

planning had given too much thought but, following the meetings held, and in view of the importance the local communities are giving to this matter, it had been decided to arrange further meetings to discuss this further.

- Fire Station – A report from the Fire Service was expected and a decision would be made by the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd (?) July. Cllr. Barnes gave the names of the Members of WCC who should be written to should the Parish Council resolve to do so
The Chairman asked Cllr. Barnes why the Parish Council had not been consulted on this matter as per the adopted and signed Local Council' Charter which states quite clearly that *the Principle Councils will aim to give Local Councils the opportunity to comment before making decisions that affect their area*". It was clear that no consultation had taken place and, according to what Cllr. Barnes had just said, a decision was to be made by WCC, on 22nd July, again without consulting the local councils, who had only learnt of the matter through rumours and the press. The Clerk was instructed to write to WCC bringing this omission to its notice and requesting its comments.
- There had been an increase in the Park and Ride use from 3,000 to 8,000 in the last month – and not all the users are OAPs
- Victoria Rd. – resurfacing had taken place at the bottom end. WCC had sent their engineer on Friday to inspect and he had been satisfied with the results. This was a surprise to all members of the Parish Council who expressed their concerns , amongst other things, about the of number of puddles on the road since resurfacing, which had increased. Cllr. Barnes gave details of the inspector and the clerk was instructed to write to him.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- District Council had sent in a written report which is attached hereto.
- Following the visit to Old School Mead, it was recognized by planners that an error had been made when they were able to see how the new buildings overwhelm the bungalows on Salford Rd. On the other side, it was also recognized that the development on the actual school was looking good.
- The Chairman requested that, if there was still a Best Design Award for new developments, she would like Salliforth, the development on the old Anglo Saxon Inn site to be entered as the Council feel this was done with great care and attention to detail. The developer also made good the grass area round the development and had also agreed to put up a commemorative plaque with reference to the Anglo Saxon past of the site.

Cllr. James then gave his apologies for leaving early but he had received a text message that the River Avon had gone on to red alert. He was followed by the other councillors and the member of the press.

The Chairman then opened the Parish Council Meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

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.

None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24th APRIL 2006

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a) SDC – Street Naming and Numbering for land rear of 25A Grange Rd.

It was agreed to call this Hendersons Gardens

Copy of the Statement of Community Development has been received and is available at the Parish Office - *noted*

b) WALC – Newsletter April 2006 – circulated

New Edition of Arnold-Baker available at £48 – *agreed to purchase the new edition as there have been various new legislations*

c) The Electoral Commission – Pilot scheme for postal votes – questionnaire

The clerk has looked into this and it appears that it was sent in error as the elections were for District not Parish councillors

d) CPRE – Newsletter – circulated

e) Letter from resident of Dugdale Ave. regarding parking problems when football matches are taking place

It was resolved that a notice should be put up on the gate referring parties to contact the clerk on 07718 628925 if they require the gate opened. They should then padlock the gate after use. The Clerk will check that this has been done

f) Letter from the Bidford & District History Society thanking the Council for the £50 donation and for the loan of the Anglo-Saxon Bidford panels

The event had been attended by some 50 people. Cllr. Gerrard added that he had a copy of a limited edition of a guide book to Bidford published by the Evesham Journal in 1906, and he had spoken to its reporter and given her the copy in the hope that it could be reissued as part of the new interest in local history. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea

g) Letter from the leader of the P3 regarding litter along the river/riverbank in the Marlcliff to Bidford walk – also at the Marlcliff car park area

This part of the bank is the responsibility of Birmingham Anglers

h) Sky Symphony Kite Display Team – they will be offering a display on the Vintage weekend of 8th/9th July. They are requesting permission to practice on the Big

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Meadow – *this would be in the closed season i.e. Oct. to Feb. on certain Saturdays. The Council resolved unanimously to grant them permission.*

- i) ODPM – Local Authority Byelaws in England – A Discussion Paper.
Noted. The Clerk is in the rather laborious process of updating the bye laws to the various open spaces in the village. However, as there are changes on the way, she is waiting to see how things develop before proceeding any further.
- j) Trustees of the Estate Charity of Alice Duchess Dudley have sent cheque for £1,000 towards the improvement of the fencing at Monie Meadow
- k) Energy Saving Trust – Support from the Council requested including possibility of arranging a public meeting to discuss this
It was unanimously resolved to give this support and Mrs. Gerrard is to be contacted with regards to dates.

5. BIDFORD FIRE STATION

It was agreed that the manner in which the Parish Council had heard of this possible closure was unacceptable. The Clerk had contacted the Fire Service on hearing the news and had been assured by the Deputy Officer that, to date, no names of fire stations had been mentioned with regards to closure. However, savings of £500,000 pa had been required by WCC for the next three years, and a report was being prepared by the Fire Service to present to WCC Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 25th July. This report will be a risk profile of the service throughout the county giving their professional opinion as to how the service can save the required amount. Members expressed concern about the possibility of closure – there have been rumours in the past – and the clerk was instructed to write to WCC registering the council's objection on the basis that:

Bidford-on-Avon is a growing village. Currently planning permission has been given for approx. a further 200 houses, including a residential home for 60 elderly

- It is a very efficient service attending over 250 call outs per year
- It offers full community safety service to its station area, including free home fire safety checks, smoke detector fitting etc., which are of particular importance in a community with a large number of elderly residents.
- Large parts of Bidford-on-Avon parish lie on a flood plane so it is essential to have a local Fire and Rescue Service close by – the Emergency Committee is very dependent on this.
- It is very active with the Young Fire Fighters – aged between 11 – 16 years, which is crucial in a village with no High School where it acts a replacement in building up a community among the young.

6. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION AND BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 2006

Bidford has entered the above two competitions and volunteers are required to ensure the village looks its best for the judging which will take place in June and July. The clerk has already advised the contractors who carry out the work on the churchyards and flowers, although it is recognized that the weather has played a major role. The clerk has also contacted the probation service with a view to using them to improve

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the verges etc. and it was agreed that areas that could be tidied up by the probation service should be earmarked to ensure they have a full day's work, which is a requirement. The clerk also advised that although the probation service have one strimmer, they would require another two to carry out the work. The council owns one and a member very kindly offered to loan them his.

7. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES GROUP

Full notes are attached hereto.

- Dugdale playing fields – the clerk to ask for a quote on the car park
- The Leys – quotes for stop ball fencing had been received. The cheapest was £3,613.00 excluding clearing up. The other quotes were for £6,219 and £5,292.00

The clerk has been looking into available grants etc. and she was instructed to continue this.

- Extension of the fencing on the Big Meadow to stop cars racing, which is beginning to be a hazard, was discussed and a quote for the fencing to be obtained.
- Use of Monie Meadow – hard court tennis courts had been proposed. IN order to obtain financial assistance from the LTA the council would have to adhere to certain rules which would be difficult as, amongst other things, they would stipulate a certain type of court which is very expensive, needs to be replaced after 4/5 years and the council would have to come up with plans as to how it would be able to finance this. Some members would like the meadow to remain an open space.
- Films in the Crawford Hall – possibility of showing films in the Crawford Hall to cater for all ages is to be looked into. Some youngsters cannot afford to go into Stratford and it was felt that perhaps up to date films being shown locally could be of interest.

The issues will be discussed further at the next Amenities Group meeting on 5th June.

8. MARLEIGH PLAY AREA

The Parish Council ordered 6 trees and a hedge planted last autumn. All the trees, bar one, and part of the hedge have been vandalized. WCC have offered to replace them at a lower price of £130 per tree including a protective cage. Members considered this and believe it is a lot of money for something that will very likely be vandalized again. It was, therefore, decided to leave the decision until later. The earliest this can be reconsidered will be at the November meeting.

9. BROOM TIP

The proposed terms and conditions received from SDC had been circulated. All members agreed that the area marked out on the map received was incorrect, as the only part of the area that was to be leased was the playing area – the rest of the tip was to be inspected regularly by a member of the council and any irregularities reported. In view of the fact that it was a repair and maintenance lease that was being offered and taking into account the actual state of the area, the council agreed that it

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could not accept the terms as offered and the clerk was instructed to write back stating that;

- Only the playing area was to be considered as part of the lease. The rest of the tip, the Parish Council would in fact be acting as a custodian for SDC
- SDC to advise and ensure no further tipping of rubbish on to the field is carried out by residents of the High St. and Kings Lane
- No car access on the field to be allowed
- Peppercorn rent required for the full 20 year lease period.

10. ANGLO SAXON PANELS

It was agreed that these should be exhibited in the lobby and quotes for boards on which to affix the panels to be obtained.

11. PLANNING APPLICATION

- **06/01095/FUL Mr. and Mrs Daffern, 10 Victoria Rd. B50 4AS**
Proposed two storey side extension and internal alterations
No representation
- **06/01154/FUL – Mr. Easthope, 22 Steppes Piece B50 4TT**
Side extension to form garage WC and utility room with en-suite bathroom at first floor.
No representation

12. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

There were various items members were not satisfied with and which were to be referred back to the RFO for his comments and amendments.

The annual accounts were, therefore not accepted. The RFO to be requested to make the necessary changes and comments for the Financial Committee meeting which was agreed to be scheduled for Monday 12th June after the Planning Committee meeting.

13. CHURCHILL SOLUTIONS

The Council agreed to the upgrade of the photocopying machine as it represented a better machine at a lower monthly cost.

14. ACCOUNTS

Payments:

It was noted that 2 cheques had been raised between meetings as they had been omitted, in error, from the April payment list. Both cheques were signed by 2 councillors and the clerk. Details are:

- Cheque 3821 for £25 to Warwickshire Training Partnership in payment of a Briefing Event
- Cheque 3822 for £15 to WRCC for the entry fee of the Village of the Year Competition.

Purchases : £10,117.43
Wages : 1,845.28
Grant repayment : £243.95 (this represents the VAT of invoices which the council can recover and so is excluded from the grant payments.)

Payments received:

Car parking	£1,062.00
Allotments rents	458.05
VAT refund	£2,401.64
Donation (memorial bench)	650.00
Grant (Crawford Memorial Hall)	£1,637.95

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

15. REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

It was resolved to seek professional advice regarding the RFO's new Employment Contract - the cost involved being £50 per hour, of which the first two hours would be paid by NALC. It was noted that traveling time was included in the two hours and the Council agreed that it would be prepared to pay for an extra hour if required. The meeting should be held in the Parish Council Offices.

The meeting ended at approx. 10.15 pm