was pointed out that the reserve should remain as the wall on the west boundary may require repairing.

After some discussion as to whether or not a new reserve fund for the War Memorial should be started, a motion was put forward that £10,000 be put into a War Memorial Reserve.

RESOLVED by 8 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention that a new Reserve for the replacement of the War Memorial be started.

- Burials Working Group proposed that all fees be increased by £5.00 with effect from 1st April 2015.

RESOLVED to approve this increase.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.10 pm