

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 July 2015 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

Present: Peter Chase, Anna Crowther, Jon Gambold, Francia Slade, Terence Platt, and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition there were two members of the public and Borough Cllr Roger Rigby

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Bates, Jacobs and Osuch - **it was resolved** to accept the apologies

2. **Declarations of interest**

None

3. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2015**

Clerk

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in agenda.

5. **Public Open Session**

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. **To receive a report regarding footpaths from the P3 group**

Chris Hayden Jones outlined the current maintenance programme regarding the footpaths off Duck End and Church End. Part of footpath FP11 and also FP10 which runs from Duck End Lane to Church End requires cutting. This has been reported to the footpaths officer (Zaria Bettles) who has arranged for the work to be completed. The Friends of Biddenham Pond continue to cut the footpaths in their area which is much appreciated. The P3 group have been donated an industrial strimmer and the parish council were asked to extend their Public Liability insurance cover to include Chris as a volunteer which would then allow him to undertake work within the parish. **This was agreed.** FP11 alongside the Bromham Road also required cutting – this must be carried out by Highways not volunteers as it is alongside the public highway.

Chris Hayden Jones

A gate at the junction between FP10 and FP13 is now beyond repair and needs to be replaced. The borough would replace but this would be a metal replacement. Would the parish council pay for a wooden replacement that was more in keeping with the existing one and its surroundings? **Members agreed to fund the new gate** and asked for two quotes to be supplied – Cllr Gambold indicated he may be able to fund this out of his Ward Funds.

J Gambold

The Parish Council had reported that FP4 and FP15 were both extremely overgrown and had advised the Borough. Chris agreed to visit the footpaths then contact the footpaths officer to discuss.

The Chairman thanked Chris for his report.

7. **Correspondence**

Letter from Police & Crime Commission to meet with local parish councils

It was resolved to write to the PCC and suggest Mr Martins might wish to attend the next Town and Parish Council Network meeting (in September) when many local councillors from a range of parish councils would already be in attendance.

Clerk

8. **To receive an update regarding the acoustic fencing at the Bromham Road roundabout**

Cllrs Rigby and Gambold had met with Stewart Briggs at Bedford Borough Council to discuss this matter. The Borough is looking at alternatives to the current fencing. The Borough only owns the land which includes the highway, footpath and up to the new fencing – past this it is owned by Hallam Land so permission needs to be granted prior to any alterations being made.

In addition to the fencing members were concerned regarding the finished roundabout. There was now only 1 lane onto the roundabout from Deep Spinney whereas previously there had been an additional lane for cars travelling left in the direction of Northampton. Cllr Gambold reported that he had already spoken to Highways about this but the initial traffic counts indicated there was no need for an additional lane and this is why the current design has been implemented. The Borough will review the traffic flow once the roundabout is fully operational and may then revise some of the line markings to alter priorities to keep the traffic flowing.

9. **To receive an update regarding the submissions for Local Green spaces**

It was reported that it was proving very difficult to find evidence of important flora and fauna to support the applications. The Pavilion Field is already afforded protected status as it is a Community Asset. The other green spaces are also afforded protection within the Allocation & Designations Plan. However, it would be even better if they could be given designation as Local Green Spaces. Members suggested they include the local midwife toads (which are a protected species and specific to these locations). It was also suggested that Cllr Gambold contact the Chris Hayden Jones who may be able to identify some local fauna of significance. The deadline for submissions was 31st July and members offered to help with the submissions if required.

10 **To approve the donation of the Pavilion Rugby Post Protectors to Sharnbrook Upper School.**

Currently the Rugby Club has disbanded (several years ago) and the rugby post protectors brought with ward funds and donated to the club by the PC have been stored in the cricket club store. Recently these were moved to the old paper store at the Village Hall but this space is needed by the management committee of the Biddenham Show to store new tables recently purchased. Sharnbrook Upper School have offered to purchase the pads for a small donation of £75.00 and had initially suggested this was given to the Biddenham Show. It was noted that the Rugby Posts (purchased for £5K) several years ago remain at the Pavilion (they have been removed from the pitches and stored on the roof of the new garage). However the post protectors did need to be re-located and it would be good to put them to use. **It was resolved** to allow Sharnbrook to purchase the rugby post protectors but the donation of £75.00 should be paid to the parish council who had initially purchased them and had stored them for several years at the Pavilion.

Clerk

11 **Traffic calming solutions – to receive a report**

Cllr Gambold & Chase had met since the last meeting and undertaken a site visit to Biddenham Turn. Currently there is only one sign indicating there is a school and this was faded and insignificant. Highways have agreed to remove and replace. However, it was felt that one sign was not really sufficient to draw motorists' attention to slow down. One suggestion had been to alter the priority along Biddenham Turn near the junctions with Darlow Drive. However, due to the entry/exits to neighbouring properties this did not look feasible. They then looked at the possibility of two speed tables just before the Darlow Drive entrances. A similar scheme had been installed in Spencer Road/Cowper Road (off Shakespeare Road) and it was agreed these were very unattractive, required permanent lighting and would not be in keeping with the feel of Biddenham Turn. Cllr Chase then showed members some examples of road markings he had seen in Torbay. They were some large SLOW markings with arrows and separate children in a red warning triangle. These could be placed in both directions outside St Gregory's School and also Biddenham Upper. **It was resolved** to ask Highways to install these road markings as soon as possible. Cllr Gambold would report back expected delivery time for these works to be completed and what cost if any to the parish council. Members agreed to review the situation after 6 months to see if they had made any impact on traffic speeds.

JG/PC

12 Planning – to note the report and comment on any new applications

The report was noted.

98 Bromham Road – the new development was overly large for the plot and the applicant had not included a survey of the trees on the site. Cllr Slade had discussed the application with the planning officer (Alastair Wren) and expressed concern that the application had not been completed fully. The applicant has now been asked to submit revised plans and these will incorporate the Oak Tree and a large Willow tree which could be given TPO's. In addition members felt that the side first floor windows should be obscured glass so they are not overlooking the neighbouring property.

25 Day's Lane – this has been recommended for refusal.

38 Church End – the applicant was successful in his planning appeal and will be permitted to keep the outbuilding.

13 To note the Clerk's report and consider any matters arising

The report was noted.

Village Sign – the sign is now virtually completed however the stone base has not yet been commissioned. The base of the Millennium Sun Dial is made from "Northampton Stone" and members wanted to use the same type of stone for the village sign plinth. **It was resolved** to contact local stone masons to design a base and provide quotes.

Clerk

Grass cutting alongside the Bromham Road (left hand side from Day's Lane to the new roundabout) needed cutting as only a small strip had been cut.

Clerk

Pavilion management – members were disappointed that at tonight's meeting the disabled bays were being used by hirers not displaying blue badges. It was proposed to alter the hiring agreement to outline the hirer has a duty to ensure its clients are not using these parking bays unless they display a blue badge. However initially members agreed that additional signage would be beneficial at the front of the bays to clearly identify these parking bays are for disabled persons only and blue badges should be displayed.

Clerk

14 Financial Matters

(i) Accounts for approval – **it was resolved to approve the accounts for payment** as below:

Clerk

	Payee	£	Description
BACS	S Chilvers	54.00	PAT Testing
BACS	Parish Websites Ltd	200.00	Annual Website fee
BACS	Signs Express	29.36	Signs for new play area
BACS	Viking	118.40	Cleaning materials
BACS	Coopers Property Maintenance	1566.00	Memorial garden ground works
BACS	Chris Horne Gardens	2089.90	Grass cutting (April)
BACS	PRS & PPL fee	374.28	License fees
BACS	Chris Horne Gardens	952.80	Grass cutting (June)
BACS	Beds Wildlife Trust	500.00	Annual management fee

BACS	Chris Horne Gardens	1006.20	Grass cutting (May)
	TOTAL	6890.84	

The monthly spend against budget was noted.

15 Matters in Progress

Flooding outside St James's School – Cllr Chase would contact the Borough

P Chase

16 Parish Concerns

The parish council had received a letter from Optimus Consulting who are acting on behalf of Bovis and Linden homes who are the developers for the site owned by the Harpur Trust. They had initially requested a meeting with members of the parish council to present their proposals for the new development. However, Cllrs Gambold and Rigby had met with Optimus Consulting earlier in the day and had been informed that Bovis and Linden would be also be developing the Sheffield Hallam land. It was apparent that the plans needed to be revised prior to meeting with the parish council. There would be a public exhibition held either late July or during August. Once members had viewed the plans at the public exhibition then Optimus Consulting would be invited to attend the September parish council meeting.

Clerk

Members were also keen that their proposed name suggestion was put forward to the developers. Peter Culverwell offered to contact St James's Church to ensure they are ok with the proposed name of St James's. Once this had been agreed then the Chairman would write to the consultants with the name proposal.

P Chase

New Toddler Play Area – could we install a bench? The clerk advised that there had to be safety zones around all the equipment but she would check with the play area contractor to see if there was sufficient space. Providing this was possible she would obtain a quote and bring this to the September meeting for approval.

Clerk

Crime stats – there had been a burglary on Bromham Road near Windmill Hill and the police are looking for a yellow Golf which may have been connected to the crime. If anyone sees this car in the area please do let the police know.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 7:30pm in the upstairs meeting room of the Pavilion

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Approved by Chairman 9th September 2015