

Minutes of the Biddenham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2019 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs P Chase – Chairman, G Bates, S Briggs, 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 Cllr J Gambold and Graham Brown (Kingsfield Sports Club).

25. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllrs H Fowler & J Warren and B Cllr R Rigby.

26. Declarations of Interest regarding items on the Agenda:

12 Main Road – Cllrs Chase, Gee and Osuch.

27. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 12th June 2019:

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th June 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

28th June's extraordinary meeting minutes were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

28. Public Open Session:

Resident had complained about the netting which has been erected on the tennis court. The netting cannot be seen through and it blocks all views. He had written to members of the committee saying if it was only to be put up to keep leaves off of the court in the Autumn, why could it not be taken down at other times but no response has been received. Natasha Fox is now the chair so Cllr Gee will take this forward. The PC has no jurisdiction over this and wish to remain neutral

Action: CG

There have been a number of incursions into Deep Spinney by HGV's throughout the daytime – possibly 4 incursions a day starting from 8am which is causing noise pollution with audible reversing alarms etc. They seem to be turning round in Deep Spinney and even Church End. Would it be possible for us to have signs saying residents only?

B Cllr Gambold advised residents to write to Borough (copying him in) as 'No Site Traffic' signs are needed on Church End.

Action: JG

A resident has lived in the village for some 23 years. During the first 3 months of this year, there has been more dog fouling which he has cleared than in all the previous 23 years. The area affected is at the start of Deep Spinney down to Fleming Close. He was asked to take photos and send to Bedford Borough. Borough have erected signs when they were requested.

Are dogs allowed on main grass at the pavilion? They can go on the footpath but not the green. Cllr Bates agreed to speak to Dog Wardens at Borough.

Action: GB

*Circuit Training classes take place around the Pavilion on Tuesdays evenings and it was noted that there are weeds all around the pavilion. The Clerk agreed to contact Chris Horne with a view to clearing the area (and other weeded areas). **Action: LL***

Gold Lane: resident thanked PC for their hard work. It was felt that Borough will go ahead with developments if they need housing and all comments have been ignored. The Local Plan up to 2021 is protected but there appear to be loop holes which Borough take advantage of.

The Local Plan is being reviewed at present by the Planning Inspectorate. Both Borough Cllr Gambold and Cllr Chase spoke at the meeting on 4th June. The planning application for 250 houses has gone to appeal.

Statutory reports re the application have been completed but they fall short of what they should point out. The PC is having our own report written to indicate how unsafe the proposed access will be. Apologies have been received from WSP who should get the report to us on Friday indicating the entrance onto Gold Lane is unsafe.

Borough is due to receive the first report from the Inspector on Friday and the Section 106 report should be received in September after their discussion.

B Cllr Gambold said the way forward would be for WSP to give us the comments needed for refusal. If it still goes forward, that we may have to think about a judicial review. Access is the main single issue. The cost of a judicial review would be astronomical for the village.

B Cllr Gambold spoke about why don't they go in off Deep Spinney instead of Gold Lane, but it doesn't alter the fact of traffic issues. Development of 160 houses is not going to help this.

How does the report tie in with the 10th September meeting and the 249 houses.

The proposed planning application in this area spoken about at the last meeting has now been received.

Church End – drug problem has now gone but it is felt the vehicles may now be using the pavilion car park and there are more 'race track' issues happening in Deep Spinney to/from The Pavilion.

It was noted that the PC website was down for quite a long time but it is now up and running and the PC minutes have been put on.

Graham Brown – Kingsfield Sports Club spoke about the Biddenham country park (sports club) opposite the new development on the new bypass. There is a commitment by developer to build the property for the sports club. The developers have been looking at 3 potential people to take on the lease to run the facilities who have formed a company. They had proposed representation by the PC on the committee too. They will try to utilise the ground throughout the year, it must be financially viable going forward. Originally 14 football games

were played before it was agreed the rocks were too close to the surface so pitches were closed until this could be rectified. It will be an asset for the residents association of the new build. The fixtures and fittings are not felt to be up to scratch. Not enough Section 106 originally.

They were commended on their tenacity. Graham was thanked for attending and for his presentation.

29. **Planning:**

To note and comment on any planning applications.

The updated list had been circulated.

21 Church End: Cllr Chase will write a letter of objection and B Cllr Gambold will call the application in to committee.

12 Main Road: The applicant has put in an appeal which may be heard on September. A new application has been submitted but the difference is unknown at the moment. Once this is known, the sub-committee will submit their letter of objection.

Pumping Station, Bromham Road: The applicant demolished the pumping station after the application was rejected. An Enforcement Order has been applied for the site to be tidied up.

Application for Doctors Surgery and 60 bed care home. (A presentation had been made at the last PC Meeting). It was agreed there would be No Objection to it. B Cllr Gambold said that Bromham are not happy with the clinical commissioning group if they do decide to close the facility on Bromham which is very well used.

30. **Financial Matters:**

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

ii) 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 June.

31. **Reports:**

Clerks Report: was circulated previously.

Cllrs Bates & Fowler and the Clerk met up with Garry Gardner (Borough Highways) at Biddenham Turn. The cost of new wooden bollards will be £85.64 each. If new bollards are installed at 3 meter centres that would mean 26 bollards are required. (£2,226.64 + VAT). It was agreed this should be paid for through CIL money.

Borough has asked if we would like some bulbs to plant. They come with a mechanical device to help with the planting. It was agreed we would like some please. Cllrs Bates & Slade have lists (Darlow Drive etc). B Cllr Rigby is to be advised we would like some. *Action: LL/RR*

Tree Issues:

Crown lifting of trees on Darlow Drive – subsequently this has taken place.

Work on the TPO'd Lime Tree has not yet been carried out but Cllr Bates has followed this up with Greg Lawrence.

Suckers on trees in Elger Close need trimming back. Cllr Bates agreed to follow this up. **Action: GB**

A tree on Pavilion land has become overgrown by 43 Deep Spinney. Greg Lawrence is to be asked to cut this back. **Action: LL**

9 Church End – trees need cutting back by Greg Lawrence. Write to the Borough advising that we will do it. **Action: LL**

It was suggested that we compile a list of what work needs doing and meet with Greg Lawrence with the list. Plus more trees on Darlow Drive need crown lifting, eg outside number 16.

Borough Cllrs Reports:

B Cllr Gambold: Reported throughout the meeting.

BB Cllr Rigby: No report available.

32. **Speedwatch and Speed Indicator Device:**

Speed Indicator Devices: Bryan Glasper has found 3 additional quotations. One was totally unsatisfactory, Morelock and Westcotec. Morelock have a 2 year guarantee and Westcotec have a 3 year guarantee. Bryan actually recommends the Morelock one. After discussion, it was fully agreed to go forward with the Morelock unit which is to be purchased from Ward funds. B Cllrs Gambold & Rigby will take this forward.

Action: JG/RR

Speedwatch: Bryan Glasper has made contact with Bedfordshire Police who will train and authorise the volunteer residents. The Police will also agree sites to be used with the unit.

Ideally 3 volunteers per session are required so a base of 11 volunteer residents would be good.

At short notice we have been advised that there is a training session taking place this Saturday. Cllr Osuch agreed to attend this. Bryan agreed to attend but he can't attend this session. The Clerk agreed to book Cllr Osuch on the session. **Action: LL/KO**

33. **Matters in Progress:**

Noddors Way to Gold Lane footpath – the contractor has suggested a site meeting to finalise arrangement. Cllr Bates agreed to attend a site meeting.

Action: GB

Proposed 30/40mph speed limit change on Bromham Road: B Cllr Gambold agreed to chase this up with Andy Prigmore. Bromham Road has now less traffic due to the bridge being closed. *Action: JG*

The pelican crossing on Bromham road has been switched off. B Cllr Gambold agreed to follow this up. *Action: JG*

Yellow box at Biddenham Turn is atrocious. It doesn't work well at all, drivers jump the box.

Deep Spinney has been tidied up. B Cllr Gambold is to meet up with Chris Horne about the regular/sympathetically cut area instead of the Borough cutting it. *Action: JG*

Gary Creek has carried out repairs to the play area and is trying to get more rubber chips. Subsequently chips have been purchased and laid.

34. **Parish Concerns**

Could the Chilly Festival sign be taken down please?

A resident is quite crippled and drives around on a scooter. Hamden Close entrance is all cobbles / blocks and jolting over this upsets her back. Would it be possible to have a dropped kerb here? B Cllr Gambold will take this up with Borough. *Action: JG*

35. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 11th September 2019 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.