

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 12 July 2017 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham**

**Present: Peter Chase, Graham Bates, Chris Gee, Jon Gambold, Alan Jacobs, Terry Platt, Francia Slade, and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition, there were 4 members of the public.**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rigby and Cllr Osuch.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None

**3. To approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**It was resolved** to approve the minutes.

Clerk

Confidential item minuted separately.

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes**

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

**5. Public Open Session (15 mins)**

Nodders Way stone wall - would the parish council consider dealing with overhanging vegetation? **It was resolved** to arrange for works to be carried out.

Clerk

Wooden Posts in Biddenham Turn – has there been any progress with this matter as one day this week there were 14 cars parked on verge? *This will be dealt with under the Clerk's report.*

The Hedge between the Old Vicarage and 65a Main Road has been removed and these were very old Yew Trees. Was the hedge not covered by tree protection orders? *The parish council had been made aware of this work and had contacted the Borough tree officer. The trees were not subject to TPO's but the tree officer did take photographs of the site as there were several other mature specimens that might warrant protection.*

**6. Planning**

*Cllr Bates declared a personal interested in this item*

17/01798/FUL St James School – erection of a single storey detached timber building to provide 3 additional classrooms. There were no comments on this application.

17/01682/HDG Land near Ouse Valley Golf Club - Removal of Hedgerow

The new roundabout near Day's Lane already has planning permission and this will require removal of a section of the hedgerow. This application is for Anglian Water who are proposing to remove the hedgerow and an Oak Tree (covered by a TPO) to install pipes to the new housing development. Members considered the application and **resolved to** object to the application on the following grounds:

The pipework could be laid alongside the hedgerow, there was no requirement for the removal of the Oak which is protected by a TPO and the application is factually incorrect as the hedgerow has been there for more than 30 years. Members wished to see as much of the hedgerow preserved as possible. Cllr Gambold offered to speak with the Borough Tree Officer regarding the application.

17/01793/TPO 101 Deep Spinney - Crown reduce Ash – there were no objections to this application.

17/01697/FUL 2 Windmill Hill – one and two storey rear/side extensions. Members of the sub-committee to advise the clerk of any comments.

17/01718/FUL 26 Elger close – single storey rear and side extension – there were no objections to this application.

17/01738/FUL 8 Main Road – demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new dwelling. Members of the sub-committee had considered the application and now sought comments from the remainder of the parish council. The proposal is for a 3-storey dwelling which is approximately three times the size of the existing dwelling. In addition, the existing hedgerow will be removed and replaced with a stone wall and iron railings.

Members considered the application and agreed that the proposed development would have a detrimental and major impact on the village street scene. This is not sympathetic to the area and the hedgerow should be retained. **It was resolved** to object to the application.

Is there any update regarding the application on land formerly known as Bromham Nurseries? *Cllr Gambold responded that the Borough have rejected the application and are waiting for a date from the Planning Inspector as the Borough fully expect the applicant to appeal against their decision.*

Do we have an update on the application to fell the Oak trees on Thorpe Close? *Nothing yet from the planning department.*

**7. Clerk’s report**

A further quote had been received from DJT surfacing which split the previously proposed renewal of the Main Road footpath into two sections:

Nodders Way to War Memorial - £10,855.20  
 War Memorial to Gold Lane - £12,012.74

After much consideration, it was agreed that it made sense to defer the section of footpath near the school until after the school development has taken place. However, the section from the War Memorial to Gold Lane could be undertaken. Members asked for an additional quote ready for the September meeting.

Clerk

Members were advised that the parish council finished the financial year 2016/17 with approximately £32,000 in undesignated reserves.

The quote from Bedford Borough Council to install more wooden posts on Biddenham Turn was £4,392.25. Members noted that the existing wooden posts were looking quite shoddy and several were leaning at an angle. The quote had been to provide 48 wooden posts which would fill in the gap between the existing posts on both sides of the road. However, members also noted that the grass verges towards the end of Biddenham Turn were the worst affected and might be too narrow for posts to be installed. Members then considered a different type of solution – grass creed which is a type of reinforced matting that can withstand vehicles driving over it whilst still allowing the grass to grow through undamaged. **It was resolved** to obtain two quotes for grass creed which would be considered at the next meeting. Residents would also be urged not to park on the grass verges and this would be included in the next edition of the Loop.

Clerk  
 Peter Chase

Krzys Osuch

Car Park lighting – to obtain a further quote when Cllr Osuch (who knows of a possible contractor) returns from holiday.

Clerk

Data Protection – **it was resolved** to register with the Information Commissioners Office and to wait further advice either from NALC or the SLCC.

There were no other matters for consideration and the report was noted.

**8. Financial Matters:**

**(i) It was resolved** to approve the accounts for payment:

Payee	Nett	VAT	Total	Description
PRS	344.18	68.83	412.99	PRS & PPL License
Red N Security	132.00		132.00	Replace door release
Nisbets	94.95	18.99	113.94	Crockery and water jugs
Greenthumb	50.42	10.08	60.50	Lawn treatment
Netwise Training Ltd	300.00		300.00	Annual Website fee
Chris Horne Gardens Ltd	1200.00	240.00	1440.00	Grass cutting
A Southern	132.30		132.30	Casual Mileage (Sept 16 – June 17)
Viking	118.43	23.69	142.12	Cleaning materials and 1 x black toner cartridge
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2372.26</b>	<b>361.59</b>	<b>2733.85</b>	

**(ii) It was resolved** to note the spend against budget

**9. Matters in Progress**

White Lining on Gold Lane – this will happen during the summer.

Cllr Slade asked whether we could request for the road to be widened? This had been considered previously but members had felt that widening the road would encourage motorists to speed. It was agreed to wait and see whether the white lines had any impact on speeding motorists.

Terry Platt

Roundabout feature - Cllr Platt agreed to obtain a quote for a single taller pillar which would have the words Biddenham on all 4 sides.

Coffin Path – nothing more to add at the moment and we would have to wait and see whether the field is sown for crops again or left fallow.

Paving near war memorial – the Clerk would chase the contractor as the work must be completed before Remembrance Sunday.

Clerk

Parking at the country park – currently it is unclear what parking provision there will be. The developer will be managing the sports facility and car park and it is not known whether there will be any charge made. The footbridge across the bypass which was in the original plans is unlikely to go ahead as it would be very costly. A solution would be for the flashing lights and pedestrian signage similar to that used on the Frank Branston way in Great Denham to access Biddenham Country Park.

CCTV – for the Borough to consider installing CCTV data must be produced to provide evidence that there has been a significant increase in crime. An email outlining Borough guidance had been provided by Cllr Rigby and would be circulated to all members for consideration.

Clerk

**10. Parish Concerns**

The three rectangular holes are still in place along Main Road between the Old Vicarage and the Three Tuns. These pose a health and safety problem if someone was walking along the verge in the evening and did not notice them. It was resolved to obtain photos of the channels and email these to Bidwell’s as this was on their land and their responsibility.

C Gee  
Clerk

Two Horse Chestnuts on the South Side of the entrance to Deep Spinney require crown lifting as pedestrians cannot walk on the footpath due to low branches. The clerk had already reported this with the Borough and would ask for an update when the work will be completed. It was reported that the Lime Tree nearest the war memorial also required crown lifting.

Clerk

Following the recent gas supply works on Darlow Drive the tree outside no 27 was knocked down and removed. Can we ask the Borough to ensure the utility company provides a replacement?

Clerk

30mph sign near the Paddocks is very rusty at the bottom and might need replacing. Cllr Gambold reported that this sign had only been replaced a few years previously. Cllr Gambold offered to check the post to see whether it was still secure.

Jon  
Gambold

Reseeding and bulbs on corner splays of Darlow Drive – **it was resolved** to ask Chris Horne to carry out this work in the Autumn.

Clerk

11. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 13 September

12. **Review of Clerk’s salary**

Members of the public were excluded from the meeting for this item. The clerk left the room during this item. As this is a confidential item this item is recorded separately.

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Approved by Chairman 13 September 2017