

Minutes of the Meeting of Biddenham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham following the Annual Parish Meeting which started at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs P Chase – Chairman, G Bates, J Gambold, C Gee, A Jacobs, K Osuch, T Platt, F Slade & J Warren and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 8 members of the public.

In attendance: BB Cllr R Rigby.

116. Apologies for Absence:

No apologies were received.

117. Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs Chase & Gee declared an interest in the planning application for 11 Main Road.

118. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th March 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

119. Public Open Session:

1. *What is the current strategy for objecting to the Gold Lane planning application?*

It has been agreed that £4,000 be set aside towards legal guidance in objecting to the Local Plan which would include Policies 19 and 23 affecting Biddenham. This would be so that the best way forward can be achieved by working with professionals. It can then be decided whether it would be a lay person or a professional lawyer to present the PC's arguments at the inquiry.

2. *Gold Lane speed update: Is a mobile sign going to be taken forward? The Hampton Court junction is dangerous.* This has been debated at many meetings and the PC are unable to decide the way forward; there needs to be a lamppost to have the sign attached to but there is not a suitable one to make it function effectively; maybe look at a permanent one at the cost of approx. £7,000. *The concern is serious and the feeling is that someone is going to be involved in an accident in the not too distant future. The resident wants the PC or Borough to do something.* Can we have road narrowing – this needs to be followed up. *The resident intends to have a meeting with the Mayor. What is ROSPA's view on the best practice on that type of road?* BC Rigby said some signs will flash the speed the vehicle is doing. If he is re-elected perhaps the Ward Fund could be used, although it is understood that the Bromham speed signs gets ignored (battery operated) and signage has limitations. 30mph appears too high for that section of road but Borough will not reduce to 20mph because it requires full street lighting. Maybe we should have a site meeting with 3 residents, Chair/Cllrs, Borough Cllrs and Borough officers after the elections to be able to go through all the options and see what we can and can't have. The resident agreed to email a summary to Cllr Chase.

120. Planning:

To note and comment on any new applications. Cllr Chase had circulated the planning list which was discussed and accepted.

The notice for the TPO's for the 3 Lime Trees had not been put up in the correct place so Cllr Bates had reported this. This may cause it to be re-advertised.

Lavender Lodge: application for tree works need to be checked and an objection submitted. Cllrs Jacobs and Platt will put together a response. *Action: AJ/TP*

18/02677 12 Main Road: the application was called in, site visit has taken place so will come to the next committee this month.

121. **Financial Matters:**

i) Accounts for payment: The statement of receipts had been circulated but not the payments so this is to be circulated. *Action: LL*

ii) Spend against budget for the Parish Council and The Pavilion: All figures were accurate to the end of March.

A check is being made as to whether we can re-claim the statutory sick pay made to Alison Southern under the PC's insurance policy. *Action LL*

Pavilion repairs:

a) the heating is not working effectively and we need two additional pumps. Deb Slade had obtained two quotes. After discussion it was unanimously agreed the preferred quote was from PJB. The work should be carried out through the summer. Clerk to inform Deb Slade. *Action: LL*

b) Hand drier proposal is still being considered. The expense of £150 was approved for various other smaller items. Clerk to inform Deb Slade. *Action: LL*

122. **Reports:**

Clerk's Report:

Green Thumb should have carried out treatment to The Green on 1st April, but this had to be postponed unfortunately. They will advise when the new date has been arranged.

Alison Southern still has two boxes of Parish Council paperwork in her loft which we need to retrieve and sorted out.

The grass cutting payment which Borough made has been checked and they agreed it was incorrect. The balance of the payment is being processed.

Cllr Osuch has been pointed out that two notice boards need replacing. Others (which remain ok) were originally supplied by Metrosigns off Manton Lane and an up to date catalogue has been obtained. The two which need replacing are on Bromham Road. The posts are not required, just the landscape notice boards. The Clerk agreed to obtain costing's. *Action: LL*

BB Cllr Rigby: The steps down to the A4280 on both sides have been re-built. As Cllr Gee thought, the signage there was obscured by the pedestrian crossing, Cllr Rigby has asked Borough to check and ensure the signage is visible.

BB Cllr J Gambold: had supplied two reports which The Clerk is to circulate.

Action: LL

123. **Matters in Progress:**

No response has yet been received regarding the governance review from Bedford Borough Chief Executive.

Deep Spinney parking: It was felt that the double yellow line doesn't go far enough and that they should come nearer to the Pavilion. Saturday morning is the worst when cars park everywhere and you can't see what is coming out of the Pavilion. Cllr Jacobs will put together a request to send to Andrew Prigmore and a copy will be sent to Cllrs Rigby & Gambold.

Action: AJ

Lavender Lodge hedge of yews and holly has now been planted with the exception of the holly bushes. These have only just arrived and will be planted this weekend.

30/40 Bromham Road. Work on this has been pushed back until the 2019/20 financial year.

Railway bridge: The first part of the work should be finished by 18th April 2019.

The War Memorial has been cleaned, and is to be cleared after Easter.

124. **Parish Concerns**

Cllr Jacobs still has to speak with Nicky Barns re the construction of the proposed new surgery and possibly a care home. The plan they sent wasn't very helpful – it is on the side of Great Ouse Way going down the hill.

Action: AJ

Cllr Bates circulated the notes from the recent Town & Parish Council meeting.

Gold Lane Planning Application – a decision needs to be made as to who will represent the PC and advise Cllr Gambold ASAP.

Deep Spinney roundabout needs tidying up and planting with flowers. Cllr Gambold is following this up with Borough.

Action: JG

The hedge has overgrown the road sign on Gold Lane. Borough are to be asked to cut the hedge back as it is a legal requirement for the sign to be visible.

Action: LL

125. **Local Elections:**

Borough has advised that there have been 7 applicants so there will be an uncontested election. There are two vacancies which can be filled by co-option.

Cllrs Gambold, Osuch, Platt & Warren are not standing for re-election although they may consider putting themselves forward for co-option.

Cllr Platt thanked all for their support and friendship etc and he felt it had been a privilege to have served as a Cllr for almost 7 years.

All Cllrs, whether they be Parish Council or Borough Councillors, were thanked for their support over the last 12 months.

126. **Date of Next Meeting:**

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2019, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm.