



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

This month's **Parish Council Meeting** was held on Wednesday 13th September 2017 in the upstairs room of the Pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Chris Gee, Jon Gambold, Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Francia Slade and Joe Warren. Clerk Alison Southern, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and six members of the public were also present. Councillor Terry Platt sent his apologies.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

In case you weren't aware, every Parish Council meeting starts with an open session at which anyone present from the public can raise anything they like.

This month's meeting included various helpful comments and queries about roadside issues such as grass cutting, weed control and broken fencing (a subject we never get away from!). We also had comments from a resident who raised a number of interesting points about CCTV cameras, and why (in their view) they are not a good idea. We are going to debate this subject at next month's meeting, but it was helpful to have this person's insights.

BROMHAM BRIDGE

The ancient bridge into Bromham is, in fact, two thirds in the parish of Biddenham. Not a lot of people know that.

Despite this fact, the bridge is more important to the people who live in Bromham than to ourselves, as it is a key route in and out of their village. As we all know, it is also uncomfortably narrow. Two cars passing each other are just about ok; anything larger and someone has to wait at one end. In amongst all of this, pedestrians feel understandably intimidated, but fortunately have those little triangular refuges to duck into as a passing vehicles whizz by.

Bromham Parish Council have requested a 20mph speed limit zone be created covering the bridge, and a little off each end. Although yet more street signs may be unsightly, we resolved to support them in applying for this to the Borough Council. It's hoped that it will encourage drivers to slow down and take more care.

ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL

A few weeks ago I received a letter from St James' school appealing for funding. This was for equipment needed for new maths classrooms which are being introduced to teach 10 and 11 year olds, as the school moves from Lower to Primary status.

Tom Perry, chairman of their board of governors, wrote me a helpful email to back up the letter, explaining that the Borough Council is only funding the very basic costs of introducing these two new years. So much other equipment has to be found either out of the school's existing budget, or from donations from outside. A sign of the times, I fear.

As a Parish Council, we discussed the request and resolved to donate £2,000 to the school. I want to be up front with you about this, via this article, as you may feel this is a controversial way to spend some of our Precept. The fact is that St James gives a lot back to our community, and has a special place at the heart of our village (both literally and societally). Given that we have healthy reserves and appreciate the school's need for one-off funding to move to Primary status, we asked ourselves, as your representatives, what we thought you would like us to do. This donation was, we concluded, a sensible amount to give and in line with their request.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th October 2017. Do please come along if you have anything you'd like to raise.

Peter Chase
Chairman