

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2016 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

Present: Peter Chase, Graham Bates, Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt, Francia Slade, Joe Warren and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition there were 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Gee, Jon Gambold and Roger 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 7th September 2016

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

Clerk

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Biddenham conservation area – no further information.

The Paddock shrub beds – this will be added to matters in progress.

Church End verges – Cllr Gambold had spoken with Beds BC regarding this but currently the priority is to tackle the flooding problems outside no 55 Church End. This item would now be added to matters in progress.

JG

Millennium plaque stand for the Oak tree – clerk to action.

Cowslip Meadow – Beds BC have approved the ward funding application for the mower. The Parish Council will purchase the mower and this will be added to the council's asset register and insurance schedule. Chris Jones will need to ensure he completes a risk assessment prior to undertaking work at Cowslip Meadow and any necessary safety wear must be supplied for Chris and worn at all times.

Clerk

5. Public Open Session (15 mins)

The road markings on Bromham Road at the junction with Biddenham Turn (heading out of the town centre) are causing confusion amongst motorists. Cllr Chase reported that he had spoken with Highways regarding the traffic light timings and believes that both the timing of the lights and the road markings will be amended.

6. Parish Website

At the last parish council meeting members agreed to obtain the .gov.uk domain name. However, the parish council are not permitted to have this domain name unless we include the words parish council within the naming convention. Currently we can have the domain name www.biddenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk - **it was resolved** to obtain the revised domain name.

Progress with the new website is going well. Netwise have finished the initial site and members were asked if they approved the website to go live on 2nd November. **It was resolved** to go live on the 2nd November.

A few points were raised regarding the new site:

Currently there are no pictures of Deep Spinney – Cllr Warren reported that this can be added on to the site; if anyone has any pictures please pass these on to him.

Links to the roads via google maps – again these can be added. **It was resolved** to remove Day's Lane (which is a private road and therefore does not have any photos attached to it) and add Deep Spinney to the site.

Cllr Warren would liaise with the Clerk to get the legacy domain transferred across. We are reliant on the old website provider for this to take place.

The new site launch of 2nd November would be publicised on the parish notice boards, the Loop and the Biddenham Blog.

Cllr Warren had met with various groups in the village and there was lots of positive interest and the offer to supply news items and information for the site from all the schools, the village pond, the Biddenham blog, the gardening club, local history group, and the church.

It was resolved to review the website again in September 2017; the sub-committee would meet a few weeks after the website is launched.

All members thanked Cllr Warren for his hard work on the new website.

7. Cllr Gambold joined the meeting

Remembrance Sunday arrangements

Christopher Dawe from St James’s Church has agreed to take the service.

Pat McKeown will lay the parish wreath – Clerk to provide Cllr Bates with the wreath.

Cllr Chase will lay the Borough Wreath if one is provided.

The memorial bench will be there for the service. It will be removed afterwards for restoration.

Cllr Slade will remove the wreaths from the war memorial – clerk to confirm how long they should remain before removal.

Cllr Slade had approached Biddenham Upper school to provide a Bugler for the service. She will chase them again as so far they had not been able to confirm.

Cllr
Slade

Cllr
Slade

Clerk

The War Memorial is surrounded by flagstones but the edges need repairing and perhaps some edging? **It was resolved** to contact Gary Creek to see if he could advise and undertake the repairs.

The trees, hedges and general vegetation outside Lavender Lodge is encroaching onto the grass and virtually touching the war memorial. Members agreed that this area needs tidying up and **it was resolved** to write to the owners of Lavender Lodge and ask them to cut back their trees and hedges away from the war memorial.

Clerk

Clerk

Peter Culverwell asked if the parish council could take over responsibility for ensuring the area near the war memorial was kept neat and tidy especially in the run up to Remembrance Sunday. **It was resolved** to instruct Chris Horne to add this to his work schedule.

8. **Deep Spinney roundabout – to receive a report**

Minutes of the sub-committee had been circulated which recorded details of the survey carried out at the Biddenham Show. The results were as follows:

Results were scaled 1-5 (bad-good) for visual appearance and cost:

The plaque overall scored 3.25 for visual and 3.93 for cost.

The pillars scored 3.71 for visual and 3.1 cost.

Out of a total of 65 responses 60% were from the parish and 40% from elsewhere.

Overall the comments were more positive towards the 2 Stone pillars. There will be further discussion with Boden & Ward. Once the design is finalised then the committee will need to get another quote to comply with the parish council’s financial regulation for consideration at the November PC meeting.

It was reported that the grass cutting on the roundabout was very poor and this would be kept under review. The pillars will need to be placed on an alternative surface other than grass to protect the pillars from damage by grass cutting machinery and to ensure a neat and tidy appearance.

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

Land adjacent to 92 Bromham road – no comments on this.

20 Darlow Drive this application was still pending consideration.

It was reported that the application for 22 Elger Close had been approved at Monday’s planning committee.

10. Financial Matters

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

Ch No BACS	Payee	£	Description
BACS	Royal British Legion	50.00	Civic Wreath
BACS	Gary Creek Ltd	426.00	Paving repairs at the Pavilion
BACS	Viking Direct	164.63	Cleaning materials and paper
BACS	Beds BC	300.00	Annual payroll provision
BACS	Beds BC	180.00	Premises license for Pavilion
BACS	BATPC	120.00	Training course fee for Cllr Warren
	TOTAL	1190.63	

Cllr Warren also enquired if the parish council would pay for the ILCA – Introduction to Local Council Administration – The Essential Knowledge. **It was resolved** that Cllr Warren would undertake the introduction to chairmanship training and the finance course initially.

(ii) **To note the spend against budget**
It was resolved to accept the report.

11. To note the Clerk’s report including management of the Pavilion

Football pitch – do we need to charge for the facility? **It was resolved** to add this to the November agenda.

Clerk

Bulb Planting – Cllr Gambold had met on site but unfortunately they could not put them on the left-hand side as there was hardcore and rubble buried underneath the grass. So, it was agreed to plant the bulbs on the right-hand side. The planting was also carried out at the entrance to Deep Spinney off Bromham Road.

Dog control orders – **it was resolved** to check with Bedford Borough Council to ensure the footpath between Elger Close and Bromham Road was included.

Clerk

12. Matters in Progress

Flooding in Church End – outside no 55 work is currently underway by Highways.

Flooding on footpath near St James School. The solution would be to install a soak away in the verges but there has been no real progress because of the ownership of the verges by the Wingfield Estate.

Traffic calming proposals Gold Lane – now that the bypass is open and the Biddenham Turn traffic lights are finished it would be a good time to review this topic. However, first we need to obtain traffic data. However, the council had been contacted by a resident who was concerned about speeding on the Bromham Road. There is concern that average speeds have increased on the Bromham Road since less traffic is using this road and now using the bypass. The first step would be to get a traffic survey. The cost would be £300 for the Borough to undertake a traffic survey. **It was resolved** to instruct the Borough to undertake the survey – JG to instruct Beds BC. Wires should be close to the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Deep Spinney. Might it be an idea to ask for another traffic count?

Cllr
Gambold

Road markings near school entrances – Andrew Prigmore to provide a cost for the work.

Coffin Path – the field had been sown and no provision has been taken to allow for the path. The written undertaking from Bidwell’s has not been kept to. Cllrs Roger Rigby and Jon Gambold will meet with Paul Rowland at Beds BC to discuss this and will report back.

Cllr
Gambold

Church End verges – add to matters in progress.
The Paddock shrub maintenance – add to matters in progress.

Cllr
Rigby &
Gambold

Clerk

13. **Parish Concerns**

St James School - part of the village hall barn which was used as paper store could be offered as a library facility for the school and potentially used by the general public. Is this something the parish council could support or assist with? It was agreed to ask the school to submit something in writing to the parish council in due course.

Crime statistics – it was confirmed that recent burglaries were in Biddenham Turn.

Village Sign on Deep Spinney pointing right towards Gold Lane – **it was resolved** to remove this.

Clerk

Vehicles turning right into Bromham Road towards Bromham Bridge. Since the bypass has opened there have been very long queues forming and there was concern that an accident would occur as motorists attempted to turn right across the flow of traffic coming towards Bedford. Cllr Gambold reported that the Borough are aware that since the bypass opened there are unstable flows of traffic on the Deep Spinney roundabout and the large Sainsbury’s roundabout. This has caused a ripple effect around surrounding roads and the Borough are aware of this and will continue to monitor the situation and if necessary look at ways to alleviate the problem.

14 **Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9 November**

.....
Approved by Chairman 9 November 2016

