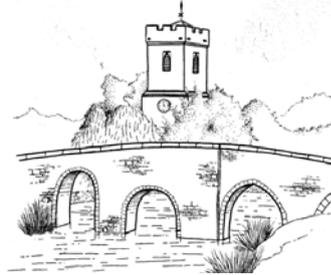


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd August 2010 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way @ 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Gerrard (Vice Chairman of the Council)
Cllrs. Mrs. Getgood, Hendey, Hill, Mrs. Keeley, Langston,
Sandle, Spiers and Williams

Also present: County Cllr. Barnes had sent his apologies
District Cllrs. James and Slaughter
5 members of the public and 1 member of the press

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

Guest : Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) Gary Phillips.

Chairman of the Parish Council Meeting, Cllr. Gerrard, welcomed Deputy Chief Fire Officer Phillips and introduced him to members of the Parish Council and the public. He was attending following an invitation extended to Chief Fire Officer Graeme Smith.

DCFO Phillips advised that although he had only been in Warwickshire for 3 weeks, he had been in the fire service for 27 years. He then proceeded to make a presentation of how he sees the future role of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, and of its potential partners within the County. The most important points were:

- Balance between providing an operational response and prevention
- Rise in the number of road traffic collisions
- WFRS need to improve its communication with the public, especially important is to convey to the local community that the link between the presence of a local fire station and safety is not as important as is believed. As important, is the incorporation of safety feature, such as sprinklers, in all new developments: prevention is the key.

- Use the brand of Fire Service, which is very well respected within the local communities throughout the country, to work with the local communities by creating affiliations with
 - Young people (Young Fire fighters being an excellent example of this)
 - Travellers
 - Older persons (safety measures etc.)
- Invest in training and new equipment – this was the basis for the new improvement plan: he reiterated that it was not financial, but resource, led.

DCFO Phillips continued with the issue of Total Place, which is now called Place Based Budgeting, which has three main aims:

- Reduce public spending
- Tackle entrenched social, economic and environmental problems
- Rebuild trust in democratic accountability

The above, plus the idea of the Big Society, will require more engagement with the Parish /Town Councils and the local communities they represent, and the role of Parish and Town Councils will rise and, in his view, it will be very important that WFRS and Parish/Town Councils work together closely to deliver local solutions.

One of the largest problems local authorities have in the future is the shortage of finance. He does not foresee any money being made available isn't he next 6 years and, although the current closures were not finance driven, This may not be the case in the future.

DCFO Phillips then took questions from the Council and members of the public:

- How is WFRS going to attract and retain fire fighters?
Payment conditions for the retained fire fighters is being reviewed:
 - How they are recruited
 - Payment terms
 - Improved conditions
 - More flexible, especially with regards to working hours
- Why is WFRS so top heavy: it as a Chief Fire Officer, a Deputy Chief Fire Officer and an Assistant Chief Fire Officer?
WFRS is in fact one of the leanest in the country. Each one has a function to perform in order to deliver a strategic directional service. The performance of the service has improved in the last 9 months, since the arrival of CFO Graeme Smith and is still improving
- Why turn Alcester into a full time station and close Studley Fore Station – how can this be justified financially?
It was not for financial reasons. A wholetime station in the area was required.
- In that case, why not make the retained station in Stratford, which has difficulty recruiting retained fire fighters, the full time station in the area (option c)
- If fire safety checks and advice is to be carried out by non fire fighters then they must be properly trained and have some sort of ID from the Fire Service to give confidence, especially as many of those they will be helping will be elderly and vulnerable people. And, when recruiting, they should take advise from the local Fire Station manager who has knowledge of the local community
This was an excellent idea and will be taken into account

- There is concern that with the closure of fire stations and a reduction in the equipment, especially pumps, there will not be sufficient cover
The Improvement Plan will be phased over 2/3 years to ensure cover.
DCFO Phillips confirmed that there will be enough fire appliances after the implementation of the improvement plan to ensure the safety of the people of Warwickshire.
- The reduction in the number of fire stations would put more pressure on the firemen, especially as often, they will have to assist outside their normal area: has the Improvement Plan taken this into account? What will be the stress levels of firemen in say 12 months time?
Firemen will not have to go out of their areas as much as feared as the number of false alarms will be dramatically reduced.
DCFO agreed to attend a Parish Council meeting in August/Sept. 2011 and give an update of how the implementation of the Improvement Plan had affected WFRS and its fire fighters, and what the results were since implementation started.
- Why are extra resources needed for training? Does this mean the fire fighters were not been properly trained before?
The new technologies available to the fire service means that more specialist training is needed to ensure fire fighters know how to use them correctly and safely: this is especially relevant in road traffic collisions when fire fighters are required to extract the persons from the damaged vehicle.

Cllr. Gerrard thanked DCFO Phillips for his presentation and for answering questions and it was agreed that the **safety of the community and the safety of the fire fighters should be paramount.**

The Chairman then opened the Parish Council meeting which started at 7.50 pm

1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from the Chairman, Cllr. Hiscocks

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 conducted 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. Mrs. Keeley declared an interest in Item 14 (she works at HFT)*
- *Cllrs. Gerrard, Mrs. Getgood, Mrs. Keeley and Langston declared an interest in Item 15 as they are part of the Bidford Youth Action Group*

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 26TH JULY 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

No issues raised by those present.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Barnes had sent his apologies

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Not much to report as August was a quiet month due to holidays.

- SDC are looking at ways of reducing costs
- Pay freeze for staff on more than £20 k pa
- There will be a public spending review in October

Cllrs. James and Slaughter left the meeting

8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

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

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Clerk's report

9. TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- **WCC – 2010/11 Winter Service Review**

The Clerk informed members of the contents of the letter. There was disappointment that the issues raised at the Local Community Forums regarding this were not being addressed: this was not an invitation to Parish and Town Council to review the situation, but a letter informing them that due to current financial restrictions WCC "is unable to increase the existing resource without reducing the primary routes to compensate for any additions". Despite this, it was proposed that WCC be advised that Broom resident had only one exit via Bidford Road, which was insufficient as residents to the north of the village had difficulties exiting that way in icy/snowy conditions.

RESOLVED THE Clerk to write to WCC requesting the High Street/Broom Lane be included.

The Clerk advised that the letter also clarified the liability issue regarding the use of grit bins by the public. These bins are supplied by the Parish Council but replenished by WCC. The Public are to be encouraged to use them and no public indemnity is required from either the Parish Council or WCC – but the salt is only intended for public highways, not personal use for drives etc.

RESOLVED to note there was no liability involved in the use of salt by the public on public highways. To notify WCC that it must ensure there is sufficient salt/grit to keep the bins replenished at all times.

- **SDC** -Invitation to a Parish Council Forum event to discuss open space, sport and recreation provision in Stratford on Avon District on Tues. 5th Oct. @ 6.00 pm, Elizabeth House
The Clerk advised she would be attending and Cllr. Mrs. Keeley confirmed she would be able to attend.
RESOLVED Cllr. Mrs Keeley and the Clerk to attend
- **WALC** July Newsletter (circulated)
RESOLVED to note the contents, especially the abolition of Commission for Rural Communities. The other main point re capping of local council precepts was an item on the Agenda and would be discussed in full at that stage.
The Clerk asked if the Parish Council would still propose her as a member of the County Committee
RESOLVED to nominate the Clerk to the County Committee
- **CPRE**- news letter (circulated)
NOTED
- **Hall Reynolds** – advice of a legacy from Mrs. Margaret Walters Deceased for £1,000 to be spent on flowers and/or plants.
Recommendation: to consider using the funds for a box with a dedication to Mrs. M. Walters to be installed somewhere in the village.
RESOLVED to have a box made, with a plaque, to be placed on the Anglo Saxon car park (subject to permission from SDC) under the proposed direction sign
- **Salford Priors PC** re Bidford Fire Station
Salford Parish Council wrote expressing its *“sincere appreciation to the Parish Council, the Fire Fighters, the Action Group and the local community for a most professional and energetic campaign to protect a most vital public service.”*
NOTED with thanks

10. TO CONSIDER ARRANGING A MEETING WITH THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS, INITIALLY ONCE A TERM, AS A WAY OF ESTABLISHING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE PARISH COUNCIL

The background to this was a recent questionnaire the Clerk had requested the older pupils to complete regarding what they felt about the local community and how they could contribute to it. From the responses, it became clear they felt they could become more involved if they were asked. In view of this, and after talking to the Headmaster, it was raised at the BYA meeting where it was agreed to propose it to the Parish Council as a way of encouraging community involvement at an early stage. As members could not expect young children to attend Parish Council meetings in the evening, it was a case of the Council going to them during school time.

RESOLVED to approach the Headmaster and arrange a suitable date and time.

**11. TO CONSIDER WALC'S LEGAL BRIEFING REGARDING PRECEPT LEVELS
(circulated)**

Recommendation: to select member/members to reply to the consultation
The Chairman stated that this was a most important issue and that it was important the Parish Council gave its due consideration and replied to the consultation. He proposed the Chairman (Cllr. Hiscocks) Cllr. Mrs Keeley and himself (Vice Chairman) meet and proposed a reply on behalf of the Parish Council
RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. Gerrard, Hiscocks and Mrs. Keeley to reply to the consultation on behalf of the Council

**12. TO CONSIDER WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LOCALITIES REVIEW 2010
(circulated)**

The main points raised during the discussion of this document were:

- it was more aspirational than concrete
- most of the contents referred to the new Community Forums
- despite the above, the mention of Parish and Town Councils within the Community Forum format was not as "partners" but as attendees!
- The document recognises that in rural areas attendance can be lower due to distances between the villages included in the forum. The importance of the representatives of these rural communities, Parish and Town Councils, are therefore by implication the voice of these communities.
- More importance and relevance should be given by Council, Borough/District Councils to the Parish Plans which represent the views of the local community which they are trying to reach.

RESOLVED to reply to WCC raising the above points.

13. TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORT FROM A VISIT TO MARSH FARM

The visit took place on Thursday 12th August. However, due to a postal failure, Bidford Parish Council did not receive the invitations and did not attend. According to the Clerk at Salford Priors, the invitations (3) were all posted together. Bidford-on-Avon Parish Clerk has requested that, in future, correspondence be sent by email to ensure delivery!

The Clerk then read the report as sent by Salford Priors, which advised that restoration was proceeding and it is envisaged to take some 5 years. The quality of the fill is excellent.

RESOLVED to note the report

**14. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM HFT TO INSTALL A BENCH NEAR THE
ENTRANCE ON WATERLOO ROAD WHERE THEY SIT TO WAIT FOR THE BUS**

The Clerk advised that the Budget included the purchase of 6 benches. It was proposed that a bench be installed on a concrete slab at the entrance, subject to permission from Highways.

RESOLVED to approve the purchase and installation of a bench as requested

15. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BYA FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SET UP A COMMUNITY DANCE PROJECT

The Clerk advised that a grant application had been sent to WCC for this project. Members enquired who it was intended to attract, and where would the lessons take place?

It was intended to attract youngsters of all ages and to encourage their interest in the performing arts. It is also seen as an entertainment that will attract youngsters and keep them off the streets.

Members agreed this could be a good idea and offer youngsters something different to do, but it was essential the classes take place in Bidford. It was proposed this be put as a condition for the grant.

RESOLVED to give a grant of £500 subject to:

- Classes taking place in Bidford
- The grant application at WCC is successful to allow the project to proceed.

16. TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS (circulated)

Recommendation: Councillors to consider proposals and amendments to the Model Standing Orders for the final approval at the Parish Council meeting of 27th Sept. 2010

Proposed: that the figures proposed times and figures be approved that an Ethics Committee be formed as per SO 31 and that it be called the Ethics Committee

RESOLVED to approve the proposals as above and that the reviewed Standing Orders be approved at the next Parish Council Meeting.

That an Ethics Committee be set up at the next Parish Council meeting and its members nominated.

17. TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (circulated)

RESOLVED to approve the Financial Regulations

18. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FOLLOWING THE REVIEW OF THE 1ST QUARTER ACCOUNTS

Cllrs. Gerrard (Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee) Hiscocks (Chairman of the Council) and Mrs. Keeley met and checked the accounts from April to June 2010. They went through and cross referenced the following:

- invoices and payments
- reconciled and unreconciled payments
- bank statements
- cheque books
- 1st Quarter – profit and loss account and balance sheet as well as Prior Year Report.

Members agreed this was a good exercise to ensure all checks and balances were in place and that the accounts were being well managed by the Council. It would also ensure any errors were picked up at an early stage.

RESOLVED to note the report.

19. TO RECEIVE AN UPDTAE ON SIGNAGE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH WCC.

- Members were advised that a meeting with WCC's Group Manager for Traffic Projects and its Regeneration Officer had taken place, during which the problems facing the High Street business was discussed and the lack of signage, and/or incorrect signage was raised. The discussion was followed by a walk through the village pointing out the problems.

The need for improving the signage on the Highway was acknowledged and it was agreed to work in partnership to improve this.

The Parish Council would continue its efforts to improve the footfall by installing appropriate signs on the car parks and the Big Meadow as well as a tourist map of the village centre.

Since the visit, WCC have made it clear that, although it acknowledges the signage could be improved, the whole cost of designing, producing and installing would have to be paid by the Parish Council, at an approximate cost of £1,000 + each, and it would also have to pay the costs of the required legal order.

Members expressed their concern and disappointment at this as they strongly believe that signage on highways is a County matter, as is the promotion of businesses.

The Parish Council also expressed its concern and dismay when it was advised that it would not be receiving any support from its representative at County Council, Cllr. Barnes.

- Quotation had been received for the car park signs from a local company, and it was agreed that the offer from one of the High street shops to obtain another quotation should be accepted. The Parish Council would then consider both at the September Parish Council meeting
- Tourist map – regrettably draft was not available in time for the meeting. It was confirmed that the map would be of the High Street and surrounding area and would contain a list of all the shops on the High Streets as well as other services such as the surgery, parish church etc. Quote for this artwork was £325 (950 x 700 mm) and each anti vandal gloss laminate copy would cost £35.

RESOLVED :

- Not to pay for the highway signs and continue dialogue with WCC as partners in this project
- Obtain a second quotation for the car park signage
- Defer the decision for the signs until more information (quotations and draft designs) had been obtained.

20. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MONTHS PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTS.

The Clerk advised that an invoice for the quarterly leasing of the photocopier/printer had been received after the invoices had been sent to the RFO to prepare the monthly accounts. As payment was due the day after the September meeting, it was recommended it was paid at this meeting and a cheque had been raised to this effect.

RESOLVED to approve this payment for £420.60 and sign the cheque No. 5151

The Clerk advised that two cheques had not been cashed and were being replaced:

- Cheque No. 4948 Crimestoppers (out of date) replaced by No 5136 (£50)
- Cheque No. 4708 Young Firefighters (stopped) replaced by No. 5135 (£60)

RESOLVED to note and approve the replacement cheques

Purchases :	£10,047.59
Wages:	2,369.41
Donations	885.00
Replacement cheques	<u>110.00</u>
(as per cheque list)	£13,412.00
Cheque No. 5151	420.60
DDM	<u>1,181.07</u>
Total payments	£15,013.67

Payments Received	
Big Meadow takings	£1,072.00
Allotments	18.50
Burial fees	<u>135.00</u>
Total received	£1,225.50

Amount transferred from the investment account to the current account £10,000

It was **RESOLVED to** approve the accounts and that Cllrs. Mrs., Keeley and Langston sign the cheques, which included donations under S137 and to CAB (LGA 1972 s142) as approved at the July Parish Council Meeting, (Ref PC Mins. July 2010/16)

The meeting closed at approx. 9.20 pm

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

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CLERKS REPORT – AUGUST 2010

- **MATTERS ARISING**

- Grant Funding Applications forms for Stratford District shops have been distributed to shops on the High Street
- Website has been updated to include all business within Bidford and, when applicable, a link to their websites.
- The Parish Council has accepted quotation for the levelling of The Leys play area: the work will be carried out in September. The area will become a football pitch and no dogs will be allowed. The dog bin will be moved and be installed outside the area.
- Letter regarding the various planning issues was sent to Paul Lankaster. Response to the various points raised is still awaited.

- **SKATE PARK**

This was slightly delayed due to requirements from the Environment Agency. However, the groundwork has now started and it is hoped the skate ramp will be fully installed before the end of August.

- **THE LEYS**

at the request of the younger residents of east Bidford, the Parish Council considered levelling and re seeding the area to allow them to play a “proper” game of football. Work will be carried out in September **and it is important the grass is left to grow!**

May I also remind residents that this is a **play area and dogs are not allowed on it!**

- **MEETINGS**

- Monday 13th September @ 7.30 pm Planning Committee Meeting
- Tuesday 21st September @ 7.00 pm Local #community Forum, Welford Primary School
- Monday 27th September @ 7.30 pm – Parish Council meeting
- Tuesday 28th September @ 7.30 pm Bidford Youth Action AGM

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