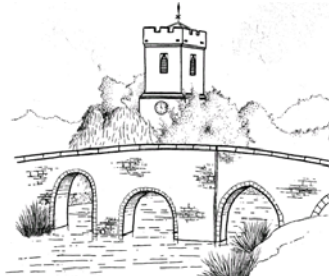


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2009 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way @ 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Hiscocks
Cllrs. Gerrard, Hill, Mrs. Keeley, Hendey, Langston, Sandle, Spiers and Williams

Also present. County Cllr. Barnes, District Cllrs. Pemberton and Slaughter and 2 members of the public and a member of the press

In attendance: Mrs. E. Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr. Ms. Deacon, which was accepted by the Council

2. TO RECEIVE ANY 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. Williams declared an interest in Item 11 (he is the same line of business) and Item 12 as he is a Governor of the School*

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 22nd June 2009

Cllr. Gerrard proposed the Minutes be accepted as being accurate.

RESOLVED that Minutes should be accepted and signed by the Chairman

4. YOUTH FORUM

There were no youngsters present

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- Resident complained that the trees on the roundabout were much too high and a danger to both pedestrians and motorists as there was reduced visibility.
The Clerk to advise WCC Highways accordingly
- A resident raised her grave concerns about the rumours regarding the possible closure of Bidford Fire Station. She added that she had already seen the closure of the secondary school and felt angry and betrayed about these news. She asked what were the Parish, District and County Councillors going to do about it.
 - *The Parish Council advised that, as the report document was confidential, it was unable to make any comments. However, in line with its previous stance concerning this matter it **RESOLVED** to instruct the Clerk to write to the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Hobbs, and the rest of the Cabinet Members, expressing its concern and dismay. The letter to be sent prior to the Cabinet Meeting on Thursday 30th July.*
 - *County Cllr. Barnes also said he was bound by confidentiality but that he would support the Fire Station and fight against any proposed closure. He would try and attend the Cabinet Meeting on Thursday and report back*
 - *District Councillors also added their support.*

The resident thanked the councillors.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Welford Bridge is temporarily closed with diversions through Bidford
- A Planning application has been sent from CEMEX in respect of March Farm
- Minerals Development Plan – there is a meeting on 12th September regarding the sand and gravel reserves
- The Pleck – Severn Trent have confirmed they do have access rights over the road and will contact Mr. A. McDonald to negotiate a possible contribution to its repair.
- The traffic/people/animal count over Bidford Bridge is not sufficient to justify a crossing at an approximate cost of £28,000. However, WCC will be asking for financial assistance from the Transport Seminar in January 2010, as well as other bodies, including the Parish Council. Members advised that no monies were available in this year's budget for such a high sum, which is excess on the S137 allowance.

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Gypsy site at the Old Railway had been given a 4 year temporary grant at the Planning Committee Meeting.
The Parish Council expressed its concern as it felt the presentation and discussion at the meeting had been poor. District Councillors advised it would be best to object to a permanent settlement via the current Local Development Framework - Core Strategy consultation.

8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

This had been circulated to Councillors for their information and is attached to these Minutes.

9. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- **SDC** – District Local Plan Review (circulated) *Noted that the issues pertaining to Bidford had been implemented.*
- **CPRE** – July Newsletter (circulated) *Noted*
- **WALC**
 - June Newsletter (circulated) – *attention was drawn to the Announcement of Extension of Planning Permission Period, which is to be extended to 6 years (currently 3). It was proposed that the Council should write to the Minister for Housing and Planning and to WALC expressing its objection to this as it will allow developers to leave areas unbuilt, and unsightly, for up to 6 years.*
RESOLVED *The Clerk to write to the Minister and WALC*
 - A Short Guide to Partnership working in Warwickshire and relevance to Parish and Town Councils (circulated) – *Noted*
 - Warwickshire Place Survey and Local Residents' Priorities – *Noted*
- **Local Works** – Request support for Early Day Motion (EDM) No1545 Sustainable Communities Bill (circulated)
It was proposed that John Maples be asked if he supported the idea (the Parish Council was made aware that he does not support EDMs)
RRESOLVED *the Clerk should write to him accordingly*
Request for donation to ensure Local Works can continue its work (circulated)
It was proposed that no contribution be made as there was no direct benefit to the community
RESOLVED *no contribution*

10. TO CONSIDER THE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE POPLAR REGATTA 2009

This was a review of the original following consultation with other, relevant, bodies.

It was proposed to accept the detailed assessment provided and authorize the regatta

RESOLVED – to authorize the Poplar Regatta to take place on Saturday 29th August.

11. TO CONSIDER CONTRACT TO UPGRADE THE OFFICE PHOTOCOPIER TO INCLUDE:

- Printer (inc. colour)
- Colour photocopy
- Scanner
- 36,000 black copies/prints and 15,000 colour copies/prints free of charge per annum
- Free Toners, call outs, parts and labour
Cost £1,431.84 per annum

It was proposed that before a decision was taken, a copy of the original

contract should be requested and considered.

RESOLVED to postpone a decision until copy of the contract was received and considered.

12. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING GRANT APPLICATION

Bidford on Avon C of E Primary School requests £1,000 to support the establishment of a school website and the relaunch of the school prospectus. (completed Grant Application form has been received)

After some discussion, it was proposed that the grant be refused as the development of a website and a prospectus relaunch should come out of the school's budget. The school to be encouraged to apply for grants for projects that would directly benefit the pupils.

RESOLVED to refuse the grant.

13. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION

- **09/01241/FUL – Mr. I Lewis, Foxhall Farm, Wixford Road, Proposed conservatory to rear**
RESOLVED to make no representation

14. TO REVIEW THE MOWING CONTRACT

Due to the sensitive nature of the issue the Council resolved to exclude members of the public who were requested to leave.

It was proposed the mowing contract be split into two:

- Open spaces
- Play areas

RESOLVED; to have two mowing contracts: one for the open spaces, which should include Monie Meadow being left as a wild meadow; and one for the play areas.

15. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MONTHS PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTS

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Purchases : | £6,485.69 |
| DDM | 1,581.04 |
| Wages: | 2,241.81 |
| Grants | 836.00 |

Payments Received

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------|
| Allotments | £ | 7.50 |
| Cemetery: | | 250.00 |
| Big Meadow fees | | 1,130.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | 15.90 |

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts and that Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Langston sign the cheques.

The meeting closed at approx. 9.10 pm

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CLERKS REPORT - JULY 2009

- **MATTERS ARISING (for information only)**

- **Warwickshire Best Village of the Year Competition** – The Parish Council was represented by Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Langston and the Clerk. Regrettably, the entries did not win any prizes, but did obtain a Silver Award.

The event was well organized and our own County Cllr. Barnes was present as Chairman of Warwickshire County Council and was in charge of distributing the prizes.

There is no doubt that participating in these competitions can have a very positive effect on a community and the Parish Council believes very strongly future entries should be encouraged: the work brings communities together and, if successful, will have a financial reward at the end! No doubt it is hard work, but well worth it.

- A detailed reply has been received from Mark Hopwood, Managing Director of First Great Western regarding the removal of the Honeybourne stop on the 9.21 service from London Paddington to Worcester and is available to any interested parties. Regrettably, it appears the service will NOT be reinstated.
- Annual Accounts were sent to External Auditors before the due date of 30th June 2009

- **JUBILEE CLOSE PLAY AREA**

A letter from a local resident was received expressing dismay that the single football post had been taken down and that ball games are no longer allowed: result her young grandchildren say there is no point going to parks anymore as they can't play football!

I contacted her and explained the reason why the Parish Council had resolved to take down the single football post and clarified that no football games were

allowed at Jubilee Close play area (the area in The Leys should be used for that), but that did not mean that children could not kick a ball about. All that is required is consideration to residents.

- **REPORT PARISH LIAISON MEETING (15th July)**

- Grass cutting schedule is now posted on SDC's website. It identifies each village, the number of cuts, when they were done etc. It is hoped the tracking of street furniture (benches, litter bins etc.) will also be posted on the website so that it will be easier to follow when installation is expected.
- Recycling – there has been a great improvement in the district's recycling since the introduction of the bins, despite the suspension of the green waste during the winter. It is hoped this will continue to improve
- S106 Agreements – the intention is that there will be more consultation before validation of a planning application that should allow Parish and Town Councils to be better consulted.
- Contacting SDC – it was acknowledged that the current contact centre service is not good. Efforts are being made to improve it and we are asked to be patient. I still feel that, as part of local government, Parish and Town Councils should have better access – it is common to have to wait up to 5 minutes and then be cut off without making contact. Not good enough.

- **MEETINGS**

- **Alcester and Bidford Community Forum** is on Tuesday 11th August 2009 @ 7.00 pm at the Crawford Memorial Hall. The proposed Agenda will be posted on the Parish Council's website when available. In the meantime, the Power Point presentation of the important "You Said....We Did" is available on the Parish Council's website:
<http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/newsletters/communityforum090623.pdf>
 - **Planning Committee Meeting** is on Monday 10th Aug. 2009 @ 7.30pm
 - **Parish Council Meeting** is on Monday 24th Aug. 2009 @ 7.30pm
- Both the above held at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way