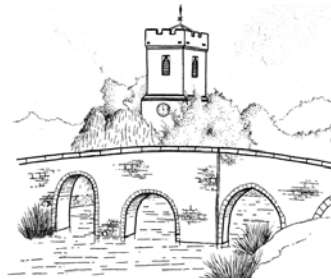


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th September 2009 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way @ 7.30 pm

PRESENT

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

Also present. County Cllr. Barnes; District Cllrs. James, and Slaughter; 8 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

There were no apologies

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.

None declared

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH AUGUST 2009

Cllr. Sandle 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

- A resident wished to be able to make a Power Point presentation at the Public Meeting on Wednesday. It was agreed he should make this available to the Clerk.
- There is growing concern regarding the safety of Crompton Avenue and The Leys, where many young children play. Residents requested that speed ramps be considered.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Fire and Rescue Service Consultation – Cllr. Barnes advised that he is visiting all the Parish Council which he represents in order to make sure there is a co-ordinated response.

His objections to the consultation include:

- It will cost £1.1million to expand Alcester compared to the annual costs of £250,000 for both Bidford and Studley
- There is an acknowledged requirement for a boat and Bidford, which is on the Avon, is the ideal station for it.
- On environmental ground as engines will have to travel further to attend

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting as he was going to Dorsington to give them an update on the consultation

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Planning – From 1st October SDC would be sending only email notifications of planning decisions
- S106 – SDC has approx. £1 million of which the following are allocated to Bidford both for improvements to Open Spaces
 - £21,320 – the Parish Council advised this had already been allocated for improvements to the play area of the Big Meadow and a proposal would be presented at the West Area committee Meeting of 10th December 2009
 - £12,960
- Car Park costs in Bidford:
 - Courtway : £13,872 p.a.
 - Anglo Saxon : £16,184 pa
- There would be two important Planning committee Meetings in October:
 - 20th Oct. 2009 – Long Marsden
 - 29th Oct. 2009- Tesco at Southam
- There would be a review of the single Planning Committee system

The Chairman proposed the Council discuss Item 10 on the Agenda. Members agreed to this.

8. BIDFORD FIRE STATION - TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER

- Verbal report from Cllr. Mrs. Keeley in respect of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 16th September where the Parish Council raised a question to members
The Council **NOTED** the text of the question raised and the reply received
- Update from Clerk
The Council noted the updates. In order to make these available to residents, it was proposed a site be posted on the Parish Council's website under the heading Save our Fire Station, where all documents in respect of this issue can be posted and be easily accessible to the community.
RESOLVED to set up a site on the Parish Councils website to hold all information on the current Fire and Rescue Service Consultation and make residents aware of this.

9. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

This had been circulated to Councillors for their information, which it noted and is attached to these Minutes.

10. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- **SDC** – Draft SDC Housing Strategy 2009-2014 has been published for public consultation which ends on 23rd October 2009. Copy available in the Parish Council Office and on the Parish Council website
RESOLVED to nominate a small number of councillors at the Planning Meeting of 12th Oct. to respond to this consultation
- **WALC** –
 - Nomination for the County Council Committee. The Clerk is the current member and is willing to continue should the Council so wish.
RESOLVED to nominate the Clerk
 - September Newsletter (circulated)
RESOLVED the Clerk to obtain information on Local Councils and Youth Provision
 - Training courses:
 - ✓ The Next Step – making the most of your role as Parish Councillors Sat. 21st Nov. 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Bourton-on-Dunsmore, (circulated)
 - ✓ Visionary Leadership and Community Engagement Sat. 12th Dec. 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Harbury (circulated)
Cllr. Gerrard agreed to attend
 - Salary – increase of 1% with effect from 1st April 2009 for the year 2009/10
NOTED
- Thank you letters received from:
 - Air ambulance
 - Breakthrough Breast Cancer
 - CAB

- Stratford Renal Unit
- Samaritans
- Vitalise (breaks for disabled people and carers)
- CVS
- Warwickshire Ass. For the Blind

11. TO CONSIDER requesting (lobbying) SDC to submit a bid for funds under the Sustainable Communities Act, should there be another round. They did not apply the first time (information circulated)

It was proposed a question be raised at the next full council, to ensure a response
RESOLVED the Clerk to send the question for the Council meeting being held on 19th October 2009

12. TO RECEIVE a verbal report from Cllr. Gerrard who attended the NALC Leadership Academy.

The Council **NOTED** the report and that Cllr. Gerrard had found the experience very useful and that he hoped to be able to better contribute to the Parish Council. He advised that the documents and his notes would be available to councillors.

13. TO CONSIDER a request from Cllr. Barnes that the Parish Council contribute 50% of the cost of installing a pedestrian crossing south of Bidford Bridge, which is estimated to be £28,000. Following a site assessment by WCC, it was considered that this did not meet the criteria for a pedestrian facility and did not justify WCC installing it (information circulated)

It was proposed not to support the request on the basis that it was a County Highways issue, which it could not justify spending funds on. The Parish Council had already on other occasions been called upon to pay for items for which County Council is responsible, and felt the amount in question was simply not justified.

RESOLVED to not support the request to contribute 50% of the costs of installing a pedestrian crossing

To request County Council whether the situation could be improved by changing the timing on the traffic lights.

14. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING GRANT REQUESTS

- **Bidford Area Community Choir.** This is a recently formed group which aims to “*provide the community with the opportunity to sing for fun*” They will be presenting Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at St. Laurence Church in January 2010

RESOLVED to reconsider this at the Planning Committee Meeting on 12th Oct. 2009 after the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee, together with the Clerk had considered this request, as the request from a body that has no constitution as required by the current policy.

- **British Legion** – annual Poppy Appeal

It was proposed to increase the grant to £50

RESOLVED to donate £50

15. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION

- **09/01696/TREE Mr. and Mrs. Sussens, Blythe House, 10 Grange Road**
T1 walnut – reduce large section (with cable) to approximately 7-8 m back to growth points. Reducing remaining three sections to the same height to balance the crown Prune back to growth points where possible
RESOLVED The Parish Council is keen to maintain trees throughout the parish. However, it does appreciate that from time to time work may be required and, subject to the work being proposed is deemed to be necessary by the arboriculture department, the council has no objection.

16. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS

Due to the sensitive nature of this item it was **RESOLVED** to request members of the public to leave

- Gate keeping duties at the Big Meadow
RESOLVED to grant this to MGS Garden Services and Amenities for
 - £7,000 pa for gate keeping duties inc. Emptying dog bins
 - £ 260 to maintain and collect the rubbish during the winter season
- Mowing of Open Spaces
RESOLVED to grant this to MGS Garden Services and Amenities for £230 a cut to include:
 - Rear of Dugdale Avenue
 - Open Space at Kings Lane, Broom
 - Millers Bank, Broom
 - Area by Hill View Road
- Mowing of the play areas
RESOLVED to grant this to Jill Houghton Gardens Services for £2,380 pa to include:
 - Kings Lane, Broom
 - Jubilee Close
 - Marleigh Park
 - The Leys
 - Youth Shelter Area

17. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MONTHS PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTS

Purchases : £13,409.18
DDM 1,130.92
Wages: 2,366.39
Inland Rev. 1,737.59

Payments Received:

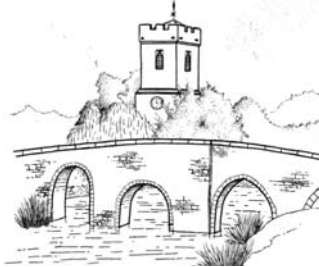
Big Meadow fees £878.00
Precept 77,200.00
Cemetery charges 380.00

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 - SEPTEMBER 2009

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

- The Parish Council once again requested WCC to consider pruning the trees/vegetation on the roundabout (this was raised for a second time at the Planning Committee Meeting).
The same response has been received, namely that *“neither of us can see any problem with the trees and shrubs on the island. As such I am unable to deal with your initial request to carry out pruning or reduction of these trees”*.
- The issue of Winter Gritting Routes was raised at some Community Forums in August. We have received a reply from WCC that states that 46% of the highway network is gritted, which is considerably higher than the national average. There is no additional resource available to increase the extent of the gritting. However, during any sustained severe weather there may be an option to grit some additional areas but only as resources allow.
If Parish and Town Councils, with their local knowledge, are able to suggest ways in which the existing arrangements can be improved, these can be put forward for consideration.
If there are areas of specific concern, these can be discussed in more details with WCC Environment and Economy Directorate.
- Reply has been received from the Government Office for the West Midlands regarding the issue raised by the Council in respect of “extension of the time limits for existing planning permissions” This has been circulated.

- **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY – BIDFORD WARD**

District Council did not receive a request for an election. I have now posted a notice inviting applications from residents who wish to become involved in the Parish Council. The deadline is 23rd October for the Parish Council to consider co-option at its meeting of 26th October.

- **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The External Auditors, Clement Keys, have given a qualified opinion of the 2008/09 Parish Council's Annual Accounts. However, I can assure both the Parish Council and residents that this was due to a "technical" error – the Closure Notice did not meet the requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006). However, this in no way reflects on the Parish Council who is considered to have discharged its statutory duties in relation to its financial affairs.

The External Auditors required clarification of some points of the accounts, which were satisfactorily answered.

The main points raised were::

- *A breakdown of the staff costs and indication as to under which heading they were to be found.*
- *Copy of the Council's Carnival Float Deposit and Treasury Accounts – a reply was sent advising the Carnival Float Deposit had been closed in August 2008 and the last Treasury Deposit made in October 2006.*
- *Copy of the bank reconciliation for the Current Account – a copy was sent together with details of unreconciled payments*
- *Copy of the Minutes authorising S137 expenditure for :*
 - *Bidford Youth Action*
 - *Bidford Cricket Club*
 - *Shakespeare Hospice**Copies were sent*
- *Details, if any, of the Chairman and Councillors allowances. A reply was sent that neither the Chairman nor the other Councillors take allowances*
- *Clarification regarding reference in the December 2008 Minutes to a S137 payment of £5,000, and when was this payment made. A reply was sent advising that this was as a contribution for the flood defence at Millers Bank Broom which, the Environment Agency had advised would not be required, and therefore had not been paid out.*

External Auditors were satisfied with the information supplied which enabled them to perform the audit.

- **MEETINGS**

- Planning Committee Meeting on Monday 12th October 2009 @ 7.30 pm
 - Warwickshire Fire Service will be making a presentation of their proposals on Monday 19th October @ 7.00 pm
 - Parish Council Meeting on Monday 26th October @ 7.30 pm
- All meetings in the Parish Council Meeting Rooms, Bramley Way