

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 21ST JANUARY 2008**

Cllr. Ms. Deacon proposed the Minutes be accepted as being accurate and they were signed by the Chairman

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

- A resident from Welford-on-Avon requested the support from Bidford to stop the proposed Eco-town in Long Marsden. He had not been aware Bidford had not been included in the “loop” and it was agreed that he would request information to be sent to the Clerk, which included a draft letter he would ask residents to send to the Secretary of State Hazel Blears. It was agreed the Clerk would make this available to Bidford residents.

5. **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- **Eco-Towns** – a special telephone line had been made available to obtain information 01789 491391. A decision by Government is expected on Sunday 16th March 2008
Cllr. Barnes had met the Worcester MP Peter Luff to look at the infrastructure south of the river and it was clear to him that Bidford Bridge would be the only viable road.
- **Schools** – Bidford-on-Avon, Salford Priors, Temple Grafton, Dunnington and Welford are all full. Children from Bidford are being sent to Welford and children from Welford to Wellesbourne.
- **Budget** – the increase from County Council is 3.95%
Money has been made available for speed limit review of the B439 and B088
Money is also available for a new scheme to be proposed for traffic calming in Broom
£250,000 was being made available for farm improvements to update the milk parlours to EU standard – 47 farms are owned by WCC of which there are 2 in Bidford.
- The Chairman made the comment that it was very unsatisfactory to learn that children are having to be bussed to schools as mentioned by Cllr. Barnes. She added that she had been on a bus from Studley to Bidford at 3.30pm which stopped to collect children from Alcester Grammar and St., Benedicts and, despite the fact that there were only 4 passengers on the bus, school children had to stand – one of them was so young and short that he had difficulty holding on to the strap. She found this to be a disgusting state of affairs and had sent a letter regarding this.
Cllr. Barnes advised he would look into it and advise

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- **Budget** this had been set at 3.5% the lowest in the county. The tax levels for each band including County and Police Tax but excluding Parish//Town precept are as follows:

A : £ 965.62	B: £1,126.56	C: £1,287.49
D : £1,448.43	E: £1,770.31	F: £2,092.17
G: £2,414.05	H: £2,896.85	
- **Flood** – Approx. £330,000 has been made available for flood prevention capital projects. £1,000 will be given out to Parish/Town Councils to carry out flood defence works such as clearing ditches etc. The exact amount should be clear by April. Both Bidford High Street and Broom have been identified as problem areas.
- **Mill Lane, Broom** – a meeting took place which identified the existing pipeline as one of the problems. This is the responsibility of Severn Trent who will be looking into new drain work
The Member for Broom asked if there was any financial assistance for householders who had built their own flood defence at considerable cost. The Ward Members were unsure of this – they would look into this and advise the clerk accordingly
- **Housing** – figures of residents on the housing waiting list had finally been received and would be emailed to the Clerk

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting

7. CLERK'S REPORT

This was read out and a copy, showing proposals and decisions made, where appropriate, is attached to these Minutes of which it forms part.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- **WCC** – Implementation of part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (reference Decriminalized Parking Enforcement which will become Civil Parking Enforcement) *This was noted. Documents can be viewed at Elizabeth House and Stratford library*
 - Notice of Making an Order (creation of footpath AL215 and extinguishment of footpath AL24b) – The Parish Council discussed this at its meeting of September 2007 and raised no objection. - *Noted*
 - Formal consultation – school organisation proposal Bishopton and Southam Primary Schools. *The Council noted the increase to 30 at Bishopton and the reduction to 42 at Southam.*
 - B4085/07 – Replacement of Culverts, south of Bidford Bridge. *This will mean major disruption during the spring/summer with possible repercussions to visitors of the Big Meadow. The Clerk was instructed to write to WCC asking if extensive traffic management to carryout this work was necessary.*

- Advice of pension fund contributions 2008/09 – 2013/14. *Increase of approx. 0.5% per annum to 2013/14 were noted*
- **WALC** - Newsletter (circulated)- *contents noted*
- Warwickshire Lieutenancy Office – Award Nomination (The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Services) – *the Chairman agreed to look at this*
- Audit Commission – appointment of external auditor (Clement Keys) and scale of fees. *It was noted that Clement Keys are the current auditors so it remains unchanged. The fee, based on the expected expenditure of £175,000 is £550*
- Walk your Talk – looking for a gig in Bidford on 3rd July when they will be passing through – (circulated) *It was proposed that an invitation be extended to come to the Crawford Memorial Hall after checking its availability, and to invite a local band alongside, as suggested in the letter.*
- Twinning Association – Invitation from Ebsdorfergrund to the Parish Council to attend the 775 Anniversary of Rossberg – June 13-15 *As elections would take place before this event, it was proposed that the decision be taken after elections. The proposal was carried*
- Letter/comments from residents regarding the following local issues:
 - HGVs over Bidford Bridge – *the Clerk had made all the appropriate authorities aware of the problem and is continuing to lobby for a positive result*
 - Dog fouling and request for dog bins closer to the village centre
The Clerk suggested one of the councillors, who is a dog walker, revert with proposals for sites within the village where bins could be installed.
Again, the Clerk advised that she has made SDC aware of the issue and is awaiting SDC to adopt orders under the Clean Neighbourhood Act as the Parish Council is unable to proceed until then
 - Grafton Lane – could something be done re speeding and other driving anti social behaviour – *The Police have been made aware of this.*
 - Parking on the High Street (top end). *~As parking is allowed at present, no restrictions can be imposed. Ward Members to look at possibilities and report back*
- LG – Invitation to a Seminar at Wychavon Civic Centre “New Challenges and Innovation for Local Government” on 12th March. Cost £30 *Noted but none to attend as WALC was offering a similar seminar.*
- Sole Catering Rights for the Big Meadow – letter received for summer 2008 *As no other party had ever come forward it was agreed to accept this offer (local business have refused to put in an offer when asked directly). It was proposed that a three year contract be offered – the Clerk to discuss and revert with suggestions.*
- Thank you letters from Warwickshire Fire Fighters Family Fund for the £1,000 donation and from the Citizens Advice Bureau for the £500 donation
Noted

9. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES WORKING GROUP

Cllr. Sandle, Chairman of Working Group, advised that:

- Each play area to be inspected by a member of the working group who reported as follows:
 - Marleigh Road –
 - J fences repaired and the gate hinge will be repaired
 - J quote to replace the safety mat under the spring toy requested
 - J Company installing the sports pad in Broom to be requested to lay some tarmac under the gate
 - Big Meadow
 - J Risk assessment of play equipment taken – it is low risk so propose the equipment remains –this was carried
 - Jubilee Close –
 - J Play equipment company which recently installed it has carried out the minor repairs needed
 - Kings Lane, Broom
 - J Football posts checked – no problem to report.
- Play bark will be relaid in spring as is done every year.
- Maintenance contractor to carry out the minor repairs
- It was proposed two benches be bought to replace the two damaged one (Big Meadow and Jubilee Close). The Clerk had obtained quotations for benches and seats with backs : 2 in wood and 1 in maintenance free steel. It was agreed for purchase 2 steel seats @ £511 (plus installation) each as they were the best prices, were maintenance free and had no lead time.

10. SPRING CLEAN

Following the request by a resident that something be done about the state of the village, the Chairman proposed a date for a “spring clean”. This was carried and the preferred date would be to coincide with “Keep Britain Tidy”. The Clerk to check when this is, arrange for safe litter picking equipment and also advise the P3 Group. The Clerk to advise the insurance company accordingly.

11. KINGS LANE LEASE DOCUMENT

This was signed on 21st January 2008. Due to the extensive time it has taken to finalise this matter (18 months) the Council’s solicitors fees were very high. However, they were willing to discuss with the Council and a figure of £1,000 had been reached. As this was a reduction of £700 it was accepted.

12. GRIEG HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (BUSINESS PLAN SUPPLIED)

Members discussed the issue at some length, taking into account the past history of the leisure centre, who used it – including numbers from Bidford which the Business Plan identified as under 9%.

It was proposed that no money be offered and this was carried.

13. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

It was proposed a committee be formed to adopt a response system for the Council for future requests. The proposal was carried.

It was proposed that the Chairman, Cllr. Gerrard and the Clerk form the Committee to meet as soon as feasible and on the understanding Cllr. Gerrard, who had been proposed in his absence, would accept. This was carried.

14. PLANNING APPLICATION

- **07/03455/FUL – Mr. R. Crompton – 96 High Street B50 4AF**
Change of use from A1 (retail) to A2 (financial and professional services)
No representation

15. ACCOUNTS

Purchases :	£21,105.24
Wages:	2,032.70

Payments Received	
Reimbursement	£11.59
Allotments	7.50

It was resolved Cllrs. Hiscocks and Mrs. Keeley sign the cheques

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

- **ALCESTER HOSPITAL CONSULTATION** – a Public Meeting will be taking place at the Parish Council Meeting Room on Monday 3rd March @ 6.30 pm. This is a very important issue for the local community and the Parish Council trusts it will be well attended.

- **ST. LAURENCE CHURCHYARD** – Faculty has now been received and instructions for the clearing of the churchyard has been given *The Clerk advised she had been informed this had been carried out and would be checking it.*

- **LAND TO THE REAR OF BIDFORD FIRE STATION/THE BANK**
 Heads of Agreement regarding the lease of part of the land has been received. We now await legal documentation in due course.
 In the meantime, the area has been cleared of weeds, overgrown trees and litter as has The Bank.
 A Devil's Island Swing (as chosen by the youngsters) is being installed in the next 7/10 days.~
The Clerk advised she had accepted a quote of £200 for the hire of a machine to flatten the area being leased by the council to enable the installation of the play equipment.

- **STREET LIGHTS** – Two solar powered street lights have been installed in the footpath by the railway bridge in Broom. This should greatly improve the safety of residents using this when it gets dark (including the Clerk's!)

- **CCTV** – Following the installation of the new street lights, the Parish Council has been advised that this has greatly improved the situation. However, it is "work in process" and members are being asked to consider the installation of a further two lights: one by the Balti Hut and another in the centre of the village.
 - *Ward Members expressed concern about this and advised they would be taking this up with the appropriate department and would report*
 - *The Clerk was asked to enquire why there are three different type of streetlights within the village square – two of them only just installed.*

- **KING'S LANE PLAY AREA** – Installation has started and it is hoped that , weather permitting, the equipment will be ready for use by 10th March. The installation of the basket ball pad will follow in March