

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

Present: Peter Chase, Graham Bates, Chris Gee, Jon Gambold, Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Francia Slade, Jo Warren and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition, there were 6 members of the public and Borough Cllr Roger Rigby.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Platt.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Bates declared a personal interest in item 9 although it was noted he had recently retired as a governor at St James School.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2017

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

Confidential item minuted separately.

Clerk

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

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

5. Public Open Session (15 mins)

Remembrance Sunday arrangements

Peter Culverwell had approached Bernard Goodman to lay the parish council wreath – members were most grateful for the nomination and asked Mr Culverwell to confirm. Mr Culverwell agreed to ask the vicar to perform the service at the war memorial.

P
Culverwell

If the Borough council are providing a civic wreath this would be laid by the Chairman.

The gate to the footpath near 7 Main Road is broken – **it was resolved** to report this to the Borough RoW team (*copy to RR and JG*)

Clerk

Earlier this year the parish council agreed to instruct the Borough not to use any weed killer within Biddenham and we would monitor the situation. Currently there are weeds growing in the gutter along Biddenham Turn, could we ask Chris Horne to advise the best course of action and if necessary ask him to deal with the weed killing?

Clerk

Deep spinney CCTV

Given the amount of crime recorded in Biddenham is there actually a requirement for this? I am not convinced the two proposed locations would be the best location and this assumes only 2 entry points into Biddenham, what about the pedestrian access from Bromham Road? This is a waste of resources and time compared to the quantity of crime recorded in Biddenham. Has the parish council considered consulting with the liaison team at Bedford Borough Council whose job it is to advise on these matters? There is also evidence to support that perceived fear of crime can sometimes increase when CCTV is introduced.

Trees in Thorpe Close – what is the status regarding this application?

A decision has not been made - Cllr Rigby reported that the Borough Council are not keen to remove the TPO's and have brought in their own consultant to produce a report on the trees. They have also requested information relating to work previously done at the property as it is believed that the full recommended treatment was not carried out and this could be having an impact on the property now. Once the report and other information has been finalised then the Borough will be able to decide.

Cllr Rigby reported that the Queens Park (Ford End bridge) will be closed in Feb 2018 - no exact dates have been given yet.

6. Planning

16/03265/FUL - no objections were made regarding this application.

The report was noted

7. Bromham Bridge – 20mph speed limit

Several years ago, a public consultation took place regarding Bromham Bridge. There is still concern that the bridge should be made safer for pedestrians/cyclists by possibly reducing the speed limit to 20mph. This is the most popular route from Bromham to Biddenham. Bromham PC are supportive of this proposal and it would be good to get the support of Biddenham PC. If both parishes agree the Borough Cllrs will take this proposal back to Highways. This would need to go out to public consultation but the costs would not be prohibitive. Members considered this proposal and asked how would the speed limit be enforced as they were mindful that the Bridge is a designated Historic Monument. Speed limit signs would need to be set back from the bridge on the Bromham side and as the bridge is protected so there would not be any signage on the bridge. **It was resolved** to support this proposal.

Borough Cllrs

8. Clerk’s report

It was noted that hiring fees would be down on the projected budget figures due to 2 regular members taking maternity leave. In addition, one regular hirer has left without notice although a new hirer had been found from w/c 11th October. **It was resolved** to alter the hire agreement for regular hirers who would be required to give 1 months’ notice.

Clerk

The clerk reported that the rear door had repeatedly failed to close securely during the past week. A contractor will be meeting on site at the weekend to inspect the door and advise what needs to be replaced.

9. Financial Matters:

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

Payee	Nett	VAT	Total	Description
G Creek	270.00	54.00	324.00	Paving repairs at Pavilion
G Creek	230	46.00	276.00	Paving repairs to War Memoraiial
Red N Security	130.00		130.00	3 x visits to Pavilion rear door (failing lock mechanism)
Tailor & Drapes	72.50		72.50	Curtains rail repairs at Pavilion
Chris Horne Gardens Ltd	2220.00	444.00	2664.00	Grass cutting
Complete Weed Control	997.00	199.40	1196.40	Weed killing (inc Pavilion)
BDO Stoy LLP	300.00	60.00	360.00	External Auditors fee
Viking Direct	126.45	25.29	151.74	Cleaning materials
Greenthumb	50.42	10.08	60.50	Lawn Treatment
TOTAL	4396.37	838.77	5235.14	

Clerk

(ii) It was resolved to note the spend against budget
The report was noted.

Clerk

(iii) To note completion of the Annual Return for 2016-17
Completion of the audit was noted and there were no matters arising.

(iii) Application for grant funding from St James’s Primary School

As part of the transition to Primary the school has many overheads which are not covered by the local authority. The school had requested funding towards the cost of maths resources. Members felt that the school was a focal part of the community and that residents would expect the council to support this application. Cllr Chase proposed a grant of £2K and this was approved by all members.

Clerk

10. To nominate and approve councillors to form the HR sub committee

It was resolved that Cllrs Gee, Platt and Chase would form the HR sub-committee.

11. Matters in Progress

Footpath resurfacing – members asked how long would the surface dressing last compared to the resin bound surfacing? Also, would it be more cost effective to undertake the work as one job. **It was resolved** to undertake some site visits to see examples of the different types of surfacing undertaken by Phoenix Surfacing and this would be considered again at the November meeting.

Clerk

ALL

Grass verges – wooden posts – members agreed that the cost of the grass crete was prohibitive. The schools have reminded parents about parking and dropping off at school time. **It was resolved** not to install additional wooden posts and Cllr Chase agreed to speak to the owners of the properties on Biddenham Turn regarding visitors parking on the verges outside their properties.

P Chase

Gold Lane – white lining – Borough Cllrs to chase.
Trees on roundabout – Borough Cllrs to chase

R Rigby

J Gambold

Coffin Path – this has now been rolled and although not as wide as we would have hoped this should become wider the more the path is trodden down by users. The field will remain as grass for the next 3 years.

Parking at the new country park – unfortunately providing parking for users to the country park was not part of the planning conditions. It is still not known who will be responsible for running the new facility or whether there would be a charge for use of the car park.

CCTV to be considered at the next meeting.

12. Parish Concerns

The proposed road closure for Bromham Road for drainage works does not incorporate the section of Bromham Road from Day's Lane to the service road. Is this work going to be included? Cllr Rigby provided a document outlining the proposed works and it was resolved that Cllr Bates would study the document and then liaise with the Borough Cllrs.

G Bates

R Rigby

Any progress on cutting back of vegetation behind the war memorial? **It was resolved** to contact Bidwells for confirmation when the works would be taking place.

Clerk

Drainage channels on the grass verges along Main Road – had Bidwells been informed? The clerk had emailed Bidwells to inform them but they had not agreed to undertake to fill these in.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11 October

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Approved by Chairman 11 October 2017