

- Chief Inspector John Burbeck had advised that as things stand only the forces of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands would be amalgamating as West Mercia was showing reluctance. Cllr, Barnes advised that he would be willing to talk to the Police should the Parish Council wish to consider asking West Mercia to accept the Alcester Ward
- It has been agreed that the income from Council Tax from second homes should be returned to SDC to be used for the building of more affordable housing.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Cllrs. were pleased to report an improvement in the performance of SDC which has included a reconstruction, and reduction, in the number of Departments within the Council.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and opened the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted for Cllr. Hiscocks

2. 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 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. Gerrard declared a non pecuniary interest in item 6a) as the husband of Mrs. Heather Gerrard.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28th NOVEMBER 2005

Proposed by Cllr. Ms. Deacon as being accurate, subject to an alteration to Item 13, which should read “credit card” not “credit clerk”, and signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) John Lawson’s Circus – the clerk wrote advising of the charge to be made and enclosing the Terms and Conditions of Use of Monie Meadow. John Lawson has contacted the clerk stating that they are a small circus and cannot afford the suggested charge of £750. They normally pay £200. The clerk has checked with Southam, who are also inviting the circus, who have confirmed this charge. John Lawson has requested the Council consider reducing the charge to £200.

It was unanimously agreed to reduce the hire charge to £200

b) The clerk has written to Chief Constable John Burbeck who has replied advising the letter has been passed on to David Shirley. She also wrote to Insp. Emma Walton who has also replied.

The clerk was able to confirm that PC Doug Johnson had been appointed as the Bidford-on-Avon Police Officer

- c) The clerk has written to SDC confirming the Council's support of the creation of a foot and cycle path along The Bank joining Tower Hill and Lambourne Close
- d) Rural Kitty has confirmed a grant for a cycle rack which has now been ordered.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WCC – Winter Maintenance in Warwickshire 2005/06 – details of Primary Gritting Routes in the county
It appears that the road to Marlcliff has not been gritted despite being on the map, and the clerk was instructed to advise Highways accordingly
 - Trading Standards Matters – *details on the PC website and also in PC office*
- b) SDC – Letter introducing Liz Mansfield as the Assistant to the Monitoring Officer
- c) WALC – Audit Commission proposals for 2007/11 – circulated
The Chairman of the Finance Committee advised that the fees charged would be either the same or even lower than those currently being paid, as the expenditure by the Council had temporarily increased sharply due to the improvements carried out to the Crawford Hall and Social Club, which were now finished.
- d) Central Networks – re Christmas Lights and Decorations Fund – *advising that Bidford had, regrettably, not won*
- e) Thank you letter for the grant towards the production for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Coat
- f) ACORNS Christmas Spirit 365 Appeal

6. AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

- a) VLO News – Heather Gerrard awarded the Village Liaison Officer of the Year Award 2005
The Chairman, on behalf of the full Council stated that this was well deserved as Heather Gerrard worked very hard to help the community and residents of Bidford. The clerk was asked to write to her congratulating her on the award.
- b) Fieldwork – December 2005
- c) PIE Reports – Quarter 2 of 2005-2006 (July-September 2005)
- d) Coventry & Warwickshire Learning Consortium – Recognition Plus
- e) The Arden Newsletter autumn 2005
- f) Stratford District – Community Plan Delivery 2005/06
- g) The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation leaflet

7. SLCC – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Membership Renewal for 2006 of £118 was agreed.

8. BROOM TIP

Copy correspondence between SDC and the Clerk was circulated. It was agreed that until such time as the PC had received terms and conditions for the lease of Broom Tip no final decision could be made regarding with Broom Tip or Millers Bank. It was resolved that pressure should be put on SDC to finalise this matter as soon as possible.

Regarding Millers Bank, it was proposed that alternative ideas for the use of the land should be put forward. It was resolved that these could be proposed and discussed at the next Amenities Meeting

9. FOOTPATH BETWEEN WESTHOLME CRESCENT AND BRAMLEY WAY

There is an inconsistency as the “No Cycles” sign is up only up at the Westholme Crescent end, and is currently defaced. Also, the continuation of the footpath, which is between Bramley Way and The Bank is both a foot and cycle path. The Council considered the proposition of making the whole footpath a cycle path as well. However, it was pointed out that the footpath between Bramley Way and Westholme Crescent is not suitable for bicycles and it was resolved that it should remain a footpath. The clerk was instructed to request a “No cycles” sign to be erected at the Bramley Way end and for the existing sign to be cleaned.

10. WORDING FOR THE QUOTES FOR FLOWER BOX PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE AND WORK TO THE BOUNDARY OF MONIE MEADOW

These had been circulated and it was agreed that they should be accepted and posted on the website and on the notice boards. It was also agreed that 31st January 2006 should be the final date.

11. REPLACEMENT PLANT BOXES

The clerk had been asked to obtain quotation for the replacement of the existing boxes and detail were circulated. However, an inspection of the current boxes showed that they were all in a good state of repair, bar the box near Marriage Hill which had received a knock that was easy to repair. In view of this, it was resolved not to replace the boxes at this time and to keep an eye on them

12. ELECTRICITY CONTRACT FOR UNMETERED LIGHTING

In view of the current fluctuation in electricity and gas prices, it was decided to look into the possibility of entering into an annual contract with a fixed price. Three companies: one declined to quote; one quoted from April 2006 to March 2007; the third quoted Jan 2006 to March 2007 and was also the more competitive and offered a Green alternative.

It was resolved to accept this quote from OGC for 8.79p p/kWh for 100% Green Generation (receiving exemption from CCL) effective from January 2006 to end March 2007.

13. DATE FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was resolved that the Annual Parish Meeting should be on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30 pm – notice to be posted on the website

14. AUDIT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

External Auditors have now signed the Annual return for the year ending 31st March 2005 and the appropriate notice advertising the closure of the audit has been posted on the notice boards.

15. ACCOUNTS

Purchases:	£7,852.72
Wages	£1,692.50
Inland Rev.	£1,507.47

Payments received

Allotment rents	£11.55
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It was resolved that Cllrs. Hendey and Ms. Varga sign the cheques

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm