

4. YOUTH FORUM

There were no youngsters present

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- Resident drew attention to various parts of the village which were looking unsightly, namely:
 - The car park by Jubilee Close – she was advised this was the responsibility of Orbit Housing
 - Wharrads Close and the old Geodis building (both fronting Waterloo Road). She was advised that Wharrads Close was subject to an enforcement order by SDC, and that there was a meeting on 14th Dec. regarding legal procedures on the old Geodis Building
 - Bench by Tower Hill – could this be moved so that it faces towards the village
 - As the Council was considering new play equipment, would it consider the installation of a five a side all weather football pitch.
The Chairman replied that the council had considered plans for this and felt Friday Furlong would offer the best open space, and it would try and negotiate but, based on previous talks on this matter, he stressed it would not be easy.
- Resident asked how much was the Parish Council planning to spend on play equipment on the Big Meadow, and would it not be better if it spent some money on the pedestrian crossing south of the bridge?
The Chairman of the Amenities working Group replied that the planned refurbishment of the Big Meadow was being carried out in 2/3 phases, with the assistance of other agencies, including District Council and S106 monies. The Chairman of the Council added that it was a duty of the Council to provide play areas and equipment whereas it is not the Highways Authority and therefore has no power to make a pedestrian crossing. He added that members had considered a request from Cllr. Barnes to contribute 50% of the proposed costs at its September meeting, when the council had resolved not to support the request as County Highways, the responsible authority, had stated the cost could not be justified.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Council would be asking questions to the Fire Authorities at its meeting of 15th December, before making a decision.
The final decision was expected to be made at the Council meeting of February 2010
- A request had been made by Rob McCluskey for a grant towards the youth club of £2-3,000.

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Stratford West Area Committee had met at St. Benedict's, Alcester to discuss the issues raised at the Alcester/Bidford and Henley/Studley Community Forums.

It was regretted that no one from Studley had turned up, and Cllr. James thanked the residents of Bidford and the Parish Council for attending. The Committee confirmed its support for all stations in its area to remain open and it endorsed the "Local Solution" which it requested be added to its official reply. This would be taken to full Council for approval.

- Improvement to the blue bin recycling
- There was a trial transport scheme for young people in the Alcester/Stratford area, which included Bidford, Salford Priors and Wixford during Friday and Saturday evenings. If successful, it would be extended and Parish/Town councils would be asked to contribute. Bidford's contribution would be approx. £900
- At the Community forum, District Council had requested the assistance of Parish and town Councils to identify dwellings that had been empty for more than 6 months. There are grants that can assist these dwellings to be habitable and they can then be rented. 26 such dwellings had been identified by SDC in Bidford.
- Moratorium on new developments is now lifted and there is pressure on SDC to release land for building 10,000 dwellings.
- The Long Marston planning application was going before Committee next week – it is in the local plan.

8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

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

An update regarding the proposed flood defence at Millers Bank, Broom was read out as it had been received after the report had been written

9. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- **SDC** - Letter from the Monitoring Officer re terms of office Standards & Ethics Committee. *Noted – no comments to be made*
- **WALC** - Newsletter Nov. 2009 (circulated)
Annual Council subscription fee - £824.00
RESOLVED – to approve this expenditure
Employment Briefing (circulated) *Noted*
- **CPRE** - newsletter – *Noted*
- **Worcester County Council** - Worcs. Waste Core Strategy Emerging Preferred Options consultation *Noted*

10. TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE WFRS CONSULTATION (draft letter had been circulated)

This was read out.

RESOLVED – to approve the reply which should be sent to WFRS, cllr. Hobbs and Cabinet members

11. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING GRANTS

- **Bidford and District Society** : £1,000 over a two year period towards the production of a book focusing on the history of Bidford from the beginning of 20th century to the building of the bypass (1970s)

Cllrs. Gerrard and Spiers who had declared an interest as members did not take part in this discussion.

It was proposed that as this project fulfilled many of the requirements of the Parish council, especially its intergeneration aspect, that a grant of £500 be approved for this year and a further £500 for the next financial year

RESOLVED to approve the grant of £1,000 over a two year period.

- **Bidford Sports Association (cricket, football and hockey)** – request for financial assistance towards its cost of cutting the sports pitches (details circulated)
The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee advised that the Council's criteria for grant applications were not fulfilled by this request, as it referred to invoices that had already been paid, and were for ongoing costs of the association. He proposed that a reply advising the Sports Association why its request was not been supported, but that the council would consider an application for specific projects or equipment.
RESOLVED to refuse this grant application.

12. TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM CPRE to create a Parish Warden Scheme under the Stop the Drop Campaign (circulated)

It was proposed that this be included in the next BIG Newsletter and the website to gauge the local community's interest in this scheme

RESOLVED to include it in the next BIG Newsletter and website and evaluate the response.

13. TO APPROVE DATES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2010

Following some amendments it was **RESOLVED** to approve and publicise the dates

14. TO APPROVE DATES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES FOR 2010

RESOLVED to approve and publicise the dates and venues

15. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- **09/01741/FUL – Mr. Brian Perks, 20A Waterloo Road, B50 4JH**
Change of use of residential property to dementia day care unit including new area of hard standing, access ramps and extending existing dropped kerb
Members expressed great concerns regarding the highway aspect of the application:
 - *It is opposite St. Laurence Way which is the main entry point to the Midsommer development*
 - *It is almost opposite a bollard*
 - *There is very little turning room and, as a day centre, there will be a lot of cars dropping patients and family off and picking up*
 - *The footpath outside Waterloo House, to which this will be attached, is already often blocked due to parked cars, this will only aggravate the problem*

- **09/02079?EXT and 09/02077/EXT – Mrs. Carolyn Cox, Farmington Farm, George Elm Lane**
Application to extend the time period for the implementation of permission for proposed renovation and extension of Grade II listed building.
Construction of vehicular access.
No representation
- **09/02278/FUL Mr. John Seabrook, Unit 20-24 and 32 Bidavon Ind. Est. Waterloo Road**
Sun-division of existing warehouse unit to 5 separate units. Proposed Use Classes for each unit to be B1, B2 and B8
No representation
- **09/02285/VARY Mr. James Wilson – Old Railway Yard, Waterloo Road**
Deletion of condition 1 (4 year temporary permission) of planning permission 09/00076/FUL (site for 6 gypsy families)
The Parish Council strongly objects to the removal of this condition which was imposed by Stratford on Avon district council's Planning Committee following its meeting of July 2009 stating that "the granting of a permanent planning permission would prejudice the outcome of the site allocations process for gypsy and traveller sites as a part of the core Strategy".
This consultation is still ongoing and therefore the reason to only grant temporary permission remains.

16. TO REVIEW THE CLERK'S SALARY

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, the Chairman proposed to exclude members of the public.

RESOLVED to exclude members of the public

The Clerk left the room

RESOLVED to increase the Clerk's salary to Scale 30 with immediate effect in consideration of the Parish council's Quality Status; and to Scale 31 in April 2010 subject to the Clerk passing her Level 1 degree in Community Engagement and Governance studies at the University of Gloucestershire

17. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MONTHS PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTS

The Clerk brought to the attention of the Council that an extra cheque (5033) for £10 payable to H. Bennett in respect of fuel costs, had been raised

RESOLVED : to approve this payment.

The Clerk advised the Council that following the Council's support for the Save our Fire Station campaign, she had approved costs of £281.75, under S137.

Purchases :	£ 4,755.96
DDM	922.37
Wages:	2,252.63

Payments Received:

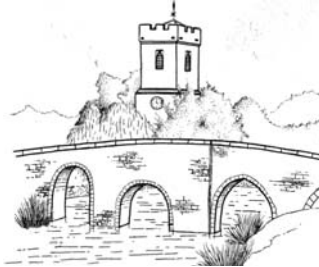
Fishing rights	£1,217.30
Cemetery charges	130.00
Room hire	95.05
Allotment rent	1,149.00
Photocopying	

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts, including the expenditure under S137 and that Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley and Williams sign the cheques.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.45 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT – November 2009

- **KINGS LANE BROOM PLAY AREA**

A fence will be erected at the entrance from Kings Lane, by the newly installed kissing gate, to prevent access to the playing fields by motorbikes etc.

- **MINERALS DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – UPDATE**

Although the next stage of the consultation was programmed for November 2009, due to the unexpectedly large number of responses received by WCC to its Minerals Core Strategy – Revised Spatial Options consultation, which included Potential Sites, it is unlikely this will take place before March 2010. Furthermore, it would appear that as some of the proposed sites do not fulfil some of the requirements, WCC would not be in a position to deliver the required tonnage of aggregate materials and it may have to revert to developers for more sites. From the information received, due to this, the consultation on sites will be postponed.

Regarding the Planning Application for the site North of Broom Lane, this is expected to go to Committee in January/February 2010, with the latter date being the more likely.

- **MILLERS BANK – FLOOD DEFENCE – UPDATE**

I have been advised that £20,000 have been granted to carry out a surface water study which will, hopefully, find the reason why the bottom of Mill Lane floods so frequently so that a comprehensive (joined up) solution can be found.

The Environment Agency is sending a more detailed update towards the end of the week which will be read out at the meeting.

- **TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE**

An update should be received by the end of the week and details will be given at the meeting

- **PARISH PLAN (B50) UPDATE SURVEY**

It is now 5 years since the original Parish Plan, known as the B50, was published and adopted by Stratford on Avon DC. The Parish Council resolved that an update to the original document was now due and is experimenting with an online survey questionnaire.

It is important that as many residents as possible complete this, as the information provided will help the Parish Council make its decisions and to negotiate with its partners.

The link to the survey is on the homepage and the questionnaire is easy to complete (we hope!)

- **COMMUNITY COMPUTERS**

3 computers are now available to the local community in the lobby outside the Parish Council Office in Bramley Way.

- **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

County Council and Carillion, who carry out the maintenance, sent out a Questionnaire to assist them improve the highway maintenance service.

There were a number of issues to be rated from 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 the highest). Apart from winter gritting, which received a 4, the vast majority of other questions received a 2.

- **MEETINGS**

- Monday 7th December @ 7.30 pm – Participatory Budget Meeting – your opportunity of letting the Council know how you would like the precept (monies) spent next year.
- Monday 14th December @ 7.30 pm Planning Committee Meeting
- Monday 21st December @ 7.30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

All the above meetings are held at the Parish Council Meeting room, Bramley Way.