



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Biddenham Parish Council met on Wednesday 11th May 2016 in the upstairs room of the Pavilion. Those present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase, Chris Gee, Jon Gambold (also a Borough Councillor), Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt, Francia Slade and Joe Warren. Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and the Clerk Alison Southern attended, along with one member of the public.

Following on from last month's annual Parish meeting, this month's meeting was the annual Council meeting at which various posts are discussed and allotted. I remain chairman, and Joe Warren volunteered to act as vice chairman in any situations when I may be unable to fulfil my duties. Other roles remained unchanged.

We also reviewed the annual finances for 2015/16, signed our annual statement of governance and received a report from our independent auditor to say that we have no issues which need attention.

GRASS CUTTING

Following our decision to unify grass-cutting throughout most of the village, we are now having trouble getting the Borough Council to stop attending to the parts they should no longer do! I'm sure the instruction will filter down to their contractor at some point, but meantime there is no danger of the grass verges not being mown in Deep Spinney and Darlow/Elger areas.

DOGS

The Borough is undertaking a rationalisation exercise as regards Dog Control Orders. A DCO requires that owners keep their dogs on a lead and clear up after them. We have been consulted and were unhappy to find there was no mention of DCOs anywhere in our village. We are writing back to ask that the pavilion playing field is included, and also the footpaths at Elger Close/Bromham service road and Franklyn Gardens/Hampden Court.

TRAFFIC

We await with interest the immediate findings of the Borough's traffic monitoring following the opening of the new bypass. These are likely to show much reduced volumes town-bound on Bromham Road, but it's not clear yet about the other direction and Shakespeare Road. Unfortunately, the impact of the Biddenham Turn single-file traffic control (due to end on 10th June) will invalidate any further data for the time being. We must all be patient to wait and see how things settle down once the traffic lights are installed and operational at the end of Biddenham Turn before we can review further what our village needs.

One thing we have sought are "SLOW" and school warning signs on the actual road surface of Biddenham Turn. Councillor Gambold reported that it has been agreed these will be painted as part of completing the Biddenham Turn works.

OUR PAVILION

The Clerk reported that three showers had stuck on during the month, and cost £750 to fix. One quote has been received so far for painting the exterior – we are obliged to get at least one, if not two, more. The new interior LED lighting for the main hall was to be installed the day after our meeting (and I can report that it was, and works very well – providing immediate, and very clear white light as soon as switched on. The old lights were orange and took about five minutes to get to full brightness).



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After a wait of nigh on two years, the new “interpretation” board for our Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has finally been installed. This is located adjacent to the footpath between Malcote Close (Deep Spinney) and Bromham Road. Councillor Platt was dispatched to go and see it the day after our meeting and he duly reported back that it is very fine. Not many villages can boast having an SSSI. It’s well worth a visit if you would like to learn about our ancient gravel deposits and how Deep Spinney was once a quarry.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th June. Do please come along if you have anything you’d like to raise.

Peter Chase