

# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

### **PRESENT**

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

Also present. County Cllr. Barnes and District Cllrs. James, Pemberton and Slaughter, 10 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

The meeting followed from the Annual Parish Council Meeting that closed at 7.50 pm

The Chairman asked if the members of the public would like to use the Public Forum time.

- Millers Bank –
  - Could something be done to clear the area of debris brought up from the river during the last floods.
  - Could the slope/bank be strimmed when the grass is mowed. Also it would appear the bank is slipping – this to be investigated,
  - There is a lot of dog fouling – it was agreed that some bins could be installed.
  - Parking at the junction of Mill Lane/High Street – cars park on the corner resulting in very poor visibility when driving on to the High Street. The Police to be contacted regarding this issue.
- Barton – The Cottage of Contents. Residents expressed their great concern regarding recent developments at The Cottage of Contents. The current tenants,

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who arrived in early December 2006 had become very popular with the local community as they had greatly improved the pub, raised its profile and arranged regular events. However, the owners of the pub, Punch Tavern had recently served them with a notice to quit and residents requested the support of the Parish Council. It was agreed the Council should write to Punch Taverns and also seek advice from Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC)

- Jubilee Close – a letter had been posted to residents surrounding this play area regarding the newly installed football posts.  
However, it was requested that the Council give consideration to the situation before taking this down as it was greatly used by children and football was being played there before the goal post was installed. Perhaps the Council could look at the possibility of a fence along one side of the play area to stop the wooden fences being damaged by the footballs.  
Also, could the play area be reinstated. The Clerk advised that posters had been posted on the notice boards advising residents using Jubilee close play area to come to the Parish Office to look at the planned play equipment and make their comments. The notice had also been placed on the website and will be included in the next edition of the Bidford Connection, which is delivered to all households.

#### **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- Bidford Fire Station. Cllr. Barnes had met with Chief Officer Brown who confirmed that neither District nor Parish/Town Councils were being included in the review. In fact the review has already started and County Councillors are being asked to complete a questionnaire. When asked to see a copy of this document by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr. Barnes replied that he had not received one yet. He added, that he had recently attended meetings at Salford Priors and Dorsington and both councils had expressed their deep concern.
- Area Planning – although not strictly a county matter, Cllr. Barnes advised that there appeared to be a difference in how planning was considered in the two district areas: West and East resulting in West Area houses being too cramped and not enough parking.  
District Councillors concurred that a single Planning Area would be better as it would mean all decisions would be taken at the same level.

#### **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- Cllr James apologies for not having sent a written report – his computer had broken down!
- Election – Bidford was the only Ward to be electronically counted. Due to the number of problems this system had caused, they did not think the CEO would be keen to volunteer to take part in further experiments of this sort.
- Planning – two recent applications have raised concern : Avon Farm in Avon and the Riverside Shooting on Salford Road. Ward Councillors have requested they both go to committee for consideration.
- District Council is preparing itself for a further inspection in June

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- Bidford Young Fire Fighters had hosted “It’s a Knockout” competition on Saturday, which had been very successful with over 120 participants. Regrettably, Bidford came second, beaten by Warwick who will host the event next year. The Young Fire Fighters should be congratulated for their tremendous effort

The Chairman then opened the Meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Cllr Sandle had sent in his apologies as he was unwell. These were accepted. The Clerk advised that Cllr. Smith, who had been absent at the last meeting had advised her the next day that this was due to his son suffering an accident which required him to be taken to hospital. The Council noted and accepted this.*

**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 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2007**

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

**4. CLERKS REPORT**

This was read out and are attached to these Minutes.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) WCC – Draft Parking Policies for consultation (circulated) – *It was agreed Cllr. Ms Varga should read through this and send any comments to the Clerk*

*Bidford Fire Station – update – The Clerk had been in correspondence with the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Hobbs. She could confirm that the 3 party leaders had agreed the appointment of Peter Morphey to carry out the independent review. When asked about the remit of this review, she had been advised that this power was delegated to Chief Officer Brown. When asked about public consultation, which had been promised, the Clerk was advised that this would only take place if any changes would take place to the Fire Service following the review.*

*This was wholly unsatisfactory to the Parish Council who stated that once again the Charter was being ignored and Parish/Town Councils – and in this instance even Borough/District Councils - were being totally ignored despite the issue in question being of paramount importance to the residents of Warwickshire.*

*The Clerk was instructed to write to Jim Graham WCC CEO and request an explanation, bearing in mind the Parish Council had invited, and heard him talk about, closer links with the community etc.*

Structural Footway Works, Welford Rd., Barton *This is to grass overpiece of footpath in front of Letterbox Cottage, Welford Rd. (next to The Cottage of Content) which was causing problems. The Council agreed to support this.*

b) SDC – Invitation to a training session of new Code of Conduct (circulated)

*It was agreed that all members and the clerk should attend the meeting at Alcester on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June.*

Invitation to a training session on planning application responses (material consideration) *It was agreed that those members who were available would attend this at Elizabeth House on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June.*

c) WALC – Further updates on the new Code of Conduct (circulated). *These were noted and members referred to the fact they would be attending a training session that should clarify the situation in full.*

Review of Internal Auditing system (circulated) *Noted.*

d) CPRE – Newsletter – circulated

e) Standards Board for England – re the new Code of Conduct. *Noted*

f) Community Environmental Action Projects – *This is a company that offers advice and carries out projects, at a cost. It was agreed that perhaps the Council could contact them once more information on the possible development of the “reservoir for wild fowl” at Millers Bank was available.*

## **6. JUBILEE CLOSE PLAY AREA**

Grant application has been sent to SDC within the allocated time. Residents using this play area are being invited to visit the Parish Council Office during the month of June, to look at the planned equipment and give their comments. This notice has been placed on the noticeboards, the website and will appear in the June edition of the Bidford Connection, delivered to all houses in the villages.

Regarding the football post – 1 signed form requesting its withdrawal had been received as well as a letter clearly stating it should not be taken down.

The Council agreed to monitor the situation and hear the residents’ comments when they visit look at the play equipment proposals.

## **7. STREET LIGHTING QUOTATION**

Quotations had been received for the installation of 2 street lights on the High Street @ £1199.57 each; the fitting of a new lantern to street light no. 1 Saxon Close @ £282.49, and for a corner bracket to be fitted to the butchers (subject to their approval) @ £1,223.09 – a total of £3,904.72.

It was agreed that the Chairman of the Finance Committee would look to see if this were possible and residents should be consulted prior to the final decision being made.

## **8. SOLAR POWER STREET LIGHTING**

Information and quotations had been sought following the decision of the parish Council to look into this possibility to light the footpath by Broom Bridge. Two quotations had been received: One was for approx. £1500 excluding installation, the other for £2,240 inc. installation.

Before any decision could be made, it was agreed that a site visit should be arranged to ensure the suitability of the site.

#### **9. REPORT FROM COMMUNITY DAY MEETING**

This had been well attended. The main results of the various discussions were:

- A site should be found to develop something where the youngsters can congregate safely and with minimum disturbance for residents. All agreed that the ideal site was the land at the rear of Bidford Fire Station, which belongs to WCC. This has the support of the Police, the various local community groups as well as District Council. The Clerk was instructed to write to WCC to look into this possibility for Community Safety Development.
- Youngsters should be consulted as to what it is they would like the village to offer them that would encourage them to use the facilities instead of simply “hanging” around

#### **10. PARISH COUNCIL COMPUTER UPDATE**

The Clerk advised the Council that, due to the enormous amount of information currently received electronically, the computer is showing signs of age and is slowing down. She had obtained two quotations – one from DELL the other from Evesham Technology, based on the specifications provided by SDC. The cost would be approx £750 and would be funded by Awards for All.

The expenditure was agreed as was that it should be bought locally from Evesham Technology who have supplied the council before and are close.

#### **11. AWARDS FOR ALL UPDATE**

The Clerk has completed the End of Award Report which has been sent to SDC for approval before being posted prior to the deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

#### **12. DATE FOR THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was proposed that, being summer, the next meeting could be on an evening as this would allow some councillors not available for Saturdays to attend. The clerk suggested it be done on an evening when the library is open late, as this allows more opportunity for residents. It was agreed that the next surgery would take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July between 6.00 – 7.00 pm attended by Cllrs Hiscocks and Smith.

### 13. ACCOUNTS

Purchases :	£12,997.26
Wages:	1,988.47
Donation :	300.00

#### Payments received :

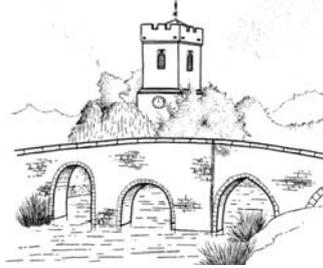
Car parking	£1,200.00
Allotment rent	515.50
Cancelled cheque	45.00
Cemetery sales	1,190.00
Meadow concessions	550.00
WET Grant	350.00
SDC Churchyard/maintenance	285.67

It was agreed that Cllrs. Ms Deacon and Langston sign the cheques

The meeting closed at approx. 9.35 pm

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### **CLERKS REPORT MAY 2007**

- A letter has been sent to Secretary of State Mrs. Patricia Hewitt expressing the Parish Council's concern regarding the delay in the development of the new Alcester Hospital, which is greatly detrimental to the area.
- I have sent Bidford Connection two notices:
  - Big Meadow – the entry fee of £2.00 must be paid by all who do **not** have a Free Car Park pass. Residents can apply by completing an application form, available online and at the Parish Council Office. But it must be noted that residents who do not have a pass, will be charged the £2 – this can be reimbursed at the Parish Council Office by returning the ticket.
  - Jubilee Close Play Area – all residents who use this area are invited to look at the various play equipment options, available at the Parish Council Office which is open daily between 10.00 am – 12.30 pm, and make their comments.
- Barton Speed Limit Review – I have written to County Council confirming the Parish Council's support of this scheme
- Marsh Farm – I have looked into the proposed reservoir at Broom Lane by contacting the Environment Agency. They have confirmed they have received a request for a water extraction license at Dunnington Farm, which coincides with the area for which planning permission was given in November 2006 under planning application No. 06/01725/FUL. I have yet to hear back from Tony Rowley at CEMEX who was contacting the Ragley Estate to obtain information.

- Calor Village of the Year Award – I am afraid that, as I have not received an email, we have not won the Regional competition. I have tried to find out which village has by going into the website, but so far nothing has been published. This may mean there is still hope but.....However, I can advise “The Judges reported that the standard of the villages representing their county in the competition this year was higher than in any previous year. Well done!” So once again, thank you to all residents. And I promise, I will be writing to you all once I have received our new letterheaded paper.
  
- Tower Hill – a request for a speed activated sign to be installed on Tower Hill on the way out of Bidford was sent to Cllr. Barnes following the decision of the Parish Council to ask for this from the funds that may be available for village improvement . I was asked to pass on the request to Chris Fossey, who has sent me a Speed Aware request form for completion and return, which should result in a temporary sign being installed and a temporary sign be available approx. 4 times a year  
*It was resolved that the Speed Aware form be completed and sent*
  
- WALC – Newsletter:
  - Planning Aid pack available in the Parish Council office. I have also given details of how to download it to those councillors on email
  - Licensed Public Space – I contacted the licensing department at District Council to take advice which is do nothing for the moment as it is not worth it. If, in the future, the Parish Council decides itself to organise something, it can apply for a temporary license or, at that time, consider applying for a full one. In the meantime, anyone wishing to use the Big Meadow for events should apply separately for it.
  - Salix – have contacted them and requested a pack (which has not arrived to date). However, from the information obtained, it appears this is aimed more at District and County Councils who deal with housing which is where the assistance is offered.
  
- Millers Bank – pond area  
Following the site visit last month, I have now heard back from Bill Garrard that he has visited the site together with his new manager who appears to be positive that something could be done in this area and is going to arrange for a survey report to be carried out.

- Turn up For Free Sports (TUFFS)  
The above is being organised by District Council who have arranged for the it to be available at the Big Meadow from 11.30 – 4.30 on the following days:
  - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July
  - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July
  - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August
  - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August
  - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August
  - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> AugustThey are also looking into the possibility of having something at Dugdale Avenue – dates etc. will follow.
  
- Archaeological Project in Bidford  
I have now heard from WCC it has been successful with its application to English Heritage for an archaeological outreach project in Bidford. The project begins immediately and will be completed end of February 2008. Christine Evans would like to visit the Council and introduce the project – possibilities?  
*It was agreed that members could meet with Christina Evans on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June @ 6.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room.*