

Minutes of the Biddenham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: BB Cllrs Gambold and R Rigby.

36. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllrs G Bates & S Briggs.

37. Declaration of Interest regarding items on the Agenda:

No declarations made.

38. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2019:

With the amendment to item 28 – The Parish Council wish to remain neutral, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th July 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

39. Public Open Session:

1. Bedford Borough have issued an enforcement Public Order on the owner of the old umping Station but no tidying of the site has taken place to date and this is causing fly tipping too. Walls have been left semi-demolished and there is concern that if children play on it, they could be seriously injured. We should write to Borough to say no tidying up has begun, and the site is now a safety concern. Paul Pace is the person to contact. The Clerk is to send the relevant correspondence to Cllr Chase who will write a reply and copy to B Cllrs Gambold & Rigby. *Action: LL / PC*

If residents notice any fly tipping, they were asked to report it to Borough straight away. Borough use an app called ‘Clean Streets’ which is very good.

2. At the southern end of Days Lane there is a pedestrian gate which needs attention. The 5 bar gate has already been replaced. The Clerk agreed to contact Gary Creek. *Action: LL / GC*

There used to be pea shingle around the base of the Millennium Sundial. The Clerk will ask Gary Creek to top up the pea shingle. *Action: LL / GC*

40. Planning:

The updated list had been circulated. Cllr Chase said there have been several new applications over the last two months.

19/01379/Ful 16 Days Lane: B Cllr Rigby has asked for this application to be called in. Cllr Gee will draft a letter of objection so that The Clerk can submit it. *Action: CG / LL*

19/1394/MOA Bromham Road: B Cllr Gambold has asked for this application to be called in. There is going to be a re-consultation as Highways have objected. There are issues with the driveway.

19/01806/Full 16a Main Road: B Cllr Gambold has asked for this application to be called in.

19/01750/Full 2 Vicars Close: B Cllr Gambold has asked for this application to be called in.

19/00973/MA Doctors' Surgery / care home: A decision is expected at the October meeting,

Land West of Gold Lane. B Cllr Gambold is attending the Appeal against the refusal for the earlier application for 249 houses which is taking place at present and he gave an update. WSP document was considered permissible. Appellant's barrister was dismissive – housing supply by borough needs determining. Borough's objection re Education has been withdrawn. AD42/43 heard yesterday and today. Appeal continues tomorrow. B Cllr Gambold had raised the Deep Spinney / Gold Lane Access but was unsuccessful. Decision on 249 will not be known until the Inspector knows the decision by the Secretary of State about the 160 houses, the Section 106 agreement for which was due to be signed but is also held pending the Secretary of State's referral to the Planning Inspectorate.

19/00019/Ref Lavender Lodge: The applicant was successful in his appeal. Cllr Chase has spoken to the applicant who has said he will probably not start until the new year.

41. **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.

42. **Reports:**

Clerks Report: was circulated previously.

Regarding the hedge damage in Franklyn Gardens, Oriel has been advised that the Parish Council are responsible for one of hedges and the landowner is responsible for the other. Clerk will tell Oriel we are prepared to remove the hedge the PC owns, and await a further response from them.

Pavilion Report: Debs Slade had forwarded a Pavilion Report which was circulated to Cllrs. It was agreed she should go ahead and organise a deep clean of the premises and was given some contact details for this, as well as other measures re security and cutting back of plants. **Action: DS**

Borough Cllrs Reports:

B Cllr Rigby: Their report was circulated and discussed. A6 to Manton Lane traffic is blocking the roads' junctions and is a big issue. Discussions are taking place regarding Park & Ride.

B Cllr Gambold: had already updated above.

43. **Speedwatch and Speed Indicator Device updates:**

Speed Indicator Device: The finance has been received from the Ward Cllrs Funding. Details of the SID to be purchased are to be obtained from Bryan Glasper and the order placed. *Action: LL / BC*

Speedwatch: Cllr Osuch attended the Speedwatch training and explained the system. Bryan Glasper will also attend the training and a further 2/3 volunteers are required. Permanent ‘prior warning’ signs (4) need to be purchased and placed at the edge of the village, so that they do not have to be positioned nearby each time a particular place is to be monitored. Various places around the village will be monitored, to be decided, but there were appeals for these to include Bromham Road and Biddenham Turn.

44. **Flag adjacent to the War Memorial:**

A resident had expressed concerns about the state of the St Georges flag and its flying 24/7 and asked if this could be changed to a Union flag or the St George flag to fly on specific important days. He offered to attend to the flags on behalf of the PC. B Cllr Gambold explained the background of the flag being flown 24/7. After discussion it was acknowledged that the flying of a flag 24/7 has helped to decrease vandalism.

The Chairman asked if any members of the public had any strong views. One resident said he thought the flying of the St Georges flag was a church issue.

All Cllrs made their comments which resulted in purchasing a new St Georges flag and flying it 24/7 with the Union flag being flown during November.

B Cllr Gambold said flags were purchased previously from House of Flags who would know what size of flag is required. The Clerk will take this forward.

Action: LL

45. **Financial contribution request towards energy saving roof insulation for the Village Hall roof:**

A request had been received regarding possible funding towards energy saving roof insulation for the village hall. B Cllrs Gambold and Rigby agreed to give a donation from their Ward Fund to the value of £1,785 on the understanding that the village hall fund any outstanding balance. This was thankfully accepted.

46. **Matters in Progress:**

Nodders Way resurfacing has been carried out but there was concern regarding the edges. Cllr Chase had emailed Tom Greasley about it. It was considered edging was required together with gravel to infill as there are trip hazards. *Action: PC*

30/40 mph Bromham Road: B Cllr Rigby said Andy Prigmore anticipates it will be in place by end of the year. It was suggested that maybe the 40mph could be extended down towards Great Denham to make exiting the road up from Bromham Bridge onto the bypass easier.

Yellow box at Biddenham Turn: B Cllr Rigby said the Police do not police yellow boxes. Cllr Chase wanted a sign to deter people from entering the boxes. It was noted again that the traffic lights are still not phased correctly especially for the pedestrian crossing – sometimes taking 5 minutes to get to green for the pedestrian crossing. Cllr Gee agreed to provide more information to B Cllrs Gambold & Rigby.

Action: CG/RR/JG

Deep Spinney proposed waiting restrictions: no consultation on this has taken place. Remind B Cllrs Gambold & Rigby.

Action: LL / JG / RR

The roundabout has been tidied up and bulbs are going to be planted. B Cllr Gambold is going to speak to Chris Horne about extending the area of verge he will cut. The shoulders of the roundabout are to be planted with bulbs.

Action: JG

47. **Parish Concerns:**

Issues with the website have been sorted and a direct debit has been set up. Invoices were not being received by the Clerk.

Cllr Osuch asked to be taken off of the noticeboard list; Cllr Jacobs will replace him.

A car had been locked in the pavilion car park by mistake recently and the code had to be given out so the code is going to be changed.

The Publican at the Three Tuns is leaving on 30th September and Greene King are interviewing for a new publican. There may be a temporary manager. The building is grade 2 listed and in a conservation area. The question was asked whether to list it as an asset of community value. After discussion it was agreed the Parish Council should apply to list it. Cllr Gee agreed to take this forward.

Action: CG

Dog Fouling: Following the article in The Loop, Cllr Jacobs reported that he has seen residents using poo bags now.

HGV's no longer appear to be entering into Deep Spinney any longer because Borough have spoken to the developers concerned.

Biddenham Show: This had been a good afternoon but maybe there were fewer trade stalls and fewer people. B Cllr Gambold opened the show. A profit of £4,300 was made, which was more than last year.

48. **Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 9th October 2019 starting at 7.30pm. B Cllr Gambold gave his apologies.

Meeting closed 21.05