

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 October 2015 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

Present: Peter Chase, Graham Bates, Jon Gambold, Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Francia Slade, Terence Platt, Borough Cllr Roger Rigby and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition there were two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Crowther - **it was resolved** to accept the apologies

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Bates declared a personal interest in item 8 as one of the applications was on land adjacent to his brother's property.

Cllr Jacobs declared a personal interest in item 8 Planning as one of the applications related to his property.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2015

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Cllr Platt reported that following last month's presentation by Bovis and Linden Homes the developers had circulated a revised plan. The design for the new houses backing on to Windmill Hill has been amended. The new design is reportedly more satisfactory, with larger gardens backing on to existing properties, and denser housing moved further into the centre of the new development.

There were no other matters not covered elsewhere within the agenda.

5. Public Open Session

The roundabout near Cemetery Road whose jurisdiction is this under as it is very untidy? It was confirmed this would be the responsibility of Bedford Borough Highways department.

The Deep Spinney/Bromham Road roundabout is currently grassed over does the parish council know if there are any plans to improve its appearance? It was confirmed that the roundabout would be planted with a variety of species and this should be completed by the end of November.

Would the parish council consider constructing some sort of feature on the Deep Spinney roundabout, similar to those in Kempston and Great Denham? Members agreed it was an interesting idea, but needs some inspired thinking to achieve something relevant, maintainable and affordable. This would be included in the parish council article in The Loop.

6. To confirm arrangements for Remembrance Sunday

All arrangements were in hand and delegated as follows:

Wreath – Clerk
 Flag – Cllr Gambold
 Vicar – Cllr Bates
 Bugler – Cllr Slade/Clerk
 Road Closure – Clerk

This year the wreath will be laid by Mrs Collins who is the daughter of one of the fallen whose name appears on the war memorial.

Clerk

JG

PC

7. Bedfordshire Day – to consider a request to fly the Bedfordshire Flag on 28th November

The parish council had received a request to fly the Bedfordshire flag on the 28th November. Members had no objections to this request and **it was resolved** to grant permission to swap flags for Bedfordshire Day.

Clerk

8. Planning

The report was noted. There were 2 additional planning applications which were distributed to the relevant planning groups:

15/02090/S73A 10 Nevern Gardens Biddenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK40 4RW
Erection of shed and enclosure for domestic rabbits (development already carried out)

TP/KO

15/01937/FUL 35 Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AR
Single storey front, side and rear extension and detached single garage to rear

FS/JG/AC

Borough Local Plan 2032 – the Borough’s consultation will commence 19 October – 14 December 2015. The Borough will be holding drop-in sessions where planning officers will be on hand to answer any questions full details are available on the Borough website.

9. Clerk’s report

The report was noted. The new village sign will be unveiled on Saturday 7th November at 11am.

10 Borough Councillor’s report

A written report had been circulated to all members.
Cllr Rigby reported the Borough have so far identified cuts worth £771,000 although savings of approximately £9 million will be necessary in the next financial year. Budget information will be circulated to all Borough Cllrs in December 2015. There is a proposal to reduce the amount of council tax support grants gradually over the next 2 years and then to abolish the grants completely.

The Borough Council will shortly begin work to tidy up the entrance to Deep Spinney near the pedestrian crossing on Bromham Road. This will include removal of trees and clearance of overgrown vegetation.

Elger Close footpaths – this work is still in this year’s programme but will also include the realignment of the crossovers and entry/exit points off the pavement and private driveways.

Cllr Gambold reported that the repainting of the speed humps in Deep Spinney should take place during the Autumn. He was still in discussion with Highways regarding the proposal for a traffic island on Gold Lane and additional road markings near the schools on Biddenham Turn. Local Green Spaces – land registry searches had been undertaken (12 in total). Cllr Gambold was in discussion with the landowner of the north end of The Baulk and also The Three Tuns to include on the Assets of Community Interest.

Bromham Road/Deep Spinney roundabout – left hand lane would have a left turn only road marking as part of the programme of works.

11 Financial Matters

- (i) Accounts for approval –there were no accounts for payment and members noted the payments which had been made since the July meeting as outlined below:

	Payee	£	Description
BACS	Dominic Mills & Co	36.00	Land registry searches

BACS	G Lawrence	£845.00	Tree works Main Road – crown lifting, removal of dead wood (16 trees in total)
	TOTAL	£881.00	

Clerk

(ii) the monthly spend against budget was noted

(ii) completion of Annual Audit -

Completion of the audit was noted and there were no outstanding matters. The auditor had suggested the Asset Register was revised to include the location of the litter/dog bins and also the benches. Members agreed to email the Clerk with these details to allow the Asset Register to be updated.

All

(iii) **Matters in Progress**

Flooding near St James’s School – Highways had undertaken a site visit and the problem is that both sides of the footpath are on land with no drainage. This land is privately owned and the Borough are in discussion with the landowner with a view to improving the drainage.

Highways

Observer Close Plaque – **it was resolved** to purchase a replacement plaque which will be installed at the end of Day’s Lane on the corner with Bromham Road. Cllrs Platt and Bates would select a suitable design using the original wording.

GB/TP

(iv) **Parish Concerns**

Cllr Slade thanked the Clerk for arranging the works to the wooden bus shelter on Main Road – could the bin inside the shelter also be painted?

Clerk

Graffiti on the Stone Bus Shelter – this had been reported to the Borough but no action had been taken. Cllr Chase agreed to contact the Borough regarding the outstanding work.

PC

(v) **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 11th November at 7:30pm in the upstairs meeting room of the Pavilion.

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Approved by Chairman 11th November 2015