



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Biddenham Parish Council met on Wednesday 9th March 2016 in the upstairs room of the Pavilion. Those present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Chris Gee, Alan Jacobs, Jon Gambold (also a Borough Councillor), Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt & Francia Slade, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby with the Clerk in attendance and one member of the public.

The Clerk informed the meeting that our Chairman had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend and she also said she had asked Cllr Bates if he would Chair the meeting; this was agreed.

GRASS CUTTING

Borough Councillors Rigby & Gambold had been successful in their efforts to obtain a rebate from the Borough when the Parish takes over the responsibility for keeping them trim. Hopefully this will provide a better service for the Parish. Normal grass cutting will start from the beginning of April.

BIDDENHAM PAVILION

The Clerk reported that the redecorating of the Pavilion was under way and that the changing rooms and the showers had been deep cleaned and would also be redecorated. The light fittings in the main hall had begun to fail and as it is necessary to erect a tower in the hall in order to access them the Council had agreed to replace them with LED fittings. Quotations had been received and it was agreed to accept the quote from Mr Richard Evans of £1768.

Whilst the redecoration work is being carried out repairs and replacements of the curtain fittings will also be done and the quotation from Tailor Drapes of £413.57 was accepted. The option of replacing the curtains was also discussed and it was decided that this would be considered when the next budget was being prepared.

ELGER CLOSE FOOTPATHS

It was reported that the repair of the footpaths in Elger Close was in the Borough's programme for this coming financial year and that the residents would be offered the opportunity to realign their crossovers with the drives. Sadly many were misaligned when the estate was developed.

SSSI (Special Site of Scientific Interest)

The report from the Wildlife Trust said that the details of the new interpretation board had been sent to the printers and should be installed by the end of March. The hazel hedge at the side of the footpath would still be kept in trim by the Parish's contractors.

DEEP SPINNEY ROUNDABOUT

Cllr Platt reported that the suggested design for the roundabout had met with a favourable response from the Highways Department and that the next step would be to instruct several sign writers/builders to provide artwork and an indication of costs. It was hoped that this information would be available in time for the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th April.

The Borough had considered the options for the wooden fence and had reluctantly concluded that it would have to remain but that a certain amount of landscaping would take place in order to soften its appearance.



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THE NEW BY-PASS

A final date for the new By-Pass to be opened is not yet agreed as the contractors are not sure how long the remaining work will take. However, The Rotary Club of Bedford had been given permission to run a Charity Fun RUN/WALK on Sunday 10th April and it is anticipated that the road would be open shortly after that. Councillor Bates reported that he had been asked to take photos of the run from a helicopter and he had asked members for any suggestions as to possible landing and pick-up points around the village.

VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Clerk reported that the vacancy had been advertised and as there had been no requests for an election which would have cost us @£1000 and meant that we should have all had to go to the Polling Station, we can now co-opt a member of the Parish to the position. We would welcome any suggestions from our parishioners.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would also be the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING which is a legal requirement to enable any parishioners to air their views on Parish matters and will take place at the Biddenham Pavilion at 7.00 pm in the Main Hall and will be followed by the April meeting of the Parish Council. We look forward to hearing your views.

Graham Bates