

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 24TH MAY 2010

Cllr. Langston proposed the Minutes be accepted as being accurate

RESOLVED that Minutes should be approved and signed by the Chairman

4. YOUTH FORUM

There were no youngsters present

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Resident advised that the Parish Path Partnership (P3) did not appear to have held a meeting since 2007. He felt some work needed to be carried out but had been unable to contact the Chairman of the P3

The Clerk suggested she would send an email and request the Chairman to contact the resident, and he agreed to this.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr. Barnes had received the letter from the Parish Council regarding the increase in transport costs for young students and the issue was being referred back to Overview and Scrutiny. He felt he could do no more, but gave the contact details of Peter Balaam who was taking up the matter at WCC.
- Signage: he understood a date had now been arranged. The Clerk was able to confirm this.
- Welford Pastures Rd, Welford needs repairing and during its closure diversion will be via Barton Road. This would occur between mid July and mid August.
- Pelican Crossing – there was a delay in this. The good news was that although the Government was putting a stop to some similar schemes, this one remains on course for the time being.
- Bidford and Welford bridges – Swedish company had been found to produce pads able to weigh the weight of vehicles going over the bridge. However, the extra cost due to lack of electricity at Welford Bridge means that WCC is still trying to find the necessary funds. The amount is approx. £45/50,000. S106 could be a possibility.
- Fire and Rescue Services: Council were receiving a talk about the consultation 1 hour prior to the Council Meeting on Tuesday 29th June, which would not be open to the public.
On 8th July all three political parties would be meeting with the Chief Fire Officer to hear what the proposals are – Cllr. Barnes stressed the word proposals, saying it meant there was more than one.

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Gypsy and Travellers Policy could be on the Agenda as it affects this area. Councillors have received training but it is considered to be insufficient.
- Quality of mowing by County, District and Housing Association is being questioned

- Stratford View (magazine) should be received by all householders (only one member of the Parish Council had received a copy)
- Enforcement issues:
 - Old Geodis site – this is progressing and SDC thanked the Parish Council for supporting the closed board fence
 - Friday Furlong – S106 was still outstanding
- Locality Plan – Ward members would ask the following groups to have their say, as their feedback would be useful
 - SCAN
 - BYA
 - The Jolly Teapot
- Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service were starting their 2 year consultation. There would be no closures of fire stations, but loss of pumps
- Planning Application for a gypsy site at Temple Grafton had been received. Applicants come from the Friday Furlong site.

Members of the Parish Council raised the following issues:

- Disappointment at the way the Planning Committee had considered the retrospective application for 85 Westholme Road.
- Landscape policy seemed to be failing as there were a number of small grassed areas for which no one was taking responsibility and it was becoming an issue, especially when trees were involved.
Cllr, James replied that the developer was responsible for the first 5 years, thereafter it became open space and the maintenance normally fell on District Council unless the Parish Council specifically adopted it, or it was part of the County Council Highway adoption.
- Had there been any development of the “Systems Delivery” presentation made earlier in the year at Gaydon?
Yes – planners were now ensuring any errors or queries in the application were picked up early to ensure the 8 week decision for minor developments and 13 weeks for major developments was adhered to as this ensured the receipt of the Planning Delivery Grant. However, this grant was being questioned by the new Government and if removed will create problems with all planning authorities.
It was agreed by both District and Parish Council that conditions on granting an application should be fewer and enforceable to make the system work efficiently.

8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

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

The Clerk read out the message received from Chief Fire Officer Graeme Smith and it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would invite Mr. Smith to attend its Parish Council meeting of September

9. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- **WCC.** – Transport consultation. **RESOLVED** The Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council. Members to send their suggestions to the Clerk in time.
- **WALC**
 - May 2010 newsletter (circulated) **NOTED**
 - Legal Briefing on Good Race Relations – Gypsies and Irish Travellers **NOTED**
- **Warwickshire Lieutenancy Office** – Queens Award for Voluntary Service **NOTED**
- **Warwickshire Police** – 150 plus Programme (circulated) **NOTED**
- **CPRE** – Newsletter (circulated) **NOTED**
- **Young Resident of Bidford** – thank you letter to the Parish Council for the “big new park at the Meadow” which she loves. **NOTED** with pleasure.

10. TO CONSIDER THE INTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT (circulated)

The Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee advised that the Council should note the comments made and be happy to receive constructive criticism. The majority were procedural and the appointment of 3 councillors to quarterly check the payment records, should ensure these errors be kept to a minimum in the future. He added that it was pleasing to read that the Internal Auditor had found the systems and checks continuing to improve and that no concerns came to light on the postings of payments and to the bank statements.

He proposed the Council accept the comments.

RESOLVED to accept the comments made

The Chairman also proposed that the Council continue with the Internal Auditor as she had shown herself to carry out an efficient audit, had a diligent eye and was detailed in her reports.

RESOLVED to continue with the Internal Auditor

11. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (circulated)

Councillors had had time to study the Accounts prepared by the RFO to the end of March 2010, and were satisfied with them.

The Clerk read out the points of Section 2 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Accounts. The Chairman signed the Accounts to March 31st 2010 .

To complete Section 2 of the Annual Return form, and the Chairman and Clerk to sign it.

12. TO CONSIDER SPEED SURVEY RESULTS OF VICTORIA ORAD AND WATERLOO ROAD CARRIED OUT BY THE SPEEDAWARE TEAM (WCC) (circulated)

RESOLVED to note that the survey showed there was no speeding on these roads and to post the results on the website.

13. TO CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF AD HOC ADVERTISEMENTS ROUND THE VILLAGE

The Council agreed this was becoming a nuisance, and some members advised that residents had raised complaints.

However, the Council was also understanding of the reason why businesses felt they had to advertise. The visit from WCC to discuss the lack of signage may be of help.

It was proposed and **RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting with the various businesses on the High Street to discuss their needs and how the Parish Council could support them.

14. TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE COST OF HIRING A COACH TO TAKE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND LOCAL RESIDENTS TO SHIRE HALL TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING OF 20TH JULY 2010

It was proposed that before hiring the coach numbers of residents wishing to attend should be confirmed to ensure the size of the coach was appropriate to the number of people attending the meeting.

RESOLVED to approve the cost, but only after numbers had been confirmed.

15. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SKATE PARK AND THE NEW PLAY AREA ON THE BIG MEADOW

- The play equipment had been independently inspected. It showed a few snagging problems, but was generally very complimentary of the equipment chosen and of the installation.
- Kompan had attended to the majority of the snagging problems; two still remain. Until these are corrected the Parish Council will retain 15% of the value of the invoice
- The designer of the skate ramp had been advised of the wish that the height be increased to 5/6 ft. He had visited the site again and advised that the length of the site would make a 6ft height impossible. In consultation with potential users it had been agreed to have the height throughout at 5 ft. The design had been approved and the order placed. The company was now in discussions with the Environment Agency to ensure consent for the design.
- Having received a communication from Bidford Cricket Club regarding the extension of the play area, an independent risk assessment has been arranged.

16. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BIDFORD SENIOR CITIZENS ANNUAL PARTY FOR A DONATION OF £1,000 FOR TRHE 60TH ANNIVERSARY ALL DAY EVENT TO TAKE PLACE IN JULY 2011

According to the completed form, this was still in the planning stage. It was proposed that £500 be given this financial year (S137) with a further £500 in the 2010/11 financial year on presentation of more concrete plans

RESOLVED to approve £500 this financial year and to grant a further £500 in 2011 subject to receipt of finalised plans for the all day event.

17. TO NOTE THE CLERK HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED LEVEL 1 OF HER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE STUDIES

RESOLVED To note the Clerk had obtained her Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy (Community Engagement and Governance) with a B

18. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **10/01051/FUL Mr. Clive Condry, Pelham Cottage, 4 Westholme Road**
Single storey extension to provide dining room and new kitchen
Having declared an interest Cllr. Mrs. Getgood did not get involved with the discussions.
RESOLVED No representation
- **10/01054/FUL Mr. and Mrs. Roger Felix, Blenheim, Stratford Road**
Alteration to existing entrance drive to increase width for ambulance access for disabled person
RESOLVED No representation
- **10/01160/FUL Mr. and Mrs. Green, Willow Cottage, 22 Welford Road, Barton**
Side extension to provide double garage with guest bedroom/playroom above and garden room to rear
RESOLVED No representation

19. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MONTHS PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTS

The Clerk pointed out the following:

- Payments included cheque for £500, which was the balance of the approved donation to the Bidford and History Society (PC Mins. Nov. 2009/11)
- The Clerk 's salary scale increased to 31 to reflect her obtaining Level 1 (Certificate of Higher Education) of the CEG Foundation Degree studies (PC Mins. Nov. 2009/16)
- Cheque 4775 for an amount of £622.50 payable to ~Accounting Data Services, was replaced by cheque No. 5097 for an amount of £587.50 to take into account the £35 discount if paid within 14 days.

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| Purchases : | £117,934.36 |
| Wages: | 2,488.10 |
| In. Revenue | 2,321.59 |
| Grant | <u>500.00</u> |
| (as per cheque list) | £ 123,244.25 |
| DDM | <u>1,189.55</u> |
| Total payments | £124,433.60 |

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| Payments Received | |
| Allotments | £ 213.70 |
| Big Meadow fees | 392.50 |
| Big Meadow car parking fees | 2,246.00 |

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts and that Cllrs. Hill and Williams to sign the cheques.

The Clerk proposed a payment record check be carried out as the first quarter had been reached, and it was **RESOLVED** this should take place on July 28th

The meeting closed at approx. 8.45 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



CLERKS REPORT - JULY 2010

- **BIDFORD FIRE STATION**

31 residents, including Parish Councillors and members of the Bidford Support Group, went to Shire Hall on the morning of 20th July to attend the County Council Meeting to hear the fate of Bidford Fire Station.

There were three available options, all of which fulfilled the requirements of the Chief Fire Officer for a “fitter and stronger fire and rescue service”

- **Option A**, which appeared to be the CFO’s preferred option, would close Bidford, Brinklow, Studley and Warwick
- **Option B**, which was the one recommended by the Cabinet, would close Brinklow, Studley and Warwick; but Bidford would be saved
- **Option C**, which was in effect the Bidford Local Solution, would close Brinklow and Warwick; and save both Bidford and Studley.

Much was said during the meeting about the fact that the Cabinet was recommending Option B when it Option A was the CFO’s preferred option: it would appear that the reason for this was that the Cabinet was impressed by the extremely well run Bidford Campaign, the excellent presentation made by the Bidford Support Group and by the impressive response of the local community. And, of course, the support of our MP, Mr. Zahawi, represented by his researcher Simon McIntyre, and our County Councillor Peter Barnes. So, thanks to all for saving Bidford Fire Station, its retained fire fighters and its Young Fire Fighters, and let us hope it is many years before we have to go through that again! And thanks to those residents who made the effort to be at the Crawford Memorial Hall car park at 8.00 am to go to Shire Hall: you made Bidford proud sitting, as you were, in prime position in the gallery where County Councillors could not but see you!!

- **BIDFORD YOUTH ACTION GROUP (BYA)** – at its meeting held on 6th July, it was advised that there will be a Mobile Youth Bus coming to Bidford following a recent visit by Youth Outreach Workers.
- **HIGH STREET BUSINESSES** – The Parish Council met with some representatives of the High street shops to discuss how to work together to increase the footfall on the High Street and help increase their business. It was agreed to concentrate on 3 things:
 - Signs alerting visitors to the High Street and it what it has to offer
 - Tourist map showing the High Street and shops advertising to be erected on the Big Meadow and the car park
 - Invite ALL business to advertise on the Parish Council’s website free of charge to make it a more prominent, **Commercial Bidford Site**
 It was noted that the Big Meadow refurbishment, together with the good weather, had made an improvement.
- **SPEEDAWARE** – the Parish Council is receiving an increasing number of requests for speeds to be checked along certain roads.
 - Cleeve Road, Marlcliff – results show average speed are 40.4 mph which shows on the whole drivers are complying with speed limit
 - Salford Road (40 mph) – results show speeds of traffic heading NE are 40.5 mph and SW 45 mph indicating possible problems in SW direction. In view of this a full survey has been requested.
 - The Leys – no results to date
 In view of the numbers of request, SpeedAware suggest that anyone concerned about possible speeding along a certain road, attend the Local Community Forums and raise the issue as there is a scheme called Community SpeedWatch run by volunteers supported by Warwickshire Police.
 Another options is the stickers on the wheelie bins.
- **MEETINGS**
 - Monday 9th August 2010 @ 7.30 pm Planning Committee Meeting
 - Monday 23rd August 2010 @ 7.30 pm – Parish Council meeting

All the above meetings are held at the Parish Council Meeting room, Bramley Way unless otherwise specified