

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham**

**Present: Peter Chase, Graham Bates, Jon Gambold, Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt, Francia Slade, and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition, there were 3 members of the public and Borough Cllr Roger Rigby.**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Gee and Joe Warren.

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Jacobs declared a personal interest in item 6 as the report included an application he had submitted to the Borough Planning Department. It was noted that he had not reviewed the plans for 109 Deep Spinney but that Cllr Gambold had reviewed them with Cllrs Platt and Osuch.

Cllr Osuch declared a personal interest in item 6.

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

A minor amendment to the CCTV section of the public open session was proposed. This was accepted, and **it was then resolved** to approve the minutes.

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes**

None

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

*Village Green* – has there been any progress regarding repairs to rectify the recent damage caused by BT? **It was resolved** to ask Chris Horne to undertake the repairs to the village green. The clerk would write to BT to seek reimbursement for the cost of repairs.

Clerk

*Remembrance Sunday*

It was noted that Cllr Alan Jacobs has agreed to lay the parish council wreath. Cllr Chase will lay the Borough Wreath. Cllr Slade confirmed that Biddenham Upper School has once again provided a Bugler for the service. Mr Culverwell confirmed that Mr Christopher Dawe from St James's Church will lead the service.

**6. Planning**

Cllr Jacobs declared a personal interest in this item. Cllr Gambold had reviewed the plans for 109 Deep Spinney together with Cllr Osuch and Platt – there were no objections to the proposal.

23 Bromham Road – **it was resolved** to ask the Borough Tree Officer to undertake a site visit to inspect the trees. It was noted that the parish council had no objections to the application for the building.

**The report was noted**

**7. To approve the calendar of meetings for 2018**

Cllr Gee had informed the parish council that he would be working away for several months and would be unable to make a Wednesday evening meeting. Cllr Chase proposed that the parish council move its meetings to a Monday evening which would allow Cllr Gee to attend and avoid potential diary clashes for Cllrs Gambold and Rigby. It was noted that the Clerk is employed by Bletsoe Parish Council who also meet on Monday evenings. When there is a Bank Holiday Bletsoe PC move their meeting back a week and this would then require Biddenham PC to move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Members considered this and **it was resolved** to move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month from 2018. The clerk would re-issue the calendar of meetings for 2018.

Clerk

**8. Clerk’s report**

Correspondence had been received from the owners of no 4 Main Road regarding maintenance of the ditch outside their property. This area had been added to the grass cutting schedule, so far Chris Horne had undertaken 3 strims of the village but only 1 had been carried out outside no 4 Main Road which was added to schedule quite late in the season. **It was resolved** to add this item to the matters in progress report and to report the blocked drain outside the property to the highways helpdesk.

Clerk

It was noted that the grass cutting payment from the Borough had not yet been received.

Cllr Gambold would speak with Mr Pyle regarding the overgrown hedgerow along Gold Lane. The clerk to report the overgrown hedgerow near the bus stop on Deep Spinney heading out of Biddenham.

JG  
Clerk

**9. Financial Matters:**

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

Payee	Nett	VAT	Total	Description
Bedford Borough Council	250.00	50.00	300.00	Annual Payroll Fee
St James Lower School	2000.00	0	2000.00	Grant towards cost of new maths resources
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2250.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>2300.00</b>	

**It was resolved** to award £2000 to St James’s Primary School towards the cost of new maths resources and to add to the accounts for payment.

Clerk

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

**10. Matters in Progress**

*Traffic calming on Gold Lane*

It was reported that the road markings on the corner of Biddenham Turn into Main Road will be repainted when the Borough carries out the white lining along the edges of Gold Lane. In addition, there will be a SLOW sign on Biddenham Turn near the schools. Members asked if it were possible to move the SLOW sign on Gold Lane as this was too close to the corner with Main Road. Cllr Gambold would enquire if it was possible to mark out a new SLOW sign and allow the old road marking to fade away.

JG

*Bromham Bridge proposal for 20mph speed limit*

An application has been submitted to the Borough but funding still needs to be finalised. This may have to be carried over to the next financial year.

*Roundabout feature*

The quote for a single pillar would be too expensive. Cllr Platt proposed the council go back to its original suggestion and install 2 pillars which would also remove the requirement to remove any trees from the roundabout. It was noted that no alternative quotes were available for this project but that members were content with the quote from Boden & Ward. **It was resolved** to instruct Boden & Ward that the council wishes to proceed with an order for 2 stone pillars.

T Platt

*Coffin Path*

Previously there had been a suggestion that if the path was 6-foot-wide it might be afforded statutory protection. The only evidence obtained so far was that the path should be maintained at a width sufficient to allow a coffin and pall bears either side of the coffin. Cllr Chase agreed to speak with Chris Jones regarding this.

*Parking provision at the new country park*

Cllr Rigby reported that a consortium of local organisations is currently being formed to manage the building. The developers do not wish to transfer the building over to the Borough. Kempston FC, a local Rugby club and an American Football team are all interested in using this facility. Cllr Gambold confirmed that the parish council did not have any responsibility for the building. However, members of the PC are interested in how parking for users of the country park will be managed. Cllr Gambold will continue to keep the parish council informed of any progress regarding the management of the new facility and parking provision.

*CCTV*

Following last month's meeting members were all asked to consider whether they felt there was a need for CCTV in Biddenham. The consensus was that there was no local need for CCTV and it was too expensive. **It was resolved** not to pursue this matter any further but that this would be reviewed again in a year's time.

*Footpath from Nodders Way to Gold Lane*

The clerk had supplied answers to questions raised at the September meeting. Two quotes for two possible surface treatments had been provided. Whilst one was approximately twice the price of the other it would last longer. Either way, the long-term costs of either type was about the same. Members decided that the surface dressing would provide a more appropriate look for the village. It was agreed that the entire length of the path would be resurfaced in one go which should afford a saving of approximately 2% off the total cost. However, the work would not take place until the contracted building works at St James's Primary School were completed. The clerk proposed that the council transfer some of its undesignated reserves into designated reserves to pay for this project. **It was resolved** to transfer £8,500 into designated reserves for footpath resurfacing in 2018.

Clerk

**11. Parish Concerns**

Cllr Osuch reported that he had been approached about the planning approval for 98 Bromham Road. The parish council cannot appeal against any planning decision made by the Borough and if it did so it could potentially be asked to compensate the property owners. It was noted that application 17/01745/S73 (variation of condition 3 to allow for amendments to railings and installation of LED solar lights) had been refused.

**12. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 8 November 2017

.....  
Approved by Chairman 8 November 2017