

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 29th September, 2003, at 7.30 p.m., in the Parish Meeting-Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.

Present: Chairman Councillor F. J. Hiscocks
Councillors Mrs. Hodgetts, Mrs. Irving, Mrs. Keeley, Langston,
Moore, Mrs. Owen, Smith and Spiers.
District Councillors James and Pemberton
County Councillor Barnes

Apologies were received from District Councillor Slaughter.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Jean Walker, the new Parish Clerk, and thanked the previous Clerk, Mrs. Elizabeth Kidner, for her work over the last fourteen years. Cllr. Hiscocks said that Mrs. Walker would work in the new Parish Office and, once various alterations had been made and she had settled in, the office would be open to the public, at specific times, on days when the Library was open. Mrs. Walker could be contacted on (01789) 778653, during office hours.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Every Councillor present declared an interest in the Adopted District Local Plan and the First Deposit Draft (January 2002) and the Revised Deposit Draft (January 2003) of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review 1996-2011.

Councillor Hiscocks:

Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee

Councillor Mrs. Hodgetts:

School Governor – Bidford-on-Avon School and Alcester High School.

Councillor Mrs. Irving:

Bidford Community Group

Councillor Mrs. Keeley:

Bidford Christmas Lights and Bidford Luncheon Club.

Councillor Langston:

Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee & Bidford Christmas Lights and Planning Application no. 03/02852/FUL.

Councillor Moore:

Bidford Christmas Lights, Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee and Friday Furlong.

Councillor Mrs. Owen:

Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee

Councillor Smith:

Big Meadow, M.G.S. Garden Services and Bidford Car Boot Sale.

Councillor Spiers:

Bidford Christmas Lights

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions, but Mr. Mike Gerrard praised the Parish Council's web-site.

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED UNDER "ANY OTHER BUSINESS"

Councillor Hiscocks:

The seat in Glebe Close.

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Councillor Smith:

- Ragwort in car park at Bidford School. WCC to be informed.
- “Toilet for Disabled” sign on the lighting column next to “The Dilshad” showed the toilet as being over the bridge, instead of in the High Street. The Clerk to chase SDC.

Councillor Mrs. Owen:

The speed limit on Marriage Hill.

Councillor Mrs. Keeley:

- Lack of signs in Saxonfields car park.
- Poor state of hedgerows.

District Councillor James said that a “No Tipping” sign had been put on display in the car park and, from now on, if rubbish was left there, the Clerk should notify SDC and Biffa would clear it away the next day. The scheme to collect green waste from houses, rather than a central site, had not yet started in Bidford.

With regard to the poor state of the hedgerows, Cllr. James said he would arrange to meet Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, to look at the various sites, and he apologised for not having been in touch with her earlier. (Mins. 1.9.03 – page four – “Items to be included under “Any Other Business” refers)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Improvements to Victoria Road had not been included in WCC’s 2004/05 budget, but they had been included in the five-year programme.

Narrow pavement – Grafton Lane (Mins. 1.9.03 – page four – “Questions” refers)

Cllr. Barnes said that, despite his best efforts, WCC had not agreed to carry out this work. He said he intended to raise the matter at WCC’s Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee meeting on 1st October, 2003, and this would mean that WCC would have to give him a written reply, explaining what action would be taken. Cllr. Mrs. Keeley said that she would attend the meeting.

Poor State of Landscaping on the School/Library/Parish site (Min. 03/227 refers)

The original contractor had gone out of business and a new one had been appointed. However, owing to the prolonged dry spell currently being experienced, it was unlikely that any major work would be carried out until there had been significant rainfall.

Electric blankets could be tested at Stratford Fire Station on 23rd October, 2003, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Cllr. Barnes said that new rules and regulations would come into force very shortly re. ear-tagging and passports for horses, donkeys, mules and asses. Different rules would apply for thoroughbred race horses.

The “old” Bidford School site had now been sold and there would, therefore, be some “planning gain” for the Parish. Cllr. Barnes said he had asked for affordable homes.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st September, 2003, were approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

(Prop. Cllr. Langston, sec. Cllr. Smith)

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The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September, 2003, were approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true record.
(Prop. Cllr. Mrs. Hodgetts, sec. Cllr. Mrs. Keeley)

POLICE MATTERS

P.C. Gateley said that, in the last month, there had been “six reports of violence against persons in the Parish; only three had been referred to the Crime Prosecution Service”. He went on to list various other crimes, including burglaries, theft from vehicles, “auto crimes”, “drive-offs” from the Texaco Garage and a stolen vehicle crashing into the railings outside “The Dilshad” Restaurant.

P.C. Gateley said that the Police Office in Bramley Way was still not up and running; he was still waiting for the office equipment to be delivered and installed.

Cllr. Hiscocks said that young people were still meeting at the seat on the corner of Glebe Close and causing a nuisance at night. Mr. Jim Rawlings said that some of the young people seemed to be showing a more responsible attitude but, even so, on Fridays and Saturdays, from late night until early morning, there was always “noise and mess” and “the drunks were not capable of being reasoned with”.

P.C. Gateley said that, in such situations, the Police should be called.

Cllr. Hiscocks said that people reporting such incidents needed to obtain a crime number.

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley asked P.C. Gateley whether he could patrol the “hot-spots” in the Parish on Friday and Saturday nights. He replied that he **did** patrol Broom play area, Glebe Close seat, et cetera. He added that “difficult times” [and “problem” areas] applied to all villages, but he was already doing what Cllr. Mrs. Keeley wanted him to do.

In reply to a question from District Councillor Pemberton, P.C. Gateley said that there was “no noticeable trend, one way or another” with regard to the latest crime statistics for Bidford-on-Avon.

Cllr. Mrs. Hodgetts said she had been informed that people who had reported incidents to “Crimestoppers” had not been given a crime number and she was concerned about this.

P.C. Gateley said if people thought that a particular incident warranted a prompt Police response, then they must call the Police, using the 999 emergency number.

03/228 PLANNING

RESULT OF APPEALS

02/03800/OUT

Mr. E. J. Smith

“Dry Furlong”, Cleeve Road, Marlcliff, Bidford-on-Avon.

Erection of 1 no. dwelling and garage.

P.C. Objection D.C. Refusal

APPEAL DISMISSED

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02/03804/OUT

Mr. E. J. Smith

“Dry Furlong”, Cleeve Road, Marlcliff, Bidford-on-Avon.

Erection of 4 no. semi-detached starter homes.

P.C. Objection D.C. Refusal

APPEAL DISMISSED

AMENDED PLANS

03/02330/FUL

Mr. and Mrs. C. Elliott,

“Orchards”, Georges Elm Lane, Bidford-on-Avon.

Proposed replacement double garage. Single storey rear and side extensions.

P.C. Objection. Application scheduled to be considered at Avon Area Planning Committee on 25th September, 2003. However, SDC had received a late amendment and, after consulting Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, the Clerk had sent the following fax to Mrs. Julia Bates, the AAPC Committee Clerk, with a copy to Tony Horton, Senior Planner:

“I understand from Tony Horton that a late amendment has been submitted regarding the above application and that this has reduced the height of the proposed double garage from 5.8m to 4m, i.e. the same height as the existing bungalow.

Provided that this amendment is approved by the Avon Area Planning Committee and the height of the proposed double garage is exactly the same height as the existing bungalow, then the Parish Council would not wish to oppose the application.”

District Councillor James confirmed that the Avon Area Planning Committee had granted permission for the amended plans.

APPLICATIONS

03/02744/FUL

Mr. G. Arundale,

Poachers Cottage, Dorsington.

Vehicular access.

“Provided that the County Highways Department is happy with the access, we support this application.”

03/02686/LBC

Miss R. Fitzpatrick,

18, Welford Road, Bidford-on-Avon.

In addition to works already granted, Ref. 02/01869/LBC and 02/01868/FUL, the conversion of outbuildings to living accommodation, including addition of windows and roof-lights, also new footings to east wall of outbuildings to be moved by 0.8m.

SUPPORT

03/02724/FUL

Rachel Jones and Stuart Every,

1, Dudley Villas, Cleeve Road, Marlcliff.

Proposed single storey rear conservatory. Single-storey side garage, shower room and utility. SUPPORT

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03/02852/FUL

Mr. and Mrs. Moore,
32, Steppes Piece, Bidford-on-Avon.
Proposed erection of conservatory to rear.
SUPPORT

N.B. Cllr. Langston declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

**03/229 STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
(Min. 03/205 refers)**

Letter received from Mr. Bob Stokes, Programme Officer, gave brief details re. the Inquiry, which was due to start on 25th November, 2003. Details re. venue and Inquiry programme to follow. Deadline for further evidence: 1st November, 2003. The Clerk said she had left it open for a Parish Council representative to attend if there was a special session re. Grafton Lane, Marriage Hill or Marleigh House. Mr. Mike Gerrard said that the Appraisal Group would keep its options open re. the Marleigh House site.

03/230 PROPOSED WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE (Min. 03/203 refers)

The WCC Regulatory Committee meeting scheduled for 16th October, 2003, had been postponed. A new date, in late October/early November, had not yet been agreed.

03/231 VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL (Min. 03/207 refers)

Mrs. Christine Getgood and Mr. John Sandle would contest the election on 2nd October, 2003.

**03/232 PROPOSED YOUTH MEETING-POINT –
APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID (Min. 03/138IC refers)**

Letter received from Mrs. Lucy Workman, SDC's Community Grants Officer, confirmed that: "The grant offer is £3,879 towards the cost of a youth shelter, when you are in a position to move forward on the other youth shelter projects please let us know and the application can be reviewed". The letter went on to state the various conditions to which the offer was subject.

(The Clerk had copied the letter to all Members.)

With regard to planning permission for the proposed youth shelter on Big Meadow, District Cllr. James said that this would almost certainly be allowed under Permitted Development, but he advised the Clerk to check this with SDC's Tony Horton.

Cllr. James also said that it might be possible to have lighting for the youth shelter, as he understood that youth shelters with solar-powered lights were now available.

N.B. SDC to be notified when work on the youth shelter commenced.

03/233 YOUTH EVENING AT THE CRAWFORD HALL (Min. 03/209 refers)

Mr. Piers King had still not produced a report and District Cllr. James said that he and District Councillors Pemberton and Slaughter would prepare one.

Cllr. Pemberton said that he would ask Mr. King for all the information sheets from the Youth Evening.

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03/234 TRAVEL TOKENS (Min. 03/126IC refers)

AGREED that travel tokens be distributed at “The Jolly Teapot” on Thursday, 16th October, 2003. The date to be publicised in the usual ways.

03/235 BIDFORD CAR BOOT SALE

Cllr. Smith declared an interest in this matter and left the room.

Letter received from Cleeve Prior Parish Council stated that a Cleeve Prior parishioner had expressed concern regarding the “danger and chaos caused by cars entering and leaving the weekly car boot sale at Bidford”. Could Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council do “anything constructive” to minimise the problem on the public highway?

Cllr. Mrs. Irving said that the car boot sale did sometimes cause congestion.

Cllr. Mrs. Owen said that she had received one informal complaint.

Cllr. Langston said that the sale was held on one day a week for only a few days each year.

Mr. John Wilkes said he thought the car boot sale was a benefit, because it drew people to the Village.

Having ascertained that the car boot sales were held on fourteen days each year, it was AGREED that Cleeve Prior Parish Council be informed of this and told that no formal complaints had been received.

03/236 ADOPTION OF MILLERS BANK

Letter received from Mr. Martin Lange, WCC’s Road Adoptions Manager, stated that notices dated 1st September, 2003, declaring the adoption of Millers Bank, had been posted.

AGREED that the Clerk ask Mr. Lange to confirm that the **entrance** to Millers Bank had already been adopted, as it was not shown as part of the Adoption Plan he had enclosed with his letter.

03/237 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Letter received from Miss Debra Holder of the Bidford-on-Avon branch of The Royal British Legion asked how many seats she would need to reserve for Parish Council Members.

AGREED that the Clerk ask Miss Holder to reserve nine seats.

The Clerk to make the usual arrangements regarding a wreath.

03/238 UNFILLED SANDBAGS

Letter received from Mr. Mick Potter, Assistant Manager of WCC’s Emergency Planning Unit, stated that as a contribution to local flood prevention initiatives, WCC was again offering one hundred sandbags (Unfilled) to each Parish/Town Council.

AGREED that the Clerk order one hundred bags.

Cllr. Smith kindly offered to store them.

03/239 AGE CONCERN – ALCESTER, BIDFORD & STUDLEY GROUP

Next meeting: Westholme Court, Bidford-on-Avon, on Wednesday, 22nd October, 2003, at 1.30 p.m.

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03/240 WCC STRATFORD-ON-AVON AREA COMMITTEE

Next meeting: Wednesday, 1st October, 2003, at 4.30 p.m., in SDC's Council Chamber. (County Councillor's report on page two of these minutes refers.)

03/241 CO-ORDINATED PAINTING OF STREET FURNITURE

E-mail received from WCC's Andrew Savage asked whether the Parish Council had any "surplus 2003 funding" to contribute towards co-ordinated painting of street furniture "as in other market towns". Otherwise, "likely to be 2004 for WCC funding".

AGREED that the Parish Council would wait for WCC funding in 2004!

03/242 WARWICKSHIRE CASUALTY REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

Letter received from Mr. Stephen Rumble, Communications Manager, Warwickshire Casualty Reduction Partnership, enclosed a copy of the WCRP's brand new newsletter, which contained all the latest news and information about Warwickshire's safety cameras. NOTED.

03/243 WINTER MAINTENANCE IN WARWICKSHIRE

Letter received from Mr. Neil Clark, Operations Manager, County Highways, enclosed a new set of gritting routes, prepared following the reorganisation of WCC's highway maintenance service in April. NOTED.

03/244 C.V.S. AND VOLUNTEER BUREAUX

Received from the Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureaux, a copy of "The Arden Newsletter – Autumn 2003". NOTED.

03/245 SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CARERS' SUPPORT SERVICE

Received from the C.V.S & V.B., a copy of the South Warwickshire Carers' Support Service's booklet entitled "Going Through the Pain Barrier" – A Consultation with Carers in South Warwickshire 2002-03. NOTED.

03/246 WCC'S LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Received from WCC, a copy of their Local Transport Plan – Annual Progress Report 2002-03.

(Handed to Mr. Mike Gerrard.)

**03/247 WARWICKSHIRE MARKET TOWNS –
AUTUMN EDITION OF NEWSLETTER**

Handed to Mr. Mike Gerrard.

03/248 YOUNG FIRE-FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION – BIDFORD-ON-AVON

Letter received from Mr. Richard Shepherd, Secretary to Bidford Y.F.A., stated that this was a new group, formed in association with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. The group had neither facilities nor equipment and any financial assistance would be much appreciated. (The Clerk had copied this letter to all Members.)

AGREED that this grant request be discussed at the Finance Meeting in November / December 2003.

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03/249 PARISH APPRAISAL GROUP MATTERS

Mike Gerrard said that, in August, he and Brian Tafft had re-written the Parish Plan. Mark Dixon had kindly agreed to edit it and the Plan was currently with him.
Bidford Health Centre – Mr. Gerrard said that he was waiting for details from the Health Centre re. the feedback as to what facilities/services patients wanted a new health centre to have/be able to offer.
Traffic matters in Bidford-on-Avon – PAG members were awaiting feedback from WCC.

03/250 TRIAL LIGHTING OF BIDFORD BRIDGE

E-Mail received from WCC's Andrew Savage stated that there would be a trial lighting of Bidford Bridge on Wednesday, 1st October, 2003, at 8.00 p.m.
Members of the Parish Council were welcome to attend.

03/251 ACCOUNTS

The following receipts were noted:

Broom Angling Club	£211.50
E. A. & J. Jarvis	£125.00
George Clifford and Sons	£55.00
Memorials of Distinction	£55.00
George Clifford and Sons	£40.00
Bidford-on-Avon Youth Club	£33.00
D.M. & S.D. Watson	£508.00
Bidford Appraisal Group	£2,894.65

The following accounts were approved for payment:

RESOLVED that Cllr. Mrs. Keeley and Cllr. Moore sign the cheques.

(Prop. Cllr. Smith, sec. Cllr. Mrs. Owen)

Please see the last page of these minutes for details of the accounts paid.

03/252 PROPOSED YOUTH MEETING POINTS

Min. 03/232 on page five of these minutes refers.

03/253 BIG MEADOW

AGREED that Big Meadow be closed for the winter season as from 4th/5th October.

AGREED that the existing sign at the entrance to the Meadow, stating that it opened every Easter, was now out of date.

AGREED that a new sign be ordered, stating that the Meadow opened on 1st April.

03/254 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Slaughter.

Councillors James and Pemberton said that twelve people had attended the recent District Councillors' surgery. Residents of Broom had raised the same concerns re. the proposed youth shelter as had been raised at the Parish Council meeting held on 1st September, 2003, but they had also been trying to think of other sites.

(N.B. For the record, it had been decided NOT to put a youth shelter on the Kings Lane play area – min. 03/223 refers.)

Broom Village Hall Committee had wondered whether a site adjacent to the Hall would be suitable for a youth shelter.

Mr. Jim Rawlings had mentioned the problems with the Glebe Close seat ("Police Matters", page three refers) but had raised the matter in connection with suitable sites for youth shelters, not as a separate issue.

Broom residents had asked for a litter bin in Albion Terrace and a street light at the far end of Kings Lane.

Broom residents had also expressed a desire to be more involved in Parish matters, suggesting that a Parish Council meeting be held in Broom, say, once or twice a year.

District Councillors James and Pemberton said it was possible that a District Councillors' surgery might be held in Broom soon. They both added that the recent surgery had been very worthwhile.

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley said she was very concerned that the road traffic island and the hedgerows were "such a mess"; WCC paid SDC to do the work and it was not being done. She said she was also very concerned about Grafton Lane; part of the pavement was extremely narrow and that section of the road was very dangerous.

In reply to a question from Cllr. Hiscocks, District Councillor Pemberton said that he had not yet been given a start-date for the work re. installing CCTV cameras in Bidford.

Cllr. Smith asked whether the yew tree adjacent to Bidford Saddlery would have to be felled, in order to accommodate the line of sight of one of the cameras.

Cllr. Pemberton said he would ask SDC's Chris Wood for a copy of the engineer's report.

Following a recent accident in Salford Road, Cllr. Mrs. Owen asked whether the speed limit on Marriage Hill could be reviewed again; she felt it needed to be reduced to 40 m.p.h or, preferably, 30 m.p.h.

AGREED that the speed limit needed to be reduced but, despite many requests over the years, no reduction had ever been made.

District Cllr. James said that the Police objected to speed reductions and District

Cllr. Pemberton said that the Parish Council would need to "make a lot of noise" in order to have the speed limit changed.

Cllr. Pemberton made three suggestions, that:

- The Parish Council write to P.C. Chris Latham at Leek Wootton, asking for a speed-visor to be used on Tower Hill and then on Marriage Hill.
- The Parish Council consider buying one or two speed-visors – approximate cost: £2,000 or £3,000 each.
- The Parish Council write to the "Traffic Casualty Reduction Unit in Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa" and invite one of their traffic officers to a Parish Council meeting.

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Cllr. James said it was important to have P.C. Peter Gateley “on board”; ask him to park where he could be seen, so that this would slow down traffic.

Cllr. James added that Salford Priors Parish Council was considering having some “Kill Your Speed, Not a Child” signs; did Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council want to join this project?

Cllr. Moore suggested that Cllr. James raise this matter with Salford Priors P.C. and ask about sharing costs, et cetera.

Cllr. Mrs. Hodgetts confirmed that she and Cllr. Moore had been invited to sit on Broom Village Hall Committee, as Parish Council representatives. She added that there would be a Harvest Supper at the Village Hall on 16th October, 2003.

RESOLVED that the Council go into Committee, to discuss confidential matters.
(Prop. Cllr. Mrs. Owen, sec. Cllr. Smith)

Following discussion of the matters recorded in the confidential minutes, the meeting closed at approximately 10.45 p.m.

BIDFORD-ON-AVON PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting on 29th September, 2003, the following payments were authorised:

SUPPLIERS:	£6,073.25
WAGES:	£3,459.27
TOTAL:	£9,532.52