

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Gee & Roger Rigby

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2017

It was resolved to remove the paragraph referencing the grant to St James Primary School which had been agreed at the September meeting.

It was resolved to add the repairs to the village green to matters in progress

The minutes were then approved.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

None

5. Public Open Session (15 mins)

It was reported that the "Give Way" sign on Gold Lane approaching the Deep Spinney junction is currently hidden in the hedgerow. *Clerk to report to highways helpdesk*

Kerbstones on corner of Biddenham Turn and Bromham Road on the left-hand side are damaged. *Cllr Gambold to report to highways*

CCTV – has there been any progress regarding this item? *Cllr Chase responded that the Parish Council have resolved not to progress this matter further.*

6. To note the recent crime figures

Cllr Warren reported that he had some concerns regarding the recent police crime statistics. There had been multiple properties burgled on the same day, but the police statistics didn't reflect this with only 2 burglaries listed. *It was noted that when a crime is reported it is allocated a crime reference number – perhaps as the burglaries were all in the same road and on the same date they were allocated one number? It was noted that the clerk has enquired why the number of crimes that had taken place differed to the numbers being published – there had been no response to date.*

Members considered whether the parish council could have a dedicated page on the website for crime statistics. Neighbourhood watch issue alerts and perhaps this could be cascaded out to the rest of the parish council.

Cllr Warren suggested there could be a cheaper alternative for CCTV. However, given the relatively low level of crime in the parish and that this had been considered and dismissed at the September Parish Council meeting members agreed not to consider this matter further at the current time. Cllr Warren proposed that the parish council could obtain information from the local police on how to make homes more secure and any other home security recommendations to put onto the website.

Cllr Warren and Cllr Chase would meet and agree what information should be included on the parish council website.

Members suggested that the police should be invited to provide advice at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Clerk

JG

PC & JW

Clerk

7. Planning

There were no objections to the new applications and the report was noted.
 23 Bromham Road – the tree officer had undertaken a site visit and circulated a copy of the tree report undertaken on behalf of the applicant. The proposal is to only fell 3 trees of which 1 is deemed of value. There were other specific methods which would need to be put in place to protect the trees on site during the building works. Assuming the applicant agreed to these additional measures the tree officer had no objections to the proposal. Members were satisfied with the response from Bedford Borough Council and **it was resolved** not to comment further on this application.

8. Calendar of Meetings

Following a request from Cllr Gee members had agreed to move the monthly meetings to a Monday evening. However, Cllr Warren had advised that Monday's were problematic for him to attend and in addition there were several months due to Bank Holidays where the council would not be able to meet on the 2nd Monday of the month or the Clerk was already working for Bletsoe Parish Council. **It was resolved** to revert to meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and to grant a leave of absence to Cllr Gee. The clerk would ask Cllr Gee to clarify the specific dates and this would be officially recorded at the next meeting.

Clerk

Cllr Chase suggested the Annual Parish Meeting could be held at St James Primary School. **It was resolved** to hold the APM on the 11th April at St James Primary School.

Clerk

9. Accounts for approval - Spend against budget

It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment.

The spend against budget was noted. The clerk circulated an additional financial statement outlining the current account balance and projected year end bank balances. The CiL Levy could not be used to fund the roundabout feature but could be used to pay for the footpath repairs. **It was resolved** to earmark the CiL levy for footpath repairs and to reduce the equivalent amount from the earmarked footpath reserves and transfer back into the current account.

Clerk

It was noted that final costs are not yet available for the stone pillars and **it was resolved** to arrange a site visit with Boden & Ward, Terry Platt and the Borough Highways department. This should allow Boden & Ward to consider any health and safety issues relating to highways and to confirm final costings.

Clerk

10.

Matters in progress

White Lining on Gold Lane

Cllr Gambold had visited the Borough to chase this and was waiting for confirmation of a revised date from the Borough

JG

Speeding on Gold Lane

The clerk reported that she had spoken with a resident who was concerned about traffic rat running through the village and the speed traffic was travelling at along Gold Lane. She had advised them that the Borough had agreed to put white lines along the edge of the highway and the parish council would monitor the situation to establish if this had any impact on speeding. In addition, this person was concerned that the hedgerow on the right-hand side near Hampden Court was obscuring sightlines when pulling out onto Gold Lane. Cllr Jacobs agreed to carry out a site visit and would report back.

AJ

Deep Spinney – members were agreed in principle on the option of two stone pillars and a highways site visit would need to be arranged with Boden & Ward, Highways and Cllr Platt.

Clerk, TP

Coffin Path – no update

Parking at the Country Park

Bedford Borough Council have requested that the developers speak to our Borough Cllrs about the management of the new sports facility and this should include consideration of parking provision for country park users.

JG/RR

New Housing development off the Great Ouse Way

It was noted that there will be a MUGA installed on the new development.

Tennis Courts – tennis club have funds they could contribute towards 3 new courts but there is no other funding available and it is unlikely that any tennis courts will be provided.

Artificial cricket track – Cllr Gambold has asked if this could be installed between the football pitches.

JG

Bottle Banks – it was confirmed these will be installed on the new development just off the spur roundabout near the sports facility.

11. Parish Concerns

The parish council had received a request from the cricket club to install an artificial track on the cricket square. Members were supportive of the request and the clerk would confirm with the cricket club

Clerk

Website update – members were very encouraged by the increase in number of people accessing the site. It was agreed to relinquish the www.biddenham.gov.uk as there was no need for this additional domain.

JW/Clerk

Cllr Gee proposed an upgrade to the website which would improve the functionality of the events page and the cost would be approximately £150. **It was resolved** to approve the additional cost of £150.

JW

Biddenham Turn road sign near Kings Corner is in very poor condition and will be replaced. **This would be added to matters in progress**

Clerk

It was noted that the Biddenham Society AGM was well attended. Cllr Wood spoke about the proposed new development off Gold Lane. Members were not supportive of the proposal and agreed they would need to plan their response in conjunction with other stake holders including the parish council to ensure there was a robust challenge to this application.

Cllr Chase reported that Lion Court would provide feedback following the public consultation held at the Church Barn and a further meeting would be organised with other stakeholders in due course.

PC/Clerk

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3 January

(note - this is a revised date agreed by members of the parish council)

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Approved by Chairman 3rd January 2018