

- Broom Tip – although the monitoring work is now completed, it appears SDC have not removed all the equipment. The Clerk was instructed to contact SDC regarding this matter.
- Control panels of the temporary traffic lights were a farce – anyone could, and have, tamper with the controls to change the light sequence creating havoc.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr. Barnes agreed the traffic lights had been a problem
- He added that, although he had tried to include the work of laying new tarmac on the bridge, he had not succeeded.
- Fire Services – he understood a meeting for Tuesday 1st May had been organised. He would not be able to attend but was sending a representative
- Here is a small amount of money available for improvements in the village – the Parish Council to look into this and see if any areas within the area require improvement – but not maintenance.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- A written report had been sent and is attached to these minutes.
- Cllr. James emphasized the issue of Alcester Hospital, which was endorsed by Cllr. Mrs. Keeley and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Secretary of State stressing the concern of members of the Parish Council.
- The new doctor's surgery at the site of Friday Furlong had been authorized to proceed before the rest of the development which is being delayed by a court case. SDC is still waiting for the final plans and it is envisaged that the surgery could be finalised 12 -18 months from approval.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting at 8.00 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Spiers was still in hospital. Clls. Smith was absent

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.

There were none

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH MARCH 2007

Cllr. Varga noted that it had been she, not Cllr. Deacon, who had signed the cheques. Following this amendment, Cllr. Hiscocks proposed the Minutes be accepted as being accurate and they were signed by the Chairman,

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4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- a) Meeting was arranged for the residents of Barton to meet Katrina Pedlar to discuss the village speed review
- b) Reply from WALC regarding the private right on vehicular access at The Bank
The advise received was that as it is clear the private right cannot be used, as the exit to the The Bank is blocked, the Parish Council should write to WCC and ask it to look into this matter and see whether this fact could be used to annul the original right.
- c) Clerk attended a meeting of the Bidford Fire Station Group – more in the Clerk’s Report
The Clerk advised that she had written to Ruth Kelly, asking information on three points, that had been agreed at the meeting: a) what are the Government Guidelines with regards to public consultation b) Is there a “legal” obligation for counties to consult with each other (in this instance Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) has consulted Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Services (HWFRS) but this has not been reciprocated and c) would it be possible for WFRS to be independent of WCC, as is the case with the Police and HWFRS – and thus raise its own precept and ensure sufficient funding to carry out its work
- d) Airport News info – link now available on the Parish Council’s website
- e) Marleigh Road Play Area – replacement spring toy ordered (has arrived)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) SDC – Community Grant Scheme (Avon Area closes on 14th May)
It was agreed that the PC should apply for assistance in the purchase of play equipment for Jubilee Close and also advise the it would be applying for assistance for play equipment in Broom later in the year. The Council has budgeted £15,000 for play equipment. The Clerk to obtain quotations to send with completed form.
- b) WALC – March Newsletter – *Noted and the following comments made:*
 - *Free Planning Pack should be requested*
 - *Clerk to contact SDC regarding siging up for new register for licensed public space, should the Big Meadow be required for a concert event or similar*
 - *Clerk to look into the funding for energy saving projects.*Membership renewal @ £754.00 pa - *agreed*
New Model Code of Conduct – *since issuing the Agenda, the Clerk was informed that the Standards Board has issued a new versions specifically for parish and town councils and this, together with more guidance, will be sent in due course. Also, Liam Nevin, the SDC Monitoring Officer, will be carrying out a couple of tuition sessions in early summer and he has advised that the new code should not be adopted until members have attended one of these. Copy of this version was given to Councillors at the meeting and it was agreed to delay the adoption until after the tuition sessions, as advised by SDC’s Monitoring Officer.*
- c) Postwatch regarding Post Office closures - *Noted*
- d) Audit Commission – confirming appointment of Clement Keys for the financial year 2006/07 - *Noted*
- e) Wixford Parish Council – copy of letter sent to Route Performance Manager re

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resurfacing of A46 by Wixford - *Noted*

f) Letter from Bidford resident regarding damage to fencing into their property.

Repair will cost approx. £100. They also mention a poplar tree which has been vandalized. This has been inspected and work on it will be carried out at the same time as the cleaning/tidying up of the field boundary.

The Clerk advised that the repair to the fence would cost approx. £100 and she had given authorization for this.

g) Letter from resident regarding Jubilee Close play area (ongoing correspondence)

The letter referred to the single goal post that has been erected in the play area.

A proposal for a site visit to discuss this issue with the local residents was made.

During the discussion regarding the proposal, it was made clear that the area was a play area for children of all ages and residents buying houses bordering the area were aware of this;; that the play equipment was being replaced – it was not new play equipment as in the case of Broom; that houses bordering the play area did not have a right to have gates on to the play area, which some have erected.

A vote followed: 4 for the proposal and 4 against. The Chairman declined making the casting vote as she considers this to be undemocratic. In view of this, the motion was not carried.

h) Letter from resident regarding The Leys play area. *The Clerk had notified the Police*

i) Robert Lunn & Lowth – confirmation that the Land Registry has completed transfer of Millers Bank, Broom – *Noted*

6. BARTON VILLAGE SPEED REVIEW

As agreed at the last PC meeting, a meeting with the Project Manager, Katrina Pedlar and the residents of Barton had been arranged. This took place on Tuesday 24th April at the Parish Council Meeting room. The Chairman advised that Miss Pedlar had fully explained the reason why the work could not be carried out before 2008, despite the offer from the Parish Council to part fund it – this is mainly due to a limited number of personnel that cannot be taken away from current work.

Members were asked to approve the proposals sent by WCC – this was unanimous and the Clerk to advise Katrina Pedlar accordingly

7. CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION – JUDGES' VISIT ON 23RD APRIL

The Chairman would like to thank all residents who participated, especially those groups and associations that exhibited in the church, which looked great. She also mentioned the Village Crier who did a splendid job welcoming the judges to Bidford-on-Avon on the morning of the day of St. George – she believed they were pleasantly surprised.

The judges appeared to enjoy their two hour visit, they had an opportunity of visiting some of the businesses on the Industrial Estate, as well as the library and school.

They were also keen to talk to residents, which they did at length and also enjoyed their tea/coffee and cakes at the Jolly Teapot. We now wait to hear the results!

The Clerk was requested to write to all participating groups thanking them.

8. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)

The group is now very successful – so much so that they have taken on the work at Wixford. In view of this, they have requested that the balance of the funds originally transferred to the Parish council now be given to them, as this would facilitate their work.

This was unanimously agreed, and Members also thanked the P3 Chairman and all his colleagues for the wonderful work they have done. The PC also thanked them for thanking Gillian Whitehouse for her assistance in producing the leaflet of the various local walks. Mrs. Whitehouse has been very poorly recently and this was a great gesture on the part of the P3 Group which was greatly appreciated.

(These leaflets showing the walks are available in the stand outside the Parish Council Office)

9. STREET LIGHTS:

It was agreed that the following lights will be replaced in this year's programme:

- Icknield Close - Nos. 1 and 2
- Queensway – No 2
- High Street – No. 5
- Church Street – No. 1

10. METAL GATE FOR THE ALLOTMENT AREA

At the request of the allotment holders, a quotation was obtained for a metal gate to be erected to stop vandalism in the area. The cost would be £123.25, which was authorized. The allotment holders would carry out the installation themselves.

11. LETTER HEADED PAPER

The Clerk had obtained a quotation for letter headed paper for the use of the Parish Council – this would look more professional. The cost would be £75 for 500 or £95 for 1000. It would be in the Parish Council blue. It was agreed to have 1000

12. AWARDS FOR ALL – DIGITAL MAPPING

At a recent clerk's conference, the Clerk had seen software for digital mapping of any village or town. This could be used to keep a register of assets and their location. The initial cost would be £550, and then £175 pa thereafter. The Clerk had checked this could be paid from the Awards for All funds. This was approved.

13. REPORT FROM THE MARSH FARM LIAISON MEETING

This is attached hereto and was read by the Chairman. The most important issue for the parish residents is that CEMEX have advised that it does not intend pursuing the Broom Court Farm site, nor has it heard of any other company thinking of doing so at present, although this does not mean it will not.

14. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY

This took place on Saturday 28th April between 10.00 am – 11.00 am. The report which was read out at the meeting is attached hereto.

One of the issues raised was speeding up Tower Hill out of the village, and it was proposed that an additional sign that lights up when speeding should be requested under the improvement grant Cllr. Barnes had informed the Council was available during his report.

15. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Due to the confidential nature of this item, members of the public will be asked to leave the room

- **RFO** – It was proposed a letter requesting a reply to the letter sent by the Council on 29th March 2007 should be sent.
- **Big Meadow Facilities Operative** – It was agreed to extend this contract for a further two years at the same cost.

16. ACCOUNTS

Purchases : £8407.53

Wages: 1988.87

Payments received :

Precept:	70,000
Churchyard maintenance:	8,656.61
Allotment rents	551.40
Cemetery sales	170
Car Parking	2,100

It was agreed that Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Langston sign the cheques

The meeting closed at approx. 9.45 pm

**CLERK'S REPORT
APRIL 2007**

- I attended the first Bidford Fire Station meeting, representing the Parish Council. It was agreed that one of the reasons for the lack of activity with regards to the setting up of the independent review could be due to the forthcoming local elections.
In view of this, it was agreed that an information sheet/booklet will be prepared and printed for distribution shortly after the elections, giving information to all the villages covered by Bidford Fire Station as well as advise as to how to proceed.
In the meantime, it was suggested that the Parish Council write a letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Ms. Ruth Kelly, to make her aware of the situation and requesting information and clarification in respect of some comments made by WCC. This has been done.
- Together with Bill Garrard, of the Environment Agency, I visited the site of the stagnant pond at Millers Bank, to see the possibility of making it a wild fowl reserve – or similar. The EA has recently been restructured, so Mr. Garrard is still getting to know some of the new personnel. He will revert with some more information in time for the May PC meeting.
In the meantime, he confirms that they would be happy for the PC to develop this site. He advised that a number of trees would have to be severely cut back; pipes installed to ensure there is always water as Bomfords still have the right to extract water from the pond; plus other work. He calculates the cost will be in the region of £10,000. He will be coming back to me with news as to how the EA will assist, if at all.
I wonder if there is also the possibility of obtaining a grant from somewhere towards this. i.e. Biffa or similar.
- I have again walked along the High Street with Bob Yarwood, this time accompanied by Richard Beard of SDC CCTV to look at the possibility of improving the lighting.
It appears it could do with a further 3 lights – two of them would require permission of the nearby business, the other is by the telephone booth and I have asked the residents to let me know whether they object. I have heard back from them and they have no objection, but would like some sort of shield to stop the light going directly into their houses. Bob Yarwood has agreed to try a special lantern that beams the light downwards. If this does not work then they will put a shield.
Bob Yarwood, has reverted with prices. The Parish Council has budgeted to two.
- I am also looking into the possibility of Solar street lights from a couple of sources. I have received a couple of quotes that I will study more carefully This is for the site near the bridge between Bidford and Broom. I hope to have more concrete details by the May meeting.

- I had a meeting with Budgens regarding the site for a bus shelter and the possibility of Budgens part funding it. Mr. Warner would prefer the site to be a little bit away from where the actual bus stop is and entirely on the pavement. I have sent him photographs of what the shelter looks like and have enquired as to the cost of advertising panels that will then be “managed” by Budgens. I am also looking at the possibility of some funding from WCC. Rural Kitty no longer exists but there is a replacement, albeit for smaller amounts.
- Calor Village of the Year Competition. Although letters of thanks will be sent on behalf of the Parish Council to ALL the participants, on a personal basis, I should like to thank Jackie and Rob Williams for the great work they did putting together the presentation film, running around filming etc. as well as collecting and delivering the display bards from SDC. All of this in their own time.
- I have taken delivery of the Community Computer. I have asked Steve Harris to set it up for the use of residents. It will be placed outside the office, so a table and chair will be required, and will be made WiFi so no holes for cables will be needed and a router will be bought and installed to allow full use of the computer by the community. All costs will be borne by the Awards for All budget.
- Riverfield, Marlcliff – SDC insist there is no case to answer as far as it is concerned. They have given me the contact name of the Environment Agency dealing with this, Mr. R. Shuttleworth. I have contacted twice but to date have not heard back from him.
In the meantime, I received an email from Alison Hodge forwarding a request from Tanworth PC – they would like to hear from any other Parish/Town Council within SDC having problems with the Enforcement Dept. I have contacted the Clerk at Tanworth and she will be coming back to me shortly to discuss the issue in more detail.