

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th November 2005 at Broom Village Hall, Broom

PRESENT

Chairman
Cllrs.

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley
Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hendey, Hiscocks, Langston, Sandle,
Smith, Spiers and Ms. Varga

Also present:

District Cllr. Pemberton, approx. 15 members of the public and 1 members of the press.
County Cllr. Barnes arrived late due to a previous engagement.

The Chairman welcomed all to the Parish Council Meeting at its annual meeting in Broom and noted there were some youngsters and invited them to take part in the Youth Forum, which was the first item.

Two of them spoke stating that the youngsters in Broom had nowhere to go and play outdoors as the Broom playing area was full of potholes and therefore dangerous to play on, and the small play area at Millers Bank flooded very easily. This meant they had to content themselves with playing indoors on the computer or watch TV and simply walking around the village if outside. They felt that they would all enjoy much more being in the outside, being able to exercise and play games which, they added, would also benefit the health and fitness of all.

Their suggestions, which had been collated for a survey, included:

- Making the football pitch area playable by infilling the holes and evening out the pitch
- A basket ball court for the older children

PC Mins. Nov. 2005

- A play area for the youngsters

The Chairman thanked them for their comments and advised that, as this was an item on the Agenda, it would be discussed more in full during the meeting.

The Chairman also expressed her delight at having youngsters participating at the meeting and congratulated them on being the first to do so since the Council had started a Youth Forum item earlier in the year.

She then opened the Public Forum.

- A resident, who had spent her childhood in Broom and had now returned with her own young family, gave support to the youngster's claims, stating that she had had nowhere to play as a child and she did not want history to repeat itself and have another generation of Broom children unable to play outdoors due to lack of facilities.
She added that any work done to the playing field would benefit not only the children but all the residents of the village.
- Another resident, also a mother of young children, stated that the children of the village needed a safe environment in which to play.
- A member of the Broom Village Hall Committee thanked the District and Parish Council for their support, as she had heard that District Council had approved the £50,000 amount suggested by the Parish Council.
The Chairman clarified that this was not extra money but came from the original £250,000 grant given to Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council for improvements to the Crawford Hall and Social Centre. The full amount had not been made available for this purpose and the Parish Council had voted unanimously to requested District Council transfer the balance of £50,000, in its entirety, to Broom Village Hall as Broom was part of the Parish Council.
- A member of BARG stated that, although the application for sand and gravel extraction from Broom Court Farm, Bidford, had been withdrawn, there was still the matter of Marsh Farm and made various technical comments which, he believed, should be addressed.
The Chairman thanked him and said that his comments were noted.
- The Chairman of BARG thanked the County, District and Parish Councils for their help and support in the campaign to ensure the application for the extraction of sand and gravel at Broom Court Farm would not go ahead. He added that BARG would remain vigilant and would be looking at possible grants to assist them in any future campaign.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Cllrs. James and Slaughter had sent their apologies as they were attending a training course.
- Cllr. Pemberton confirmed the grant of £50,000 for the Broom Village Hall Project, which had been supported by all the District Councillors and the County Councillor and made special mention of the Parish Council who had out forward

the idea and unanimously decided to request District Council to allow a “varying” of the original grant.

- The Chairman asked about the withdrawal of Section 136 and Cllr. Pemberton replied that he, and many other councillors of the rural areas, had opposed its withdrawal and he believed there was a chance it would be back on the Agenda for the 2007/08 Budget

The Chairman then opened the Parish Council Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN 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 29th 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

Cllr. Ms. Varga declared a non pecuniary interest in item 5 f) – she lives in the area

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 24TH OCTOBER 2005

Proposed by Cllr. Langston as being accurate and signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Broom Village Hall - update on financial support from County and District Council

The Council was delighted to confirm that £5,000 had been granted by County Council and £50,000, transferred from the Crawford Hall (Bidford Village Hall to Broom Village Hall)

b) Broom Bus shelter – this has been orders and should be installed by early Jan. 2006

This had been ordered and should be installed by mid January 2006

c) Broom speed enforcement – update

Warwickshire Casualty Reduction Partnership have completed most of their investigation and have agreed that Broom may benefit from some limited temporary enforcement. However there is work that still needs to be completed at the site before this can go ahead. They add that this process can be lengthy but to rest assured that work is going ahead.

d) Local Works – Local Authority Resolution – the clerk wrote to John Maples MP requesting his support for the proposed Local Communities Sustainability Bill and has received a reply.

John Maples M.P. replied and parts of the letter were read out stating that, although he agrees with many of the points raised in the Local Communities Sustainability Bill he does not believe, in purely practical terms, that the 12 month timescale is achievable. He also believes that the Bill would lead to conflict

between different bodies. He will, therefore, not be supporting this Bill. However he is planning to meet representatives of the Local Communities Sustainability Bill. (Full text of letter available)

- e) Section 136 – Following the AGM of WALC when this item was discussed, the Council can advise that it received the support of WALC. Regrettably, however, it would appear that the decision by SDC to withdraw Section 136 is final. Although this item had been discussed during the section reserved for the District Councillors Report, the Chairman added that the main reason for this withdrawal was that Parish Council's are not "capped" whereas District Council's are, and this was the result i.e. District transferring a cost on to Parish Council who would have to increase their precept to enjoy the same standards as at present. She added that the amount for Bidford is around £10,000 per annum. SDC Cllr. Pemberton requested permission to speak and added that it appears that there is a suggestion that Government is looking into this as District Council's should not be circumventing capping by transferring the costs to Parish/Town Councils.
- f) Warwickshire Museum – Draft layout of the requested panels should be available in early December

WCC Cllr. Barnes arrived at this point and the Meeting was suspended to allow him to give his report (7.55 pm)

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- He confirmed the grant of £5,000 for Broom Village Hall Project
- B439 – the speed restriction was going ahead as no objections had been received. The work would be going out to tender soon and he envisaged work would start around February as it had to be carried out within this financial year. He added that he had been successful in securing a similar project from Dunnington, by the school, but that would be for the next financial year.
- He expressed his delight with the withdrawal of the Planning Application for the extraction of sand and gravel at Broom Court Farm
- He again stressed the importance of having smoke alarms in the house and gave the number to call for its installation – 293271.
- County Council continues its reorganization – it is being streamlined and reduced to 9 Depts.
- County Council is waiting for the Government to advise the size of the grant before it can set its budget. However, he can confirm that there will be an increase of 5% for all Primary School children.

The Parish Council Meeting restarted at approx. 8.00 pm

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC - Statement of Community Involvement – Submission consultation
- Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Authority – Integrated Risk Management Action Plan Draft Year three Action Plan 2006-07
Both these issues were given to Cllr. Gerrard to study

- Letter from Simon Timbrell, Community Paths Officer re P3 Grant cheque which was enclosed. Next meeting of P3 is on 5th Jan 2006 at 7.30 pm at the Crawford Hall (rear room) Simon will be attending.
- b) SDC - Play area inspection Reports 2005. This includes comments on missing fixtures and fittings of the basketball court. SMP were contacted regarding this and a reply has been received. A letter regarding Millers Bank, Broom was sent to Persimmon as this area remains unadopted. A reply has been received.
SMP had replied that they did not consider this a claim as it would come under maintenance. The Council however, was of the opinion that the court is still under guarantee and the Clerk was instructed to write to them on this basis
Copy of the Inspector's Report was given to the Chairman of the Amenities Work Group.
- Letter from the Monitoring Officer, Peter Cruden, advising his departure on 30 Nov. His temporary replacement will be Richard Hood.
- Letter detailing Charging of Parish Elections – circulated
The Chairman advised that this was another charge being transferred from District to Parish Council that would affect the amount of the precept to be raised.
- c) WALC- Draft Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act. 2005
 - circulated
 - The Local Council's Charter – circulated
 - November newsletter
- d) Thank you letters from the Bidford-on-Avon PCC for the Councils contribution to Church clock's automatic winding mechanism and from the Royal British Legion Legion Poppy Appeal
- e) Letters from 4 residents of Victoria Rd/Glebe Close regarding the stolen seat
The letters had been read by the Chairman, to whom they had been addressed. The Chairman advised that a couple had intimated "libel" had taken place. The Chairman then read out the piece that had been written in the Stratford Herald, to which the letters referred to, and it was clear that no names had been mentioned. In view of this new correspondence, it was proposed again to replace the bench, and it was unanimously carried. It was also proposed that a bin be placed next to the bench. This was also unanimously carried.
- f) Correspondence from residents of Ebsdorf Close requesting PC assistance in finalizing adoption of Midsummer Gardens
The Clerk had spoken to County Council regarding this. They are still awaiting final plans from the developers before adopting. They are hopeful this will occur either end 2005 or beginning of 2006.
- g) M & M Heating Services offering their services
- h) Samaritans – Invitation to AGM on 6th Dec. @ 7.30 pm
- i) Letter from P. Batacanin re One Stop
- j) VLO availability of funds under Rural Outreach Fund – circulated
It was suggested that Broom Village Hall Committee contact them.

k) Letter from John Lawson's Circus

It was proposed that a flat fee of £750 be charged and this was unanimously agreed. Conditions of use of the Monie Meadow to be drawn up and sent to them. The dates were confirmed as setting up on evening of Sunday 11th June; performances on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; departure morning of Thursday 15th June.

6. AVAILABLE FOR INTERESTED PARTIES

- a) SDC – 1in2 Sport Newsletter
- b) Warks. Rural Housing Ass. – Annual Report 2004/05
- c) Samaritans Annual Report 2004/05
- d) Age Concern – County Newsletter Autumn 2005
- e) WCC – Autumn/Winter Edition of Viewpoint
- f) Just Women – Issue 1 Winter 2005
- g) East Midlands Regional Assembly – Review of the EM Regional Plan

7. MARSH FARM LIAISON COMMITTEE/BROOM COURT FARM REPORT

The Chairman referred to the good news received that CEMEX had withdrawn their application for sand and gravel extraction from the site at Broom Court Farm, Salford Rd. and thanked the members of BARG, specially its Chairman and Vice Chairman for their efforts, and all the residents

She then read a statement regarding the Marsh Farm Liaison Committee, which is attached to these minutes of which it forms part.

8. AMENITIES WORKING GROUP – REPORT

The Chairman of the Working Group, Cllr. Sandle reported that they had held a meeting with residents of Broom to consider their requirements. Two of the residents had sent letters to all the houses asking the children to let them know what they would like installed in the village for their use. The percentage of replies had been very high and the results show the top three requests as:

Basket Ball pitch

Football Pitch

Play area with swings

Cllr. Sandle explained that all these would have to be installed on the Broom Playing Area which the Council lease from Stratford District Council, with whom it is currently in negotiation with due to the bad state of the area. He added that monies to improve the area, as well as purchasing the equipment, would have to come from Parish Council funds.

Cllr. Sandle then explained the Parish Paths Partnership (known as P3) which is funded by County Council who gives grants depending on the mileage of footpaths in a Parish Council. Volunteers then act as the “eyes” of County Council by pointing out areas that require improvement. A cheque for £796.50 – this being the amount under the grant - had just been received. The next meeting of the P3 will be on

January 5th at the Crawford Hall – any new interested parties are welcome.

9. WARWICKSHIRE POLICE – REPORT FOLLOWING POLICE REFORM CONSULTATION AND POLICING IN BIDFORD-ON-AVON

The Chairman and Cllr. Ms. Deacon had attended a meeting organised by Warwickshire Police in Stratford. The Chairman expressed a concern at the lack of interest shown when she saw only 19 people attended, as she views policing one of the most important current issues.

The presentation confirmed that the current number of 43 police forces will be reduced to 9 Regional and , although not finalised, it appears that the preferred option for Warwickshire Police would be to join with West Midlands, West Mercia and Staffordshire Police.

It would appear that there will no longer be “beats” – they will be supplanted by “wards”. However, no explanation was given as to the difference or exactly as to what a “ward” is. Furthermore, no mention is made as to exactly where Bidford-on-Avon would come under.

The councillors expressed a fear that no, or very little, consultation was taking place. Another issue discussed was the policing problems of Bidford, and the Clerk was instructed to write to both John Burbeck and Emma Watson requesting a permanent police force in the village.

10. SDC - CREATION OF FOOTPATH OVER THE BANK FROM TOWER HILL TO LAMBOURNE CLOSE

Correspondence has been received regarding the issuing of an order for the creation of a footpath and cycle track along The Bank joining Tower Hill and Lambourne Close. The Council resolved to support this order.

11. CYCLE RACKS FOR BIDFORD-ON-AVON

The Council is looking to improve the centre of the village and is installing cycle racks to encourage the use of bicycles in the village. It is felt that by having a secure area to “park” the bicycles it will mean fewer going missing and also make the centre of the village look tidier.

The Council has approached the Rural Kitty for a grant

12. MEETING DATES FOR 2006

A list of proposed dates for the Planning Committee and Parish Council Meetings had been circulated and it was resolved to agree them.

13. AUTHORISATION OF PURCHASE OF ANTI VIRUS RENEWAL PACKAGE FOR PC OFFICE COMPUTER

It was resolved to authorize the Clerk to use her credit card to buy this online. It was also resolved that authorization must be sought annually.

14. ACCOUNTS

Purchases	£11,710.65
Wages	£ 1,692.10

Grants £ 2,500.00

Payments received

Sports Ass.	£1,102.50
Allotment rents	£ 110.55
Meadow Concessions	£ 550.00
Cemetery receipts	£ 145.00
P3 grant (WCC)	£ 796.50
Bus Shelter Grant (Rural Kitty)	£3,000.00

Cheque No. 3709 for £321.31 was cancelled and replaced by cheque No. 3712 for £312.31

It was resolved that Cllrs. Gerrard and Sandle sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

REPORT OF MARSH FARM LIAISON COMMITTEE

1 Nov. 2005

There have recently been some adverse articles and letters in the press regarding the recent meeting of the Marsh Farm Liaison Committee and the Bidford-on-Avon Planning Committee which the Parish Council would like to clarify.

It is important to note that the Marsh Farm Liaison Committee was set up in 1989 and is chaired by the Salford Priors Parish Council, and its Clerk is the Clerk of Salford Priors PC. The function of this Liaison Committee is to meet at least twice a year to discuss day to day issues. **It has no powers to make decisions**

When the Liaison Committee meeting was called earlier in March this year, due to the importance of the information that was going to be disclosed, it was recommended that it be the Chairman of the Council that attended, together with Cllr. Langston; the latter being a member of the council with many years experience and because, at that time, it was believed that the Broom Court site that was being referred to was, literally, across the road from his house. As the Chairman, Cllr. Hiscocks was unable to attend, Vice Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Keeley attended in his place.

It may be recalled that on that occasion, the importance of the information received was such, that the Parish Council **immediately** made the news known to the residents of the parish, arranged a presentation at the Crawford Hall on 16th April, held a public meeting on 18th April and, at the request of residents, called a Parish Poll earlier in the year. Furthermore, a dedicated site on the Parish Council website was set up and all up to date information has been posted thereon as it became available.

When the meeting of November was convened, it was felt that the same members should attend. Again, as the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Keeley was not available, Vice Chairman, Cllr. Hiscocks took her place. However, as can be seen from the minutes that have been posted on the website, the nature of this meeting was more routine, and no final decisions were disclosed. As can also be ascertained from the Minutes of this Meeting, the majority of the points raised at the meeting referred to items of concern to Salford Priors Parish Council, who have held their own meeting (to which no residents of the Salford Prior Parish attended) and with whom Bidford Parish Council is liaising. From the information received at the meeting, it would appear that the issues that have been raised by both the planning authority and the Environmental Agency may prove too costly, and it could be that for the time being in any case, CEMEX, may decide not to proceed. As you all now know, CEMEX has withdrawn its application.

The Parish Council is aware that, although belonging to Salford Priors PC, the current development at Broom Lane and the possibility of expansion in this area, is of special interest to the residents of Broom who are those closest to Marsh Farm and, as already mentioned, will continue to liaise with members of Salford Priors PC. If there are any specific issues that concern residents and which they would wish the Parish Council to draw to the attention of Salford Priors, please let the Clerk know, preferably in writing – emails are fine (info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk) – to ensure these are brought up and discussed.