

**Minutes of the Biddenham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs J Warren, G Bates, S Briggs, H Fowler, C Gee, A Jacobs, K Osuch, F Slade and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 17 members of the public.

**In attendance:** BB Cllrs J Gambold & R Rigby and Nicky Barnes & Dr Julian Lane.

**14. Election of Vice-Chairman:**

Cllr Bates nominated Cllr Warren as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Jacobs with all present in agreement. Cllr Warren duly accepted and chaired the meeting.

**15. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from: Cllr P Chase.

Nicky Barnes CCG and Dr Julian Lane gave a presentation regarding the new GP Surgery which it is proposed to be built on the Great Ouse Way going towards Sainsburys. This will be shared by the Linden Road and De Parys surgeries. This will be a brand new facility.

A Patient engagement exercise has been carried out. The outcome concerns had been quite valid for Bromham. There were concerns raised regarding bus service/traffic congestion. Linden Road is impractical as it is accessed by going up flights of stairs.

Trying to invite new Doctors in to the area, it is envisaged there will be 15 partners in the practice at the new surgery.

Question: *Have they anticipated the problems of Great Denham?* Yes they have. They want to serve a large number of patients and they envisaged it being plenty large enough to cope adequately.

Question: *Will there be enough parking and will they recruit enough GP's?* The developer is spending money on providing the facilities. The modern facility should encourage new GP's and will be a training practice. It should grow naturally. A Recruitment programme is in progress and people are being employed at present. Parking is up to an agreed standard. There may be 50 car parking for the entire development. It is envisaged being opened next Summer/Autumn. It will include an additional pharmacy, physio services, operating theatre etc. Opening hours will be as the national hours.

Question: *Will there be any closures?* The branch surgery at Bromham will be the only one to close.

Question: Issues at Great Denham surgery should be sorted as a service provider/permanent management team takes over from 1<sup>st</sup> July and a long term contract is to be put in place.

Question: *How good will the bus route changes be?* Conversations are still to be had with the council and involves Crossing the roads, catching buses, pedestrian crossing etc.

Questions: *What will happen when the Bromham surgery closes?* The pharmacy future is unknown at present. There appears to be no reason for it to close as it is an excellent facility.

The planning application is in at the moment.

16. **Declarations of Interest regarding items on the Agenda:**

Cllrs Gee & Osuch declared an interest in the Planning Application for 12 Main Road.

17. **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019:**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

18. **Public Open Session:**

Question 1: An article had been printed in the paper regarding planning behind 21/41 Church End. Borough has advised they know nothing of this application.

Question 2: *Gold Lane development: it appears that things have been left up in the air regarding access off Gold Lane, there is great concern about traffic on Gold Lane. Borough don't agree with an entrance off of Deep Spinney as would have been preferred.* B Cllr Gambold spoke about the situation and the ransom strip on Deep Spinney. Traffic mitigation needs to be made safer for Gold Lane. Discussion took place. B Cllr Rigby said that the land coming out onto Deep Spinney is in the developers' ownership. The hedge was maintained due to a gully years ago and protected previously. It was explained that the PC does not have any power and cannot make a decision so we cannot provide answers. The Borough completely ignored the report which was provided for the Parish Council by the eminent company.

The planning application for 249 houses was rejected and is going to appeal on 10th September. Any objections already made go forward so no need to submit any other objections.

The planning application for 160 houses was accepted in May.

Policy 19 as part of Local Plan.

Question 3: Gold Lane speed indication device: Bryan Glasper has the quotation. He has a pro forma letter which has to go to The Clerk. He would like to go forward with the quotation £2,520, which was agreed. B Cllrs Gambold & Rigby will take this forward under the Ward Fund but would need 3 quotes. Bryan Glasper has been in touch with the Bromham Speedwatch Group and he explained about the Speedwatch group and what they can do. It was agreed we should try to put together a Speedwatch Group – The Clerk offered help as she has been a member of a Speedwatch Group for some 7 years. It was agreed to put an article on the website requesting Speedwatch volunteers. The Police can advise where the worse area's appear to be.

19. **Planning:**

*To note and comment on any planning applications.*

The updated list had been circulated.

Appeal letters for

APP/K0235/W/19/3227620 42 Lavender Lodge, Main Road. Cllrs thought it was good and are in agreement it should be sent. **Action: LL**

APP/K0235/W/19/3227767

In May this application for 160 houses with access off Gold Lane was approved by Borough. Section 106 should be agreed by September.

Cllr Chase has said he is against a judicial review and cost could be in the region of £70,000 upwards. We would need to have a clear and concise opinion. We would have 6 weeks to lodge an appeal. Do we contemplate taking a huge risk or do we give in. We do not have to decide this evening. If we lost, we would have to pay Borough costs and this would leave the PC without funds. We have 6 weeks to deliver after the section 106 has been agreed.

All Cllrs were asked their thoughts on going forward with a judicial review.

- We need to be fully informed and understand the risks around it.
- Uncomfortable with the information before us.
- 1 for going forward - 6 more wary.
- Could ask on the website if we went down this route would residents contribute financially as we do not have enough funds?

20. **Financial Matters:**

i) To accept and approve the y/e accounts 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). This was accepted and duly signed. This will now be forwarded to Mazars the external auditor. **Action: LL**

ii) To approve accounts for payment: The statement of expenses had been circulated and was accepted.

iii) To note spend against budget for the Parish Council and the Pavilion. The statement had been circulated and was accepted.

All figures were accurate to the end of May.

21. **Reports:**

**Clerks Report:**

Noticeboards: Prior to ordering the noticeboards I have contacted Bedford Borough to make sure we can go ahead as they are actually sited on Borough owned land. (A quote has been obtained from Metrosigns for replacement notice boards at the cost of £1,050.00 each, includes the cabinet, d clips and removal of old cabinet and fitting of new). But before they will give permission, they wanted photos of the existing ones so that has been done and a response is awaited.

Cllr Chase would like thought to be given to the purchase of a third notice board to be erected on the new estate already built off Bromham Road. It was felt that as this is a large estate, it may need to have more than 1. This was agreed in principle but as we are not sure where it/they should be sited, it was agreed not to order them yet. Permission would need to be sought from the developers when we do.

Cllrs Bates & Fowler and the Clerk are meeting Garry Gardner (Beds Borough) at 1.30pm tomorrow for a site meeting at Biddenham Turn regarding the possibility of having more posts installed in the verge. There was also an accident there on Sunday morning where some of the posts have been damaged – which has been reported to Borough. Cllr Chase has suggested ideally there should be posts filling in the gaps between 10 – 16. This is to be suggested at the site meeting tomorrow and costs obtained.

**Action: GB/HF/LL**

Regarding the end of Alison Southern's employment contract: Cllr Briggs has agreed to take this forward and is being given all paperwork.

**Action: SB/LL**

Green Thumb have advised they have scheduled **Nutragreen 2 Early Summer Treatment** to be carried out on **Saturday 22/06/2019**.

***Borough Cllrs Reports:***

***BB Cllr Rigby:*** The road closure e.mail is to be circulated.

***B Cllr Gambold:*** The Post box has disappeared by Redgates Field but is to be replaced.

The Pump House, Bromham Road, Bromham: This was demolished and a notice to tidy the site has been issued.

12 Main Road is going to appeal.

Consultation regarding the yellow line outside the hairdressers etc closed recently,

Centre of the roundabout was cut but not very well by Borough. Missed bits off Holden Close. Would the pc consider taking their contract further asking our Contractor to take this onto the contract. Ask Chris Horne for a price for the two Deep Spinney shoulders and the roundabout. Ask Paul Pace Beds borough for a plan so it can be marked up and given to Jon to mark up. Get price from Chris Horne and permission for release from Borough.

There are 5 dead trees which were mowed down on the roundabout.

Over 100 bluebells were planted the other side of the road opposite Lavender Lodge but these appear to have been cut down.

**Local Plan:** The Planning Inspectorate is currently undertaking Examination of the Borough Council's Local Plan 2030 with hearings on the following dates at Borough Hall:

Wednesday 29 May 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019  
Tuesday 4 June 2019 – Friday 7 June 2019  
Tuesday 18 June 2019 – Friday 21 June 2019  
Monday 24 June 2019 – Thursday 27 June 2019

The Examination will assess whether or not the Local Plan is legally compliant and ‘sound’ in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Individuals and representatives of groups who responded to the Council’s consultations in 2018 may be asked to make representations, if they indicated at the time that they would like to do so. Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearings. Further details can be seen at [www.bedford.gov.uk/examination](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/examination)

**Covanta Incinerator:** Work has started on the Covanta waste incineration facility in Stewartby following an unsuccessful attempt by campaigners in November 2018 to halt the scheme.

The Bedfordshire Against Covanta Incinerator’s (BACI) judicial review of the permit issued by the Environment Agency, which had given the go ahead for the scheme, was dismissed but there is now likely to be a further hearing at the Court of Appeal in July.

The facility is due to open by 2022. A recent BBC report stated that it will power 112,000 homes a year by incinerating 500,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste.

**New Chief Constable:** Bedfordshire Police has appointed Garry Forsyth as its new Chief Constable following the resignation of Jon Boutcher. Mr Forsyth, the current Deputy Chief Constable, will take on the role in July.

**Proposed Development at Aspects Leisure Park:** A public consultation was recently held by planning consultants Barton Willmore in relation to proposals to develop the Aspects leisure park in the town centre. The plans include the development of 100 new apartments as well as a refurbishment of the site. No further details are available at this stage.

**Community Safety Partnership Consultation:** A new consultation from the Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is asking residents for their views on crime and anti-social behaviour.

The (CSP) is comprised of: the Borough Council; Bedfordshire Police; the Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service; the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, and; the Probation Service. These organisations work together to tackle crime and disorder.

The consultation ends on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The response form can be seen here: <http://www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/csp/>

**Foster Care:** ‘Foster Care Fortnight’ was held from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May to raise awareness of the continuing need for the Council to recruit foster carers to support children in care. For more details of how to become a foster carer call 01234 718718 or search ‘Bedford Foster Adopt’

**Over 70s Exercise Classes:** The Council is running a programme of exercise classes for over 70s during the summer. The sessions, covering sports such as archery and table tennis, cost £4 each and will be held at the Athletics Stadium, Bunyan Centre and Bedford Central Library. For further details call 01234718835 or search 'Bedford Council exercise classes'

22. **Matters in Progress:**

Cllr Jacobs agreed to check if the dog fouling signs have been installed. Subsequently, Cllr Jacobs advised that they have been installed.

Nodders Way – the contractor has suggested a site meeting to finalise arrangement. Cllr Bates agreed to attend a site meeting. *Action: GB*

23. **Parish Concerns**

Cllr Fowler wants to check the Cricket Club leases. It was thought that B Cllr Gambold has copies and possibly Cllr Chase. The Clerk agreed to check document she may have.

Darlow Drive – there are a lot of trees overhanging over the footpath. These are to be discussed during the site meeting tomorrow as they are Borough owned trees.

*Action: LL/GB/HF*

The hedge is very overgrown over the footpath of the house on Bromham Road at the end of the service road. This is to be discussed during the site visit tomorrow.

*Action: LL/GB/HF*

Trees in Biddenham House – are overhanging into Gold Lane.

24. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.