

# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room,, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

### **PRESENT**

Chairman	Cllr. Hiscocks
Councillors	Ms. Deacon, Mrs. Keeley, Gerrard, Langston, Sandle Smith and Spiers

Also present were:

County Councillor	Barnes
District Councillor	James, Pemberton and Slaughter

12 members of the public and 1 member of the press

The Chairman welcomed all the Parish Council Meeting. The first item was a Youth Forum; the Chairman explained that the Council wanted to give the young of the village the opportunity of expressing their views to the Council and expressed the council's disappointment that none had taken this up. However, he continued, it was the first occasion and he asked the members of the public present to advertise this new item.

The Chairman then asked if there were any questions from the public. A number of residents took up this opportunity and it was noted that the majority of the questions asked were in respect of planning issues regarding the Old School House. The residents expressed their disappointment at the school buildings being demolished, although recognizing the fact that the request to have it listed had been turned down by the Secretary of State for Culture Arts and Sports. They were also happy to note that Westbury will be legally bound to ensure the conversion of the School House as this will be a condition of the planning application. Concern was also shown regarding the size of the rest of the development on the old school site and how overwhelming it is. The

Chairman explained that, whilst the council appreciated these comments, he had to point out that the Parish Council is not the Planning Authority, Stratford District Council is.

Following the fate of the Old School site it was agreed that the possibility of having notable buildings within Bidford listed locally and the clerk was advised to look into this and for it to be part of the next planning meeting agenda.

Other members of the public were at the meeting to discuss a recently received planning application, and were advised that this would be discussed in full at the next Planning Meeting due on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, as published. When asked where this was published, the Council advised that this was publicized on the website and the various parish council notice boards adding that Agendas for the meetings were also publicized 3 days prior to the meeting.

#### **REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- Extension to the Sand and Gravel – Cllr. Barnes suggested the council write to all the statutory bodies involved in this application giving its reasons for objection to this proposal
- Also in connection with the sand and gravel extraction application, concern had been raised as the conveyor passes through private land and thus cannot be policed.
- County Council has agreed to go to “green electricity”
- The Government has increased the Landfill Tax

#### **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- The Planning Committee is to revert to two namely East and West
- There is to be a review regarding Travel Tokens as it has been noted that some elderly people, who have no access to buses, use them for taxis.
- District Councillors had met with the tennis club to discuss a grant to improve their facilities.
- District Councillors would like to congratulate the Bowling Club and the Parish Council for the excellent refurbishment carried out at the Crawford Hall and Social Club.

The Chairman then opened the Parish Council Meeting.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received

#### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

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 29<sup>th</sup> April 2002, 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

The clerk passed the Members Book round. Non pecuniary interest was declared by all in item 11 – Crawford Hall.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005 AND OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley as being accurate.

**4. REPORT OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

a) As requested, the clerk reported weeds on the banks of the river by the bridge and was informed by the Environmental Agency that it is their belief they are good for the environment. They would, however, have someone check that it was not out of control.

b) United Carriers – the clerk, on the advice of Liz Nicholson, liaison officer, contacted Roger Thatcher, Enforcement Dept. Stratford, confirming the Parish Council's wish to initiate enforcement action under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which can enforce the owner to tidy up the site that is harming the surrounding area.

The clerk was instructed to follow this up and obtain and update on the situation.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) SDC – a) Statement of Community Involvement – see attached Appendix

b) Local Development Scheme – see attached Appendix

It was proposed that the Council respond to the consultation of the above two documents along the lines of the comments that form the Appendix to these Minutes

c) Social and Community Transport – circulated. It has been agreed to work on this together with the Salford Priors and Wixford Councils.

d) May Day and Spring Holiday Refuse Collection Arrangements (please note details have been posted on the website and on the board by the Parish Council Office next to the library)

b) WALC – Annual Subscription renewal – it was resolved to accept.

Newsletter – circulated

c) Jim Thomas – re footpath in front of Letterbox Cottage, Barton

This was originally discussed at a Planning Meeting and the Council objected because it was the footpath to the pub etc. The Council, having discussed the matter again, remained of the opinion that it is a footpath on a main road and should, therefore not be change to grass.

d) Bidford Community Group – re grant towards the Bidford News

The council discussed the importance of the work carried out by the Bidford Community Group. Cllr. Sandle proposed that £800 be approved which was unanimously accepted. It was resolved that a grant for £800 be given.

e) Perkins Educational Foundation – Termination of Cllr Spiers's term of office ends 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005. New Appointment

It was resolved that Cllr. Spiers continue in view of the excellent work he carries out for this organisation

f) Leicester Paper Processors Ltd – offering their services as Security Shredders

To be noted for possible future reference.

g) Heart of England Way – subscription renewal

Resolved to agree

h) WRAP – Home composting promotion

It was agreed to propose the Vintage Weekend in July on the Big Meadow as a suitable venue

i) Street light reports February and March

j) DCMS re Old School House

The Chairman read the contents of the letter received advising that the building was not of sufficient architectural or historical interest to warrant a listing status.

**6. AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED MEMBERS**

a) Wicksteed Leisure – toddlers to Teens leaflet

b) The Theatre, Chipping Norton – Spring

c) DEFRA – quality Parishes and Parish Planning

d) National Probation Service – Testing Times

e) WCC – Quality of Life 2004

f) East Midlands Assembly

**7. POLICE MATTERS**

The matters include broken glass on children's play areas, disturbance in the High Street in the evening/night, cars entering the meadow via the exit and then racing around the grass areas doing wheel spins, hand brake turns etc. They also got into the Lady's Hockey Pitch by breaking the fence and spoiling the pitch. There is a letter concerning this. Correspondence on the above received.

The clerk advised that she had met Insp. Malik and discussed the various issues and on behalf of the council, invited him to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Insp. Malik is eager to communicate with the residents and hear their issues at first hand and accepted the invitation.

He also made clear that, even though it appears the police do not respond the resident's calls, it is very important residents do call the Police and advise them of what is happening – these incidents are all logged and if a pattern emerges, the Police are then able to deal with it.

**8. BROOM BUS SHELTER**

Complaints have been received regarding the state of the bus shelter, which are confirmed by the clerk who visited the site. It was also mentioned that the bus shelter in Marlcliff is also in a bad state. It was resolved the clerk to look into this.

**9. TRAFFIC CALMING BROOM AND DUGDALE AVE.**

The Chairman and clerk attended the AGM in Broom at their invitation where the matter of traffic calming was raised. It was agreed that the various proposals raised by the residents should be put to WCC for their comments. A detailed reply was received, which is available, which stated that most of the proposals put forward were either unsuitable or too expensive. A form was enclosed for completion and return, on receipt of which a further assessment would be made.

Regarding the request for traffic calming measure for Dugdale Ave. this was forwarded to WCC's Safety Engineers who have checked the accident record and advised there have been none in the last 3 years. It does not, therefore, fall within the established criteria.

**10. REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH FOR MR. AND MRS. MORLEY**

The clerk had received a call requesting permission for the above. The Parish Council was unanimous in its decision to allow subject to situation etc.

## **11. CRAWFORD HALL**

The clerk was instructed to arrange a meeting with the District Councillors.

## **12. SECTION 136**

This is a discretionary reimbursement from District Council to Parish and Town Councils in respect of repairs to play equipment, grass cutting, hedge trimming etc. SDC has unilaterally decided to withdraw this at the end of the current financial year, which will mean a further financial burden on the Parish Council from April 2006. Bidford Parish has a big commitment in this area and the loss of this reimbursement will mean a further financial burden on the Parish Council from April 2006. The clerk was instructed to write to SDC putting forth the Council's strong objections to this.

## **13. STREET LIGHTS**

As the council is now in its new financial year, it was resolved to give instructions for the replacement of the street lights that had been agreed last year.

The clerk advised that she had authorized the replacement of a street lantern on Saxonfields that had been vandalized by shooting stones at it.

## **14. ALLOTMENTS**

It had been agreed at the pre budget financial committee meeting that allotment rents should rise from April 2006 and tenants informed accordingly in April 2005. However, the clerk has advised that rents can only be raised in September of any year. The clerk and RFO also recommend that the opportunity be taken to ensure the amounts collected are round figures for ease of reconciliation.

## **15. ACCOUNTS**

The Chairman read the list of out the agreed payments.

Purchases	£19,880.90
Wages	£ 1,692.72
Payments received	
Precept	£40,500
Crawford Hall/Bowling Club grant	£ 9,198
Car Parking	£ 920
Allotment rents	£ 468.45
Meadow Concessions	£ 235
Interest received	£ 291.95

It was resolved for Cllrs. Ms. Deacon and Mrs. Keeley to sign

## **16. FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY, BROOM**

Due to the sensitive nature of the item, it was proposed that the members of the public and press be invited to leave the room,

Mr. John Hendey, a resident of Broom for over 18 years, had responded to the advertisement the clerk had placed on the notice board on behalf of the Parish Council. The Chairman read the letter and the council unanimously agreed to invite him to become a member. The clerk was instructed to invite to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, when he could be introduced, and to carry out the normal procedures.

The meeting closed 9.30 pm

## **APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

### **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS)**

1. The SCI is welcome since it has potential to offer better and more instructive engagement between Stratford District Council (SDC) and Town and Parish Councils in strategic planning issues.
2. It will involve new administration work for both councils,, wider consultation with the public and with informed interests in the community – and always to a fairly tight timescale of 6 weeks.
3. The Parish Plan will be a Supplementary Planning Document (and will provide Supplementary Planning Guidance though this term will no longer be officially used)
4. The SCI provides for Community Involvement Exercises in advance of planning applications in cases such as the Marsh Farm development, and is also integrated with county level and regional plans for industrial and other major developments.
5. The public involvement process seems to be rooted in the information, consultation and public involvement duties of SDC. It will be up to SDC to use other approaches for collaborating with local communities when that seems desirable.
6. SDC has declared a commitment to putting adequate resources into the process, to document thoroughly and to feed back satisfactorily to all participants – including the Parish Council.
7. The LDS is part of the structure and is already in place. It is current from 2005-2008 (like the corporate strategy) and will be updated each year.
8. The letter regarding the LDS is, therefore, simply a notification to the Parish Council that it is now in being. The SCI, on the other hand, is under consultation and the letter in this case has been sent to the Parish Council for comment.
9. The proposed comments regarding the SCI are as follows:
  - i) In principle, it should be welcomed for the improved consultation facilities it offers the Parish Council (PC)
  - ii) The PC should want to see the Community Involvement Exercise provisions made a locally binding responsibility for developers since it would catch developers such as Marriage Hill Nurseries, the Waste Transfer Station or the Marsh Farm extension at the formative stage rather than bringing them to the public notice only under the pressure of a planning application
  - iii) There should be a provision for extending the six week consultation period by agreement in advance; for example where hard research and/or information gathering is required for the PC to respond effectively.
  - iv) In every instance the possibility of collaboration between the planning authority and the local community should be a part of the community involvement process. It will be for both parties to decide whether it is appropriate to make use of it.

- v) The process should clarify who should act as referee, and whose view should prevail and by what means, when consensus between SDC and its consultees is not possible.
- vi) Continuous learning is an outcome for which SDC aims. This should be the watchword for the whole process and Continuous Improvement the Council's objective.

The SDI proposes changes under the **PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT OF 2004** and alters the framework for dealing with local planning application.