

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

Present: Peter Chase, Graham Bates, Chris Gee, Jon Gambold, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt, Francia Slade, Joe Warren, and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition there were 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Jacobs & Rigby – **it was resolved** to accept the apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2017

It was resolved to approve the minutes

Clerk

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

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

5. Public Open Session (15 mins)

Any news re 59a Days Lane – written to developers, agent and Borough Council.
Vegetation behind war memorial – have written to them but they have not responded
Cllr Chase agreed to contact the owners of Lavender Lodge regarding this.

PC

The new lights on Bromham Road are still a problem, constantly flicking between red and green. *The PC has already reported this to the Borough and will chase for an update.*

PC

The kerbstones on the left-hand side of the road at the bottom of Biddenham Turn have not been repaired properly since a drop kerb was installed.

PC

Cllr Chase agreed to speak with Highways regarding these items.

Why is the old website still accessible? *The parish council have been trying for several months to get the management company to hand over control of the old site. There remain a few technical issues but this should be resolved shortly. The old website does point visitors to the new site.*

JW/Clerk

The new website does not enough prominence to the parish council. It appears to be a site for the village. *This was the intention of the parish council as we wanted the website to be the first place anyone would visit regarding Biddenham. The PC will review whether the section relating to the parish council needs to be make more obvious.*

JW

6. Deep Spinney roundabout – to receive a report

Cllr Gambold joined the meeting

The council have asked residents for their views on the proposed Deep Spinney roundabout feature. This has been publicised on all the village noticeboards, the web site, a survey at the Biddenham Show and discussed at the Biddenham Society AGM. The council have received only three negative comments from residents. Members were asked for their views on the proposal and the majority were in favour. Considering the largely positive views of people at the Biddenham Show, the support from the Biddenham Society and support from members of the council **it was resolved** to proceed with the project. However, there were still concerns about the cost. After some discussion, it was resolved to take forward two alternative proposals to the Borough’s highways department: the original idea for two pillars placed diametrically opposite each other, or else one, taller centrally sited one. The option for one pillar would be cheaper, but would require removal of the trees that have been planted on the roundabout with bushes.

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

114 Bromham Road – the PC made no comments on this application

39 Darlow Drive – the PC had no comments on this application

Cllr Slade commented that she received several planning applications that were incomplete. **It was resolved** that Cllr Slade would provide some examples (including planning application numbers) and this would be raised with the Borough planning department.

FS
Clerk/PC

The report was noted and there were no other comments on the remaining applications.

8. To receive a report regarding installation of wooden posts on Biddenham Turn

Graham has visited Biddenham Turn and identified where wooden posts would be beneficial. Next step is to contact the Borough to obtain permission.

GB

St Gregory’s have confirmed there is a member of staff outside the school to monitor parking before and after school. Parents have been reminded they should be dropping off their children at Biddenham Upper and not stopping on Biddenham Turn.

9. To consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

The parish council have a duty to host the Annual Parish Meeting and the clerk asked for ideas regarding guest speakers. The new housing developments in Biddenham and the sports complex are now underway – perhaps we could invite someone from the Borough to talk about the latest developments including the proposals for the country park.

JG
Clerk

It was resolved to invite representatives from local groups within the parish.

10. To consider the results of the recent speed survey for Bromham Road

The parish council commissioned a survey for Bromham Road, 100,000 cars were surveyed over a 7-day period. The results indicate that 73% of all traffic was exceeding the speed limit. The average speed was 34.9mph and the 85th percentile was 39.6mph. Members were most concerned that some cars are travelling excessively fast with speeds above 50mph not uncommon and even some cars travelling over 60mph. It was noted that planning permission had been approved for a roundabout on the Bromham Road at the entrance to the old golf course. This could have an impact on speed but cars would inevitably speed up again once they had passed the roundabout. **It was resolved** to start discussions with the Borough Highways department to consider what to do.

PC

11. To note the Clerk’s report and consider any matters arising

It was resolved to obtain a re-instatement valuation for the Pavilion to ensure the council have sufficient insurance cover.

Clerk

There were no other matters for consideration and the report was noted.

12. Financial Matters

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

BACS	Payee	£	Description
BACS	Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust	500.00	Yearly fee for management of SSSI
BACS	S Tyler	640.00	Interior decoration of Pavilion
BACS	Smith’s Fire LLP	168.00	Fire alarm and emergency lighting visit
BACS	A Southern	31.97	1 x licence for Microsoft Office for PC laptop (£20) and 3 x waste bins for ladies toilets (£11.97)
BACS	AMF Services Ltd	1066.32	Yearly service and repairs to roller
BACS	Viking	45.58	Toilet rolls (12 large rolls for dispensers)
	TOTAL	2451.87	

- (ii) To note the spend against budget
The report was noted
- (iii) To agree the standing orders – **it was resolved** to agree the standing orders
- (iv) To agree the Asset Register – **it was resolved** to agree the Asset Register
- (v) To agree the financial regulations – **it was resolved** to agree the financial regulations

13. Matters in Progress

Flooding on pavement near St James School – Cllr Gambold suggested that perhaps the parish council to obtain a quote to replace the section of footpath from Nodders Way to Gold Lane. This would also resolve the problem of the black tarmac surfacing that had been installed by the utility company following localised flooding outside Lavender Lodge. The footpath is asphalt with pea gravel and would exclude driveways. The clerk recalled that she had obtained a quote several years ago to replace the whole length of footpath and the cost was over £20K and considered prohibitive. **It was resolved** to obtain a quote for resurfacing the footpath.

Clerk

Coffin Path – Cllr Chase is still in contact with Bidwells regarding this.

War Memorial Paving Stones – Gary Creek had suggested repairing with a new flexible mortar and the work would be carried out when the weather improves.

14. Parish Concerns

Travel Plan for St James School – as the school is expanding and becoming a primary school it is a requirement that the school produces a new travel plan. This will be distributed to all members of the council.

KO

Gold Lane will be closed for road repairs, details would be put on the website. It was reported that Bromham Road has a significant number of large pot holes. Cllr Gambold advised that Bromham Road was on the highways schedule for this financial year.

15. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th April

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Approved by Chairman 12 April 2017