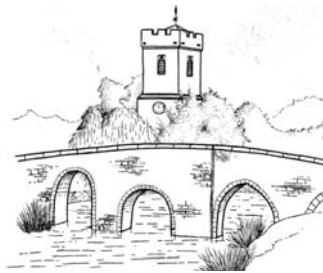


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th June 2007 in the Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Keeley
Cllrs. Gerrard, Hendey, Langston, Sandle Smith and
 Spiers

Also present. County Cllr. Barnes and District Cllrs. Pemberton
 and Slaughter, 9 members of the public and 1 member of
 the press.

The Chairman noted there were no youngsters to speak so asked if the members of the public would like to use the Public Forum time.

- Barton – residents have been advised that the Speed Limit Review can be brought forward by a year if the Parish Council agrees to fund the advertising required for this to go ahead. Residents requested the Parish Council to agree to this
The Chairman advised the item was on the Agenda and would be discussed during the meeting. She added that she understood one of the residents had been given this information directly by the County Councillor and pointed out this was not the correct way to act – the matter should be properly discussed at a Parish Council meeting and a decision made without undue pressure.

- Mark Smith expressed how good it was to see Cllr. Spiers back (he has been very poorly lately and spent a lot of time in hospital)
- A resident from Cleeve Priors objected to the proposed dwelling under planning application 07/00984/FUL. He was advised that the District Council is the planning authority and he should write his objections to them, with a copy to the Parish Council for its records.
- A resident who has his own craft business would like permission to hold some charity events on the Big Meadow – he was advised the issue was on the Agenda and would be discussed during the meeting.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Barton – there had been a problem with the drainage which resulted in flooding on the Welford Road, and silt being deposited on the road. The Clerk was aware of this and had visited the site where she met Cllr. Barnes. The gully has now been cleared.
- B430 – a safety audit will be carried out on this road next year. Cllr., Barnes expressed his satisfaction with this as there are a number of places on the road he feels are quite dangerous
- Bus passes – these will be available for all over 60's and valid for anywhere in Britain. However, their use on National Express buses has to be confirmed
- Bidford Fire Station – Cllr. Barnes met with Mr. Peter Morpew, who is carrying out the independent review who told him there were not many options available. These would be put to the Council for their decision and go out to consultation thereafter.

Cllr. Barnes confirmed he has returned the questionnaire, one of the few County Councillors to have done so.

He also advised that the Parish Council should write directly to Mr. Morpew with its concerns and views.

It also appears that the development of a new fire station at Pebworth is now doubtful as the intended purchase of land cannot go ahead as it is too high and not considered best value.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Slaughter gave apologies for Cllr. James
- Following the presentation by the Parish Council Chairman at SDC's Community Grant Scheme, District Councillors were pleased to confirm that the Parish Council had been successful in its application for 50% of the cost of the project up to a maximum of £15,000
The Bowling Club had also been successful in its application for a grant of £550
- SDC is now awaiting the results of the CAP inspection which is expected by Friday. Councillors were optimistic and hoped for a positive result.

Cllrs. Pemberton and Slaughter then left the meeting as they were expected elsewhere.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. Ms Deacon, Hiscocks and Ms. Vargas had all sent their apologies which were accepted

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. Keeley declared a personal interest in Planning Application 07/01536/FUL

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 21ST MAY 2007

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

As there were members of the public attending for various items on the Agenda, the Chairman proposed these be dealt with first. Members agreed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Item 5k) on the Agenda – Letter from resident requesting permission to hold charity events supporting local causes on the Big Meadow. Own marquee and small gazebo will be provided. No food or drink will be provided.

It was requested that perhaps he should contact other local residents who dealt in crafts and similar and give them the opportunity to participate to which he had no objection. ON this basis, members agreed on principle but advised permission had to be sought from the Trustees as it was partly business and to date only charity events had been allowed to take place. August Bank holiday was chosen as a date for a trial event.

5. BARTON SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – UPDATE (item 5 on the Agenda)

WCC had written to advise that the Village Speed Limit Review would be carrying out sign and lining improvements to Marlcliff this summer. The extent of the white lining needed is greater than had been anticipated and it had also been noted that Barton would also need extensive changes to its white lines in order to introduce a 30 mph speed limit. This would allow an opportunity to combine the works for the two villages and bring forward the Village Speed Limit Review of Barton by 12 months. WCC does not have the funding in this year's programme for Barton to enable the advertising of the speed limit Order, cover legal expenses, advertising costs or the costs of the Safety Audits and surveys. However, if the Parish Council would contribute by funding these costs, which would be between £4000 - £5000, Barton's Speed Limit Review could go ahead this year.

The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee proposed that this funding be taken from the Village Improvement. He did point out that this would leave no further reserves and it was quite early in the financial year. Members considered the proposal and noted that the residents of Barton had been fighting long and hard over the years for this speed limit. The proposal was carried unanimously and the funding was agreed.

6. PLANNING APPLICATION (No. 14 on the Agenda)

- **07/00984/FUL Ms. M. Thomas, 18 Cleeve Rd. Marlcliff**
Replacement dwelling and detached double garage
 - i. Layout and design of the proposed dwelling not in keeping with the neighbouring dwelling and the landscape
 - ii. There are no three storey buildings on Cleeve Road
 - iii. The height of the proposed dwelling is overwhelming

7. CLERKS REPORT

This was read out and are attached to these Minutes.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WALC – May Newsletter (circulated) – *Noted. The Clerk advised that a copy of the Chairman's report and some photos had been sent to WALC*
Quick guidance on Compliance with the Ethical Framework for Parish and Town Councils (circulated) *Noted*
- b) Perkins' Educational Foundation – invitation to apply for Awards for the Academic Year 2007/08 (posted on notice boards)
- c) Letter from resident re goal post on Jubilee Close play area – *It was noted that this was the same resident who has complained about the goal post. The letter enclosed three signed petitions but it was noted these had not been sent by the signatories but by the resident who had initiated the petition.*
The Chairman reminded members that other residents using the Jubilee Close play area had attended the Parish Council meeting in May and requested play equipment be restored and the football goal post be retained and the situation monitored over a period of time.
As the Parish Council is planning to install a new play area it was agreed that any further decisions regarding the goal post be postponed until after the play equipment was installed for some time and the situation had been monitored.
- d) Stop! Listen...Play – thank you letter
- e) Bidford Angling Club – request for grant – *The amount requested was £150 which was agreed.*
- f) WCC – Environment and Economy Dept. offering “Bespoke woodwork projects made to order” *The information was noted and the Clerk requested that it should be filed for possible future use.*
- g) Crawford Memorial Hall – Invitation to AGM on Tuesday 3rd July @ 8.00 pm.
Noted
- h) Reply from Dept. of Health re Alcester Hospital – *This was read out. A copy ois*

available at the Parish Council Office

i) Wychavon DC – advising of date of Honeybourne Airfield Ind. Est. Inquiry – *This is Tuesday 3rd July @ 10.00 am. It was agreed the Clerk should attend this. She advised it would be important to have a record of the number of illegal vehicles using the bridge over a period of 24 hours and Mark Smith volunteered to carry this out. This information will be the basis of the Parish Council's objection to the development*

j) Local Works – Sustainability Bill passes third reading. *Noted. The Clerk also advised that John Maples MP had sent a copy of Hansards recording the proceedings of the day.*

k) Letter from resident requesting permission to hold charity events supporting local causes on the Big Meadow. Own marquee and small gazebo will provided. No food or drink will be provided. *This was dealt with at the start of the meeting and the decision is recorded under Item 4*

l) Councillors Commission – invitation to attend “Meet the Councillors Commission” @The Warwick Art Centre on 24th July 9.30 am – 4.00 pm *It was noted that this was another meeting regarding the Local Government White Paper. As there was no telephone number provided the Clerk had not been able to obtain any further information regarding this body.*

9. JUBILEE CLOSE PLAY AREA – UPDATE

The Chairman was delighted to be able to confirm SDC had awarded a grant of 50% of the value of the project to a maximum of £15,000.

This would allow for the installation of equipment to a value of £30,000.

The Clerk that only 2 persons had visited the office to look at the equipment.

However, as the children from Broom had looked at the various brochures and marked their preferences, this could be used as a pointer and a full quotation to a value of £30,000 would be requested based on those and be presented to the Parish Council for approval at the Planning Committee Meeting on 9th July 2007 to ensure the equipment is installed as soon as possible.

10. OPEN SPACE AREA AT THE REAR OF DUGDALE AVENUE

- Resident has requested the installation of a couple of seats.- *this request was considered. However, it was deemed impractical as there up to 7 football pitches at any one time when the clubs play, making it difficult to place them for parents to sit and watch; and they make mowing the grass – an important issue as football is played – very difficult.*
- Real Centro Football Club has requested permission to leave the goal posts on the field – they will be locked and put to one side of the field – *this was agreed with the proviso they were put to one side where they are not visible; they are left there at the owners risk; there are no complaints from residents.*
- Resident has requested the area be made an “alcohol free” area - *The Clerk looked into this and has been advised by WALC that the Parish Council does not have the power to do this. She then spoke to SDC who are unable to assist as things stand, especially as the area is owned by the PC and there have not*

been major complaints regarding the area. However, the Parish Council can give the power to the Police to enforce a no alcohol policy should it so wish. The Chairman proposed this be done and this was unanimously carried. The Clerk to write to the Police accordingly.

11. SOLAR LIGHTING QUOTATIONS

Two quotations have been received for 2 lamp posts, with solar panels and bulb and installation: a) £5,300 and b)£5,686.52. In view of the rather large sums involved, it was agreed the Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee would look into the possibility of funding this and make his proposal at the Planning Committee meeting on 9th July..

12. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

These had been circulated to all members to give them time to inspect them. The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee proposed they be adopted. This was agreed but the Clerk to request the RFO to give details of the “miscellaneous expenditure” The Annual Return form was duly completed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

13. TWINNING ASSOCIATION – INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 1225 JUBILEE OF THE VILLAGE OF WERMERTSHAUSEN IN EBSDORFERGRUND FROM 17TH TO 19TH AUGUST 2007

An invitation to the Parish Council had been sent by the Mayor of Ebsdorfergrund, with which the Parish Council is twinned, by the Clerk of Wermertshausen and the Chairman of the Twinning Association to attend the above celebrations.

£500 have been budgeted for this event. It was agreed 4 people should attend the event. However, when the issue of payment of the plane tickets was discussed, the question was raised whether these should be paid for by this sum. Some members stated that it was attending a civic event and therefore was part of the job description of a councillor – however Cllr. Sandle disagreed and stated that those attending should pay for their own travel expenses as it could be considered a holiday.

A proposal was made that 4 councillors should attend and their travel arrangements paid for. The two members who were free to attend, did not vote. The remaining members voted as follows:

Cllrs. Hendey, Langston, Smith and Spiers voted in favour

Cllr. Sandle voted against

A second proposal was made that, in the event 4 councillors could not attend, the number should be made up with the partner/spouse of an attending councillor and their travel expenses also be paid for. The voting for this proposal was as follows:

Cllrs. Hendey, Langston, Smith and Spiers in favour

Cllr. Sandle against

The Clerk made Councillors aware that the £500 also had to cover the cost of a gift. So it was agreed the travel expenses would be paid from the balance.

14. COMMUNITY LINKS

At the recent Chairman and Clerks Liaison meeting, SDC had mentioned that one of the parish council's had set aside funds to pay for the costs of the bus for residents that could not afford the £2 round trip fare. The Chairman believed this was an excellent scheme proposed the Parish Council adopt a similar system. Members agreed in principle but were unable to determine the amount of money that should be put to one side to cover this cost. It was agreed that SDC should be contacted to ascertain the number of users and whether this number could be increased if such a scheme existed and the information reported back to enable the Council to make a decision.

15. BIDFORD FIRE STATION –UPDATE

The leaflets had been printed and distributed.

The Clerk had written to the Jim Graham (WCC CEO) on 24th May and 6th June requesting some specific information regarding the appointment of Peter Morpew to carry out the independent review of the Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Services (WFRS) and had finally received a reply from Chief Officer Brown dated 13th June. This letter did not give full replies to the queries raised by the Parish Council so it was agreed a further letter, requesting full and detailed replies, should be sent to Mr. Brown (the Clerk had prepared a draft which was read out to the Council who approved it). It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to Peter Morpew expressing the Parish Council's concerns and views (the Clerk had also prepared a draft which was read out and approved) The Clerk was instructed to send both letters. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that John Maples MP had chased Mr. Graham on learning that no response had been received to her letter of 24th May.

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The first application had already been discussed at the start of the meeting under item 6

- 07/01535/FUL – G. Field, Steve Cross Motor Engineering Unit 5 Beech Tree Park – subdivision of Unit 5 to create a café/snack bar (Class A3) and Storage (Class B8)
No representation
- 07/01536/FUL – Mr. and Mrs Kiddle – 31 Icknield Close B50 4BZ –
Proposed conservatory to rear
As the Chairman Cllr. Keeley declared a personal interest in this and did not participate in either the discussion or the voting, Cllr. Gerrard was elected to chair the meeting during her absence
No representation

17. ACCOUNTS

Purchases :	£10,724.76
Wages:	1,988.25
Inland Revenue :	2,105.61

Payments received :

Car parking	£1,260.00
Allotment rent	18.50
Cemetery sales	110.00

It was agreed that Cllrs Gerrard and Hendey sign the cheques

18. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

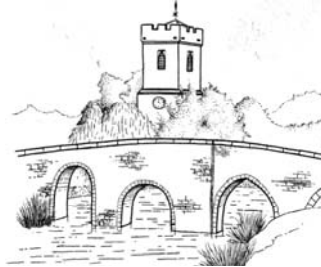
Due to the confidential nature of these item members of the public will be requested to withdraw.

It was agreed the Staffing Committee should meet with the RFO

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

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CLERKS REPORT JUNE 2007

- At the recent Liaison meeting at District Council, it was brought to my attention that the “No Smoking” regulations that come into effect on 1st July will affect the Parish Council. For example, notices will have to be fixed to bus shelters, as these are considered enclosed areas, as well as to the Parish Office door.
I have ordered these signs – as well as some for the Crawford Memorial Hall, which are free.
- Together with Cllr. Hendey I met the youngsters of Broom and let them look at the play equipment books. They were very enthusiastic and gave me quite a few ideas. A quote has been received based on the desired equipment as well as an artist’s impression of what the play area will look like which, hopefully, will be displayed at the Broom Village Hall for all to see
- Following the comments made at the last meeting regarding Millers Bank, when it was mentioned that the bank by some of the houses is slipping, I have arranged to meet with Environment Agency Officer on Tuesday (tomorrow) at 9.30 am
- Following discussions regarding extra street lights for the High Street to enhance the CCTV, letters were sent to all the residents on the High Street that would be affected by the increased lighting asking for their comment. I have received only two replies, both positive.
In the meantime, together with WCC I am trying to establish the best positions for the street lights as well as a quote based on this. I have contacted SDC to see whether some financial assistance can be given and am awaiting a reply to this.

- I have authorized the erection of a security gate on the toilets to the Big Meadow at a cost of £350 . This is to secure the door to the ladies toilet which is being regularly vandalized.
- As agreed by the Parish Council, I have also ordered to signs :
 - Parish Council Office to go over the office door so that it is clear to visitors where it is
 - Parish Council Meeting Room to go over the double doors to the Meeting Room – again to ensure visitors know where they are
 Total cost, including installation was £200
- Rural Cinema – I am pleased to advise that the Crawford Memorial Hall has received the go ahead from Biffa to purchase and install the necessary equipment, It is hoped this will happen in August. SDC have also confirmed that they have received sufficient funds to take be able to go ahead with the project. The coordinator will be submitting a formal report to the leaders of the council to make the scheme a reality. Once I have been advised of an official launch date I will let you all know. To void any confusion, I will clarify the reason we still need to be part of the SDC scheme is that we will be borrowing the films through them – this is to keep costs down as well as the administration, which will all be carried out by SDC.
- Buried under Bidford – the Parish Council met with Christine Evans who will be leading this exciting project. It will take place in and around Bidford-on-Avon and will give residents the chance to experience some hands-on archaeology and learn more about the heritage of the Bidford Area. The project will include:
 - Fieldwalking events to learn more about the archaeology of the surrounding area
 - An exhibition created by local people to celebrate Bidford's history
 - An archaeological comic for school children (Roman)
 - Training sessions on how to use documentary sources and how to identify archaeological objects
 - A community “event” in the Autumn
 If you want to get involved, contact Christina Evans on 01926 412734 or email her christinaevens@warwickshire.gov.uk.
- A computer, which the Parish Council was awarded under the Warwickshire Council Community Scheme. It is connected to the internet and is now available at the Parish Council Office for the use of residents. Please note that all users will have to adhere to the Access Guidelines

- Calor Village of the Year – I received a call from the organizer so I can confirm that Bidford did not win the regional award. However, there is hope as there are other categories within the competition as these will be known after mid October. Mr, Challis will contact me again after 9th/10th July and give me a further update, and he has also advised that after the final awards in October, we shall receive the comments sheet from the judges that will tell us what we did well and what can be improved.
We can re enter the competition, should we so wish, for 2008/09.