

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2016 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

Present: Graham Bates, Chris Gee, Alan Jacobs, Jon Gambold, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt, Francia Slade, Borough Cllr Roger Rigby and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition, there was one member of the public.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Chase was unable to attend; she had asked Cllr Bates if he would be willing to chair the meeting. He had indicated he would be willing to do so.

1. Election of Chairman

It was resolved to elect Cllr Bates as Chairman for tonight's meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Peter Chase – **it was resolved** to accept the apologies.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 10 February 2016

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes

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

6. Public Open Session

There were no questions from the public.

7. Planning

No comments on the new planning applications list below:

98 Bromham Road –erection of outbuilding in rear garden. PC have objected to this application as the proposal is too big to be considered an outbuilding.

22 Darlow Drive – Cllr Gambold informed the meeting that this application has been withdrawn as the submitted plans were incorrect. A new application with revised drawings would be submitted in due course.

4 Cooper Close - revised drawings relating to the construction of a garage (permission already granted for the detached dwelling) these plans would be reviewed by Cllrs Platt, Osuch and Jacobs.

8. Clerk's report including a report on management of the Pavilion

Annual Parish Meeting

The clerk reported that she had not received a reply from the Head Teacher at St James School regarding attending the APM. Cllr Gee suggested contacting Chris Sturgeon who was one of the governors at the school.

Community Governance Review – this would not be considered until approximately two-thirds of the development has been built which will probably be in around 3-4 years.

Clerk

Clerk

Grass cutting – Cllr Rigby and Gambold had been successful in obtaining confirmation from the Borough Council that a payment would be made to the parish council should it wish to undertake grass cutting on highways land. Cllr Gambold would liaise with the Clerk to ensure the correct areas are submitted to the Borough. Chris Horne has been informed to commence work from the 1st April.

JG/Clerk

Biddenham Cricket Club had asked to hire the Pavilion for indoor cricket practise for the under 10s. Members were not in favour of this proposal due to concern regarding potential damage to the building.

The clerk reported that the decorating was underway for the main hall and lobby. The changing rooms and showers had been deep cleaned and would be decorated w/c 14th March.

Replacement Lighting

Two quotes had been provided:
 Craddock Electrical £3395
 Richard Evans £1768

Cllr Chase had spoken with Mr Evans to ensure the lighting option proposed would be suitable and provide a reliable alternative to the current lighting. He was satisfied that despite being significantly cheaper than the alternative quote the lighting would be suitable for the Pavilion. **It was resolved** to accept the quotation from Richard Evans.

Clerk

Pavilion Curtains

Two quotes had been provided:
 Handylan - £410
 Tailor and Drapes £431.57

Although the quote from Tailor and Drapes was more expensive this was more comprehensive and included cleaning all the existing curtain tracks in the hall, rehanging all the curtains, replacing any broken or missing curtain hooks and included two new made to measure replacement tracks for the upper windows.

It was resolved to accept the quotation for Tailor & Drapes.

Members did ask whether the curtains could be professionally cleaned before re-hanging but the Clerk was concerned that due to the age of the curtains (these are the original curtains) they might not tolerate the process. Members agreed to consider purchasing replacement curtains in the next financial year 2016-17.

Clerk

9. **Financial Matters**

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

Ch No	Payee	£	Description
BACS	Greethumb	55.00	Village green treatment
BACS	Npower	11.53	Electricity for village tree (S137)
BACS	AMF Services	307.65	Lawnmower servicing
BACS	Gary Creek Ltd	240.00	Replacement felt roof on wooden bus shelter, repair disabled WC toilet door

	Total	614.18	
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Cllr Gee queried what the separate Standard Life account was for. The clerk explained this was an old bank account set up to hold funds for Great Denham and then subsequently for earmarked reserves for the Pavilion. However, with such low interest rates offered the Clerk now used the HSBC Money Manager account for designated reserves as she could transfer between the current account (also HSBC) and the savings account more easily. After the year end accounts are completed she proposed that the Standard Life account be closed and funds transferred into the HSBC Treasurer account.

Cllr Slade commented that the amount charged by Greenthumb for the village green was somewhat high and asked if the Clerk could try to negotiate a cheaper rate.

Clerk

(ii) To note the spend against budget

PC spend against budget – there were no comments.

Pavilion – the full year forecast had been revised to allow for the additional works taking place but income would still be approximately £4K more than expenditure. There were no comments on the report.

10. Matters in Progress

Flooding near St James’s School – as previously discussed the problem is due to both sides of the footpath being grassed over with no drainage. The Borough is still trying to find a solution as any drainage would need to be on land owned by Mr Wingfield. Cllr Gambold will keep the council informed of any progress in this matter.

JG

Observer Close Plaque

Cllr Jacobs offered to assist Cllr Bates with this.

Gold Lane traffic calming – could Highways widen the road near the oak posts? Members were not in favour of this as this would only encourage motorists to drive even faster. Members agreed this item is now on hold until after the new bypass opens and time taken to consider what impact this has on traffic travelling through the village.

Pedestrian entrance to Deep Spinney (near pedestrian crossing on Bromham Road) – Cllrs Rigby & Gambold have used ward funding for this project and the Borough had started work but due to fly tipping this has stopped. Work will recommence in the new financial year to take out the remaining two self-set trees, dig and smooth over all the ground and then seeded with grass. Some low fencing will be installed to prevent motorists/motorcycles gaining access into Deep Spinney off Bromham Road. The ground work will take place during April/May and bulb planting will be undertaken in the Autumn.

Road marking outside schools on Biddenham Turn including replacement “School” signs – Cllr Gambold reported this work had been allocated a job number and will shortly be carried out by the Borough Highways department.

Elger Close footpaths – this is on the schedule for the financial year 2016-17. In addition, residents will be offered the opportunity to realign the crossovers. They would however need to meet the cost of any crossovers themselves.

SSSI – a report from the Bedfordshire Wildlife Group had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The interpretation board had now gone to the printers and would

be installed by the end of March. The group had offered to cut the hazel hedge later in the year but members agreed to retain the services of our current contractor to ensure the hedge is kept back from the footpath and does not obscure the street lamps.

Deep Spinney roundabout – Cllr Platt reported that the sub-committee had received a favourable response to their proposals from Beds BC Highways department. The next step would be to instruct several sign writing companies to provide artwork and an indication of costs. Members hoped this information could be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Members asked if the actual signs could be less harsh and perhaps curved which would soften their appearance.

Cllr Platt

Parish Concerns

Upon entering Biddenham off the Deep Spinney roundabout there is a road sign for Biddenham pointing in the direction of Gold Lane. Could this road sign be removed as it is very confusing for new visitors to the parish who automatically turn into Gold Lane even if they are looking for properties in Deep Spinney. **It was resolved** to contact Highways to ask for this sign to be removed.

Clerk

Cllr Rigby – the Borough have considered landscaping options for the wooden boundary fence near the new bypass. Although originally they had indicated a soil bund would be put in place and landscaping to soften the appearance of the fence it would seem that the fence will stay as it is due to costs.

Bromham – Duck Race. This event is so popular that Bromham Parish Council have obtained a temporary road closure notice for the Bromham Bridge section of the road. Could details regarding this event and also the road closure go onto the parish notice boards, website and also in the Loop?

Clerk

Traffic flow – roadworks from Tavistock Street are causing delays but this was particularly bad today. How long before this work will be completed? Although the legal notices indicate the work will not be completed until mid-May, the engineers are working hard to ensure it is completed ahead of schedule. Only once this work is completed and the new bypass is opened (date tbc but around mid-April) will the roadworks to create the three way junction on Bromham Road with Biddenham Turn start. This should ensure that traffic disruption is kept to a minimum.

Pedestrian crossings on the new Deep Spinney roundabout – there was concern that pedestrians were unsure where to cross. Members did not feel there was a problem as there were pedestrian refuges on both sides of the roundabout to provide a safe haven when crossing Bromham Road.

Vacancy – co-option could now take place and this would be included in the Loop, notice boards and on the website

Cllr Bates reported that he would be taking aerial shots of the forthcoming Fun Run along the new bypass. He asked if members could suggest a suitable landing location for a helicopter. Members suggested the land adjacent to the new bypass behind Baulk House which will eventually be the new playing fields, the meadows off Bromham Bridge or alternatively the Pavilion Field. However, members felt that the pilot should undertake a site visit prior to the event to ensure their suitability.

11. **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 13 April 2016 Annual Parish Meeting 7:00pm in the large hall of the Pavilion, followed by the April meeting of the parish council.

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Approved by Chairman 13 April 2016

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