The most recent **Parish Council Meeting** was held on Wednesday 10th June 2020 using the Zoom conferencing facility. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Stewart Briggs, Peter Chase (Chairman), Harry Fowler, Krys Osuch, and Joe Warren. Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Gee, Alan Jacobs and Francia Slade. Borough Councillors Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby, Clerk Lyn Lyman and 3 members of the public were also present.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

This month’s meeting was dominated by the very serious matter of inconsiderate parking near the Pavilion building in Deep Spinney. Since the lockdown, events at the Pavilion stopped and we (the Parish Council, who run the building on behalf of the community) decided to close and lock the gates of the Pavilion car park. This did not create a parking problem at first, but as lockdown measures have eased, the number of people parking outside the gates has increased.

The problem parkers seemed, from what local residents told us, to be people wishing to use the Pavilion playing field and tennis courts. Parking across driveways, on the recently painted double-yellow lines, and even blocking the gates themselves has been reported. Blocking the gates is dangerous. An ambulance trying to attend someone injured on the field would not be able to enter the grounds (they are entitled to cut the padlock and chain on the gates to gain entry in an emergency).

And so, we made the decision at our meeting to reopen the gates during the daytime, as always used to be the case. Since the meeting, however, two key things have happened.

First of all, attempts to find volunteers to open and close the gates daily have come to nought. We will however, definitely reinstate the opening of the car park from 4th July, when hirers are going to start holding events at the building once more.

Secondly, it turns out a lot of the cars being parked belonged to Manor Hospital staff, and not just those arriving to do a bit of jogging or to play tennis. Hospital staff have traditionally used the car park during the day, something they pay for the privilege of being allowed to do. Without us knowing, some had returned to work, found the gates locked and just parked – not always considerately – for the whole day outside the gates. Congestion ensued, and local residents were inconvenienced and put at risk.

Our Pavilion manager, Deb Slade, has now talked to the hospital and we believe the problem has got considerably better. Hopefully, in a couple of weeks, things will be back to normal.

WEBSITE

As things start to return to normal, you may know of someone keen to publicise an event or service. Do please remember the village website – [www.biddenham.org.u](http://www.biddenham.org.u)k – is here to help. You can email submissions to the Parish Clerk at clerk@biddenham.org.uk, or our webmaster at info@biddenham.org.uk.

OUR NEXT MEETING – **IMPORTANT INFO**

The Parish Council meets every second Wednesday of most months. We very much welcome hearing from residents, there being a public “open session” near the start for anyone wanting to say something. Please call in and let us know anything concerning you about our village, or just listen. The date for the next meeting is **Wednesday 8th July** at **7.30pm**.

The following details have changed. To participate, please ring **0208 080 6592** and then use your phone keypad to enter the code **524 544 164** followed by the **#** key. Calls are national rate, I’m afraid. We cannot stretch to a service where we pay for your phone call via a toll free number.

Alternatively, and at no charge, you can use a computer or tablet by accessing the Internet and carefully entering **https://zoom.us/j/524544164**

This information will be posted on our village website at biddenham.org.uk.

Peter Chase
Chairman