

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th May at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way

The Parish Council had invited South Warwickshire NHS to give a presentation of Warwick and Stratford Hospitals' bid to become an NHS Foundation Trust, which they had accepted and Mr. David Moon, the Trust's Financial Director gave a 30 minute presentation and answered some questions put to him both by members of the public and members of the Parish Council. South Warwickshire feel that the only way for Warwick Hospital to continue to be the area's main hospital, and to improve, is by becoming An NHS Foundation Trust Hospital. He added that this would make the Trustees of the Hospital more accountable to the public, and invited members of the public to become trustees.

The Parish Council thanked Mr. Moon for taking the time to make his presentation, and the Parish Council Meeting started at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Vice Chairman
Cllrs.

Cllr. Hiscocks
Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hill, Langston, Sandle, Spiers and
Williams

Also present.

County Cllr. Barnes,
14 members of the public, of which 6 were youths

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Hendey and Mrs. Keeley

2. DECLARATION TO INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

All members of the Council are respectfully reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 20th August 2007 if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have Declared an Interest which could be personal or prejudicial they should declare so and leave the room.

- *Cllr. Sandle declared an interest in an item on the Clerks Report concerning correspondence from the Shakespeare Hospice*

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH APRIL 2008 AND OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 2008.

Cllr. Ms. Deacon proposed both Minutes be accepted as being accurate and they were signed by the Chairman.

AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 29TH NOVEMBER 2007

There was an error regarding the date when the solar powered lights had been approved. The Minutes stated August when it should read July. This was duly amended and the amendment initialed by the Committee Chairman.

The youngsters present were asked if they wished to speak but declined.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

- A resident raised a point of order regarding the draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, which are now posted on the website. The Minutes state that no photographs can be taken of children under 16, whereas the resident had been advised by the Police that this was permitted for identification purposes. The Clerk advised the Minutes reflect what was stated during the meeting and there was no dispute that this statement had been made.
- The same resident then read a statement concerning the land to the rear of the Fire Station, the main points of which are:
 - That no further play structure is erected on the site
 - That the Devil's Island Swing be removed
 - That the site as well as the Wards Lane Car Park be made a Dispersal Zone – regarding this the resident advised that contact had been made with both the Police and SDC

The Parish Council requested a copy of the statement, so that it could reply to it in full at the next Parish Council meeting.

A Member of the Parish Council mentioned that the language used in the statement was tendentious, inappropriate and unhelpful.

All but two members of the public then left.

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Marlcliff – WCC are investigating the drains; after this it may be possible to come up with a scheme to protect the hamlet against further flooding
- Bidford Bridge – the debris had been cleared and the “keep left” sign reinstated
The work on the culverts will be carried out in October
- Cllr. Barnes has been elected Vice Chairman of WCC
- Waterloo road – street lights: still waiting from Eon to connect them
- Police – SDC has scrutinized the Police’s request for increased funds. The case has also been sent to the Government and its reply is now awaited
- Annual Meeting at SDC is in Wednesday when portfolios will be distributed.
- The new refuse/recycling bins will be distributed in Bidford around 10th August. The Clerk advised that, according to the leaflets recently distributed by SDC, the new collection was starting on 4th August. In view of this, the Clerk was instructed to contact Street Scene and seek clarification.

Cllr. Barnes left

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllrs. James and Pemberton had sent in their apologies so there was no report.

7. CLERK’S REPORT

This was read out and a copy, showing proposals and decisions made, where appropriate, is attached to these Minutes of which it forms part.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- **SDC** – Administration of the Code of Conduct – *Noted and the Clerk to post on notice boards*
New Refuse and Recycling posters – *The Clerk to post on notice boards towards the end of June.*
TUFF’s Summer Schedule on the Big Meadow (August) *Noted and welcome*
- **WALC** Parish & Town Councils Focus Group Meeting – *It was agreed 2 councillors and the clerk should attend*
Training course – The Next Step – *Details to be given to the new councillors*
- **CPRE** – May newsletter (circulated)
- **Bidford Juniors FC** – Invitation to AGM (05.06.08 – 8.00pm) and Fund Raising event on 29.06.08) *It was agreed councillors should attend the AGM and the ~Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend the fund raising event*

9. REVIEW OF THE PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

Renewal documents had been received showing a premium of W£7,446.70, due on 1st June. The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee and the Clerk had been requested to review the insurance to ensure it was still best value. This they had done

and the Chairman of the Committee proposed that items where the value was below or around that of the excess applied; or where the cost of the item was the same or below the premium charged for it, be deleted as this would reduce the insurance by almost 50%. The Chairman added that the amount saved would be allocated to the possible replacement of the items should the need arise.

Insurance for the mandatory sections – Employers and Public Liability; Fidelity Guarantee, Officials Indemnity, Libel and Slander and Legal Expenses remain unchanged as does cover for all the play equipment.

The proposal was carried.

10. REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Parish Council carried out its annual review of the work carried out by the Internal Auditor – members expressed satisfaction with the way the work was carried out which they found to be thorough and helpful and agreed to continue using her services.

11. INTERGENERATIONAL VISIONS FOR ALL AGES

This is a partnership between Strafford District Council, Bidford Parish Council and the Beth Johnson Foundation and the two workshops will be led by Prof. Matt Kaplan of Penn University and the Beth Johnson Foundation.

They will take place on Monday 16th and 23rd June at the Crawford Memorial Hall, small meeting room, between 5.00 – 8.30 pm and it is hoped residents of all ages will volunteer to take part – approx. 15 – 30 are required. Details have been posted on the website and will be posted on the notice boards.

12. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Bidford Cricket Club had sent a request for financial assistance to replace the artificial pitch on the Big Meadow which is beyond repair, so that players of all ages, from club players to community/pub players and even visitors to the area can play in a safe manner. The amount requested was for £600 – a similar request has been sent to SDC. The Council considered the request and it was proposed this should be given as it was for the improvement of a sports facility used by many residents. The proposal was carried.

In the Finance and Strategy Meeting of 29th November 2007, the council had agreed a donation of £2,500 to the Bidford Youth Action for a feasibility study for the renewal of the Youth Club – the funds to come from the Ex Carnival Account and £600 from the Parish Council to make up the £2,500. The Clerk advised the amount from the Ex Carnival account amounted to £1,800, therefore the Council had to agree to increase its grant to £700. This was carried.

13. Purchases : 10,294.05
Wages: 2,048.61
Donation 700.00

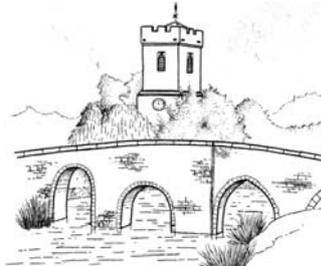
Payments Received
Meadow Hire Charges £200.00
Burial fees 230.00
Allotment rent 29.00
Copying fees 0.90

It was resolved Cllrs. Ms. Deacon and Langston sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

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CLERKS REPORT MAY 2008

- **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

- As instructed, I contacted WALC to use the Free of Charge service being offered, for Health and Safety and Risk Assessment. WALC arranged for Bill Robinson to visit me and see what measures are already in place and whether they were adequate. He came to see me on Tuesday 13th May, looked at how the Parish Council carried out its work in these areas and was satisfied with the systems currently being implemented. He suggested they be reviewed regularly to ensure the Council continues to be satisfied of their adequacy.
- I wrote to the Shakespeare Hospice to request further information to allow the Council to consider its request for a donation. A reply was received and this was given to the Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee to review and make a proposal.
Having studied these, he advised that the Hospice was increasing its range of services and activities and that Bidford was part of the Hospice's catchment area. He therefore proposed a grant of £250 be given, which was unanimously carried.
Cllr. Sandle did not participate in the discussion having declared an interest in this item.
- I have written to Pat Reid, Head of Planning at SDC, requesting full details of the site known as The Paddocks Gypsy site. No response received to date.
- A list of the utilities bills that can be paid by DDM, and the amounts involved has been circulated. The Council to decide whether to go ahead.
The Council agreed that DDMs should be set up to pay for utilities which include:

- *BT*
 - *Demon (broadband connection)*
 - *EDF – unmetered electricity*
 - *Eon*
 - *Severn Trent*
 - The Warwickshire County Secretary of the British Legion has been advised of the attendants to the Annual Service and Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 6th July.
 - Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting have been posted on the website.
- **PARISH COUNCIL CALENDER ACTIONS** – Draft schedule circulated for comments
The schedule was approved and it was agreed that it should be implemented
 - **CiLCA** – I am pleased to advise that I have passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Council will now start the process of obtaining Quality Status.
This was noted
 - **FLOOD GRANT** – Dave Tiley from SD came to see me to discuss what Bidford could, and should, claim to improve the situation in the event of a future flood.
As advised the amount of the total fund is £100,000 which SDC will distribute to claimants after they study each request. Perhaps it would be an idea to give the Emergency Working Group delegated powers to meet, discuss the various options, and complete the form which has to be sent it, with full details, by 1st July.
Amongst the items discussed with Dave Tiley that the PC could implement/purchase were:
 - *Aqua sacs – an improvement on the sand bag as they are stored flat, so are easier to transport and move, and only inflate when in contact with water*
 - *2 x inflatable dinghies for use at Millers Bank which becomes impossible to access due to the depth of the water. They could be stored at the Life Boat premises across the road*
 - *Blankets and sleeping bags for use in village halls should they be required – the Clerk was advised to contact the Red Cross for advice and possible supplies*
 - *Paying the cost towards a survey of Marlcliff to accelerate any work to be carried out by the EA and SDC. However, this is only if*

neither party is able to carry out the survey.

- **THE LEYS** – I have inspected the area with a representative of Tornado (the company that installed the fencing) as there are a number of panels that have been damaged and two have been brought down. I am waiting for an estimate and to talk to the insurance company to see if it is possible to claim for the repairs.
- **PACT MEETING OF 14TH MAY 2007** - The main issue to take forward to the next meeting was the anti social behavior of some youngsters, especially around the area by Wards Lane Car Park, which some residents would like closed at night, including Marleigh Road, Blenheim Close and surroundings. The issue of underage drinking was also brought up. The Police will look into these issues, together with its partners and give an update at the next PACT meeting which had been arranged for Wednesday 3rd September @ 7.00 pm
- **WALK YOUR TALK TOUR** – The Parish Council had supported this event which was to take place in Bidford on 3rd July. However, I have been informed that, due to lack of finances, the tour has been cancelled. *The Parish Council noted this with regret.*
- **LOCALITY FORUMS** – Proposal as to how these will be run were discussed at the County Cabinet Meeting of 24th April. It was agreed that Stratford-on-Avon DC be divided into 3 areas:
 - Stratford & Shipston
 - Southam, Wellesbourne and Kineton
 - Alcester, Studley and Henley

As can be noted, Bidford-on-Avon, although of the same size as Studley and larger than Henley is not mentioned!

WALC has sent me that SDC Parish-Urban Wards for 6 localities with the proviso that it only has the WCC members on them as it is a working documents currently being used for reference. In this instance it will be noted that the PACT Panel/Locality Forum is headed "Alcester/Bidford".

Alison Hodge, WALC Sec. is meeting Martin Gibbins on 3rd June to discuss PC involvement in these forums and would welcome any comments/proposals to put forward at the said meeting.

It was proposed and carried that the clerk should write to WALC and advise that:

- *The Parish Council feels very strongly that Parish and Town Councils should have an active representation in these Forums and that they should be reviewed in 12 months time with full, detailed and meaningful consultation with Parish and Town Councils taking place*

- *Regarding the WCC Locality Forums, it was agreed that at least Alcester and Bidford should be represented as the premier councils in its area and perhaps one or more of the smaller ones, to make it truly representative*
- **BIDFORD BRIDGE** – Update received from WCC
An inspection was carried out on 21st April and found the following:
 - *The masonry arches, spandrels and parapet walls are generally in reasonable condition. The majority of masonry and brickwork in the bridge is in good condition with small localized defects such as spalled individual stones, mortar loss and various minor cracks. These minor defects are to expected given the age and nature of materials in the bridge*
 - *The downstream elevation had a major rebuild 25 years ago following widespread frost damage. The upstream elevation and parapet walls were refurbished 5 years ago by way of extensive repointing and stone/brick replacement*
 - *Remedial work is planned to repair recent impact damage to the parapet.*
 - *Scour protection work and pier foundations are routinely monitored by a specialist diving team*
 - *All parts of the bridge are accepting traffic with no significant signs of distress and no particular concern is felt for the current or long term durability of the bridge and it should remain in a serviceable state for many years.*

Ian George, from English Heritage, whom I invited to see the bridge recently, advises that “his overall feeling is that the bridge appears to be in reasonable order and not suffering any appreciable physical decay due to over-use, as it were.” However, he does add that perhaps more work should be done to improve the signs to prevent use of the bridge by heavy vehicles.