

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2016 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Krzys Osuch – the apologies were accepted

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2016

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

5. Public Open Session (15 mins)

Have there been any developments regarding the proposal to improve the appearance of the roundabout at the end of Deep Spinney and Bromham Road. There has been some tree planting but the grass on top of the roundabout is full of weeds and in a terrible condition having been left too long without cutting.

It was confirmed that this item would be covered within the agenda under item 14 Matters in Progress but that the chairman was content to move the order of business to address this matter immediately after the public open session.

Are the parish council aware of an application to the Borough for a street trading application on Deep Spinney?

It was confirmed that the parish council had been informed of the application and this would be considered under item 13, the clerk's report. The parish council would be interested to hear residents views on the application.

The proposal is for a mobile van serving Pizzas from 5:30pm until 9pm on Sundays. As a resident living nearby I am concerned about noise (the van will be within 10 metres of the junction with Lavenham Drive), there will be inevitably be rubbish, smell, and the van will cause an obstruction to the highway. There is no local need for this facility, a new shop has recently opened up in Great Denham which offers take-away food. *Members asked if the van was in the same location as the previous mobile food van.* No, the van will be much further down near Lavenham Drive. This application is inappropriate especially on a Sunday when residents expect to be able to enjoy peace and quiet. *The chairman thanked the resident for his comments which will be taken into consideration when the parish council discuss the item fully under item 13 of the agenda.*

The road in Gold Lane is in a very poor condition. Can the parish council ask the Borough to undertake a site inspection? *It was confirmed that the parish council would look again at traffic levels in Gold Lane and possible traffic calming solutions, this will require a site inspection of the highway. However, this will only take place once the Bromham Road/Biddenham Turn road works have been completed.*

Roadworks along Bromham Road are causing considerable delays and the buses are struggling to turn right onto Bromham Road. Can the parish council apply pressure to the Borough to see when this work will be completed?

It was reported that the chairman had been in communication with Highways regarding this. When a permit is granted for highways works there is a specific time on the permit for the roadworks during which the work can be carried out. Despite over running the contractor is still

Clerk

within the extended time period and therefore the contractor is not subject to any financial penalties. The delays have been caused by difficulty installing services to the new housing development and this has been down to the utility companies. The parish council will continue to press the Borough to ensure the temporary traffic light system is removed as soon as possible.

6. Deep Spinney/Bromham Road Roundabout

The sub-committee had circulated a report to all members of the PC outlining various proposals. The roundabout and all 4 access roads lie within the parish of Biddenham therefore the concept of an "entrance" to the village is not therefore appropriate.

The option for 4 stone walls was too expensive and would be close to £20K, members did not feel this expense could be justified. There are two cheaper options:

Wooden construction with a slate plaque inlaid or 2 stone features.

The face of each stone will be opposite each access road. We have gone back to Boden and Ward for quotes for this and also quotes for the slate. Our maximum budget is £10K and we are seeking approval from the parish council that this is acceptable. **It was resolved** that the maximum spend for the roundabout feature should be approved at £10K.

Q – Will there still be grass on it? *Most likely, the Borough have responsibility for cutting the grass which unfortunately they had neglected to do which is why it looked so untidy. Going forward this responsibility might be given to the parish council but it is not something we are currently looking into. We will of course inform the Borough if the roundabout becomes overgrown again.*

Members then asked the following questions:

Would the posts be wooden and if so how long will this last? *The option from Glasdon is actually a man-made material that looks like wood so is hard wearing and requires little maintenance.*

Could we install a sign to indicate this is the Dovecote roundabout? *Yes, although we need to be careful there is not too much street furniture on the roundabout which already has chevrons and advertising and a Borough Council sign.*

Could we use an alternative material to Slate – possibly York stone? *This would be extremely costly although we might choose to use the same type of stone used for the base for the new village sign.*

The next sub-committee meeting will take place in August. The sub-committee will ask for a stand at the Biddenham Show on the 11th September to outline the plans and consult with local residents. We shall then make a decision regarding the preferred design and materials at the September PC meeting.

PC/TP/
CG

7. Biddenham Conservation Area Consultation

Cllrs Chase, Slade and Jacobs had recently attended the Borough public consultation meeting. There was a high turnout from local residents. The proposal is to extend the conservation area to include 3 new areas: Duck End Lane, the coffin path meadow and pond and a larger area of Kings corner. The Biddenham Society have proposed two other areas, the Paddock south of Church End (which is the land to rear of the properties in Church End) and the old village pond (Ramsmead Pond). **It was resolved** to support the proposals outlined in the Conservation Area consultation and the Parish Council also agreed to request the inclusion of the old village pond (Ramsmead Pond) which is at the junction between Main Road and Church End. One member proposed that Vicars Close was included however other members were not supportive of this suggestion as they felt there was nothing of historical significance to justify its inclusion.

Clerk

8. To receive an update regarding the re-instatement of the coffin path

Cllr Chase reported that he had been in communication with Bidwell's regarding restoration of the coffin path. He had received a letter from Bidwell's stating that the coffin path will not be

cultivated (a 6 ft. wide path will be maintained) once the field is cropped in September. Cllr Chase is hoping to meet with Mr Wingfield with a view to obtaining permission for the Parish Council to lay shingle onto the coffin path.

9. Bedford Borough Council dog control orders to consider a response

Following the Borough's decision to apply new dog control orders within the Borough the parish council had requested existing areas were included within these orders. However, the Borough have said we need to complete a record to provide evidence there is a problem.

Members queried why there was a need to complete a record. The parish council has been successful in addressing this problem and felt that surely there should be continuity to include areas that have been covered in the past. It will be difficult to provide evidence of any dog fouling because we have been so successful in stopping this by installing signs, editorial in the loop, and speaking to owners. This is especially true for the Pavilion playing field and on the footpath between Elger Close leading through to Bromham Road. Cllr Bates and the Clerk would complete the form and Borough Cllrs Rigby and Gambold would then take this matter up with the Borough.

GB
Clerk
RR/JG

10. To consider and approve:

Risk assessment policy – **it was resolved** to approve the risk assessment policy.

Pavilion hiring agreement – a copy of the agreement had been circulated to all members. The Pavilion rates are competitive and broadly in line with the village hall. There would be no increase to price match with the village hall however small annual increases will be applied, the next increase will come into effect in January 2017 with regular hirers given notice in December. **It was resolved** to approve the revised hiring agreement.

Clerk

11. Parish Website – to receive a report and consider any recommendations

Cllr Warren had circulated a written report. Members were in favour of the proposal to redesign the website and move to an alternative provider – parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk (owned by Netwise Training Ltd). The cost would be £599 for the initial development and an annual fee of £300.

Ideally the parish council should keep its website domain name www.biddenham-pc.org.uk and to get a basic website up and running would take approximately 3 weeks. The chairman asked who would be responsible for the overall management of the website. Cllr Warren agreed to liaise with the new provider for the first year. Going forward it is hoped that contributors would have their own pages which they would need to keep updated i.e. the cricket club, Biddenham Society, the gardening society.

It was resolved that a website sub-committee be set up to support Cllr Warren with this project. Cllrs Chase and Gee agreed to join the sub-committee.

12. Planning

The report was noted.

The parish council had objected to the application for no 20 Darlow Drive which would be overbearing (this is contrary to E7 in the Borough's design code) to the neighbouring properties and the proposed development covered the whole width up from boundary to boundary. This application had been called in to ensure the planning committee made the decision. The council noted the correspondence received from the resident living at no 16 Darlow Drive but had already submitted its comments and had advised the resident she would need to lodge her own objections with the planning department.

Similarly, the parish council had also objected to the application for 22 Elger Close which was in their opinion overdevelopment of the site and again overbearing to neighbouring properties.

13. Financial Matters

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

Ch No BACS	Payee	£	Description
BACS	Complete Weed Control	1196.40	Weed killing in parish including the Pavilion car park
BACS	PRS & PPL	412.99	PRS and PPL tariff for community buildings
BACS	S Chilvers	54.00	PAT testing
BACS	Greenthumb	55.00	Lawn treatment village green
BACS	Glasdon UK Ltd	580.65	Observer Close plaque
	Total	2299.04	

Clerk

(ii) **To note the spend against budget**

It was resolved to accept the report

Clerk

(iii) **Bulb Planting costs**

Members considered whether to opt for just daffodils or to plant a bulb mixture that should have an extended growing season from January until June. All members were in favour of the mixture and two quotes had been provided.

Lubbe & Sons £2800 + VAT and JUB Bulbs £2790 + VAT

However, Lubbe & Sons were proposing to plant 125 bulbs per square metre compared to JUB Bulbs who would plant 100 bulbs per square metre.

It was resolved to instruct Lubbe & Sons to carry out the work. Cllr Gambold had met with their representative and the firm came highly recommended by Bedford Borough Council.

Cllrs Rigby and Gambold offered to fund this project using ward funds. Members thanked Cllrs Rigby and Gambold for this unexpected and generous offer.

Clerk

(iv) **Decorating costs for the exterior of the Pavilion**

Two quotes had been provided both contractors would be using the same materials and had undertaken work for the parish council.

P Bateman £1385

S Tyler £2200

It was resolved to instruct P Bateman to undertake the work.

RR/JG

Clerk

14. **To note the Clerk's report including management of the Pavilion**

Correspondence had been received from the owner of no 4 Main Road regarding flooding caused by the ditch in front of his property. There is a dip in the roadway between the property known as Buttercups, all round Kings Corner up to no 4 Main Road – the water either travels towards no 4 or towards the Three Tuns. The resident at no 4 would be willing to contribute towards the cost of this project. Cllrs Rigby and Gambold offered to discuss the matter with the highways team as this should be considered alongside solutions to prevent the flooding that regularly takes place outside Mr Hutchinson's property, Buttercups.

RR/JG

Mobile Trading consent application

It was resolved to object to the application for a mobile food van. The parish council had objected to a previous application for a fish and chip van and the same objections still applied which were noise, smell, litter, location and in addition members were against the disturbance caused to residents by Sunday trading.

Clerk

Defibrillator

It was resolved to approve the purchase of a defibrillator for the pavilion. However, as the unit was not being provided free of charge and the initial request had come from the cricket club members felt a small contribution towards the cost (25%) would be appropriate. All future maintenance costs and inspections would be paid for by the parish council.

Clerk

Car Park Lighting

It was resolved to obtain a quote from Richard Evans regarding the replacement car park lighting. This would be circulated to the Chairman for approval as the Parish Council do not meet again until September.

15. Matters in Progress

Gold Lane Roundabout – this item was already considered after the public open session.

Flooding on footpath – no progress Cllr Gambold to chase the Borough as this item had been outstanding since October 2014.

Observer close plaque – has arrived safely and will be installed shortly.

JG

Elger close footpaths – this work was now completed.

15 Parish Concerns

Church End – the edges of the road in Church End are very uneven and appear to stop about 2 feet from resident’s driveways. It was noted that when the church land was resurfaced the borough were going to include the main highway. However, many property owners were concerned they did not want the road to go to the boundary edge with their property and in the end the work was not carried out. However, the edges are in a very poor condition and the land registry shows this is borough land. Can the parish council ask for a site visit to assess the condition of the road?

JG

Crime report – there appeared to be a greater number than previously. Members were advised that a large proportion of the incidents actually relate to Biddenham Upper School which is outside the parish.

Cancellation of meetings – following the cancellation of the last meeting several residents had still turned up at the Pavilion having read the dates already published in The Loop. Please can we indicate that the date of the next meeting is only provisional and that residents should check the website and notice boards for confirmation.

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Clerk

It was reported that 2 of the bollards outside no 17 Biddenham have been knocked down. Can the parish council ask for them to be replaced? It was noted that these posts had originally been paid for using Ward Funds and were very expensive. Cllrs Gambold and Rigby would speak to the Borough regarding replacements.

JG/RR

Members were advised about a new mobile phone app called “cleanstreetsbedford”. Users simply photograph the problem and the phone uses the GPS to identify the location.

15 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14 September

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Approved by Chairman 14 September 2016