



Cllr. Slaughter advised the Chairman that he had to leave to attend a Committee meeting in Stratford and requested the Chairman if it were possible to deal with the planning application first to allow him to be in attendance.

The Chairman put this proposal to the rest of the Council who unanimously agreed

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Smith. Cllr. Sandle has advised he would be arriving a little late.*

**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 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.

*There were none*

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

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

**4. PLANNING APPLICATION**

- **06/03175/FUL – Peter McGarry & Melanie Robinson 9 Kings Lane, Broom**  
Construction of two storey replacement dwelling and detached double garage  
*No representation*

**5. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- a) Parish Plan – report on implementation has now been sent to SDC
- b) Jim Graham, CEO at Warwickshire CC has accepted and invitation to attend the PC meeting in January to talk about the new Local Government White Paper  
It was proposed and agreed that the neighbouring Parish and Town Councils be invited to attend and that the meeting should start at 7.00 pm
- c) Revised Parish Council Code of Conduct timetable – clerk has contacted WALC who agree with the comments concerning shortage of time  
*It appears there is a delay and it is now expected to be in early January. There will be a 6 week period within which to respond to the consultation. WALC advise to keep an eye on the Department's website.*
- d) WCC has replied to comments from resident from Tower Close re High St. – no plans to alter the current arrangements  
*Clerk to write to the resident and send copy of the letter*
- e) Falcon Crescent – as instructed the clerk again contacted both WCC and SWHA stressing the problem. WCC have replied that it is hoped work to drop the kerbs will be carried out in 2007/08  
*Clerk instructed to obtain information from SWHA as no information has been received*

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- f) Bidford Rd./Mill Lane, Broom – WCC have visited area.
- g) Request for streetlight on underbridge footpath – WCC looking into this  
*The clerk was instructed to obtain a quote and to advise WCC that it should be possible to obtain electricity from the transformer by the nurseries. As to the issue of ownership of the footpath, which is being queried by WCC, some Cllrs. expresses surprised as they had been previously advised it was WCC – the clerk to write to WCC and request this is resolved as matter of urgency.*
- h) Request for 30 mph enforcement on Mill Lane – update  
*WCC have advised this is not possible at the present time. Clerk was instructed to request County Council to urgently resolve the current situation and to ensure County Cllr. was sent a copy.*
- i) Natural Connections project – Clerk has offered the Parish Council meeting room
- j) Calor Village of the Year Competition – the entry form has been sent to participate at regional and national level.  
*The Village Community Event took place on 9<sup>th</sup> December with many of the local groups and associations taking part.  
Members of the Parish Council would like to record their thanks to*
  - o *Bloomfield Ltd. for their great assistance in preparing the entry booklet - which many had praised*
  - o *Warners Budgens for their sponsorship – the catering was wonderful and enjoyed by all. Their contribution to the local community was praised and noted.*
  - o *The many local groups and associations that participated and made the event so successful*

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) SDC – Rural Cinemas – meeting arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. @ 5.00pm  
*The clerk will be attending*
- b) WCC – B4085 Marlcliff Village Speed Review – circulated  
*Members agreed this should remain unchanged. A 30 mph limit would mean more street lights and a recent consultation had shown residents were not in favour of this.  
Winter Maintenance in Warwickshire 2006/07 - noted  
Archaeological Project Manager re exhibition panels on Bidford Bidford will be allowed to keep these once they have toured South Warwickshire.,. which should take 6 months.*
- c) WALC – WCC Community Computers Scheme  
*Used computers are available for local communities – form require to be completed and sent. Numbers are limited. It was agreed the Parish Council should apply.*
- d) CPRE – Dec. Newsletter – circulated
- e) Local Works – circulated – *it was proposed and agreed that letters should be sent to our local MP John Maples and Ruth Kelly in support of the second reading of the Bill*
- f) SLCC – renewal @ £150 – *this was agreed.*
- g) East Midlands Regional Assembly – Additional consultation - *noted*

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## 7. PARISH PATH PARTNERSHIPS

An email with various request had been received. It was agreed that, as members carry out important work for the local community and area, they should be assisted as much as possible.

- Ground to the rear of the cricket pavilion – this is part of the AL23 route and is muddy and wet. The P3 requested some sort of hardcore stone to dry and level out the ground to make it passable to walkers. It was agreed this should go ahead, although the repair should be restricted to 1.5 M wide to avoid cars using it. – perhaps the funds for the P3 from WCC could cover the costs.
- New fence on the Big meadow requires marking and this was approved
- Kissing gate on the corner of the Big meadow (AL23) – this requires attention and the P3 would prefer the removal of the gate. It was agreed that a new kissing gate should be installed as replacement.
- P3's walking leaflet – they requested permission to use photos from the website, which was given.

## 8. PROPOSAL FROM THE AMENITIES GROUP

### King's Lane, Broom

– it was proposed that £36,000 of the commuted sum (S106) be used to buy play equipment and the installation of a basketball court.

The clerk had asked three companies Kompas, Record and Wicksteed) to quote, but only Wicksteed had contacted the office.

• Storm Multiplay system – Twister inc. installation :	£15,074
Underlay mat	5,200
• Twin double archway swings. Inc. installation	2,865
Underlay mat	2,900
• Spiro-whirl roundabout inc. installation	3,063
• Multi use basket ball court	16,000

This brought the total to £44,932, excluding the required fencing round the area

This was considered excessive by most councillors as the commuted sum of £88,273 should not only cover the cost of new play equipment but its maintenance and the ground maintenance of Millers Bank. It was, therefore proposed, and agreed :

- Not to purchase the spiro-whirl roundabout
- Reduce the size of the multi use basket ball court. (approx. cost £11,000)

This would reduce the cost to £37,039 – a sum which was agreeable to all members

It was also proposed, and agreed, that the Parish Council should apply for an Awards for All grant for the cost of a full size multi use basket ball court. A specification for both the full size and smaller size court to be drawn and 3 quotations requested.

### Big Meadow

The underlay matting requires replacement. The cheapest option is using Melcourt bark chippings. However, as this is an area of great use, the area would have to be raked daily to ensure it was kept in good condition. It was therefore agreed that,

despite the considerably higher cost, a replacement matting should be considered and the Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee to report back at the next Planning Committee Meeting whether the sum of £9,360 would be available for this. A member enquired if the matting was made of recyclable material and was please to hear that it was up to 97%.

#### **9. BARRIER BY THE CORNER OF ONE STOP AND SPICE AVON**

It was agreed at the last meeting that as there was a discrepancy in the memory of the Clerk and some councillors, that it should be revisited at this meeting.

Members were reminded of the circumstances: Cllr. Gerrard and the Clerk had accompanied two officers from WCC along the route taken by wheelchair and buggy users along the High Street, and the barriers were pointed out as one of the many problems encountered by them. WCC advised that it was now its policy NOT to install these barriers as they were considered an eyesore and not particularly effective. Therefore, WCC would be prepared to remove them, at some point, should the Parish Council request it. The proposal was then put to members whether they would approve the removal of the barriers at this crossing. The vote was 5 for and 4 against – so the proposal was accepted and the Clerk to advise WCC accordingly.

#### **10. MEETING DATES FOR 2007**

A schedule of proposed dates had been circulated to members prior to this meeting, and these dates were approved.

The Chairman proposed that, as WCC's CEO Jim Graham was attending the January meeting and the Parish Council were inviting neighbouring councils to attend to discuss the Local Government White Paper, the Parish Council meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> January start at 7.00 – this was unanimously agreed.

The other date to be agreed was that of the Annual Parish Meeting, which normally takes place in April. However, as April is the month when the judges of the Calor Village of the Year event will be visiting Bidford, it was agreed the meeting should take place before. Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March was agreed. It was also agreed that the format of the meeting in 2007 should be more community driven and that local groups, societies and associations should be invited to participate and also discuss how to prepare for "judgment day".

The Chairman mentioned that the idea of "surgeries" had been discussed in the past and she proposed starting these in 2007. It was agreed that they should be bi-monthly, attended by two councillors and held in the Parish Council Meeting Room on Saturday mornings – to enable as many residents to attend, perhaps on their way to the library. Dates to be agreed at the next parish Council meeting in January

The Clerk suggested that, to get as many residents involved as possible, she would like to be able to email agendas, newsletters, events etc. to those members of the parish whose address she has. These would be sent as a "blind copy" so no names or addresses would be disclosed. Furthermore, as the communication would be sent by email, there would be no extra cost to the Parish Council. Members agreed this was a good idea and gave it their approval.

## 11. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk thought it would be a good idea to give members a report, when necessary, of items of expenditure she had authorized, as they are within her limit of £500, so there is a record of them and other issues of interest:

- Pruning of trees along Big Meadow Avenue following request by Fire Brigade
- Trimming of grass under benches to make areas look tidier
- Quotation for replacement Bidford notice board

## 12. ACCOUNTS

- Apart from the list of cheques prepared by the RFO, it was proposed that the grant to the Broom Village Hall Committee for £10,000, which had been agreed by the Finance and Strategy Committee should be paid in this financial year, be given at this meeting. The proposal was unanimously agreed and the cheque signed
- It was also noted that the cheque for the Inland Revenue had not been included in the list – the clerk clarified that this payment had to be made prior to the next Parish Council meeting and that the RFO and she had agreed it would be best to have it signed at this meeting, although it is post dated to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007 to be paid at the Post Office.
- The amount of the transfer sum requested by the RFO was increased to take into account the payment to the Broom Village Hall Committee – the RFO was aware this would be the case if payment was approved.
- It was agreed that Cllrs. Ms. Deacon and Mrs. Keeley should sign.

Purchases	£4,369.35
Wages	1,845.06
Inland Rev.	1,951.47
Grant:	10,000.00

Payments Received	
Cemetery sales	£790.00
Allotment rent	18.50
Cancelled cheque	60.00

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm