

Minutes of the Biddenham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs P Chase – Chairman, G Bates, S Briggs, C Gee, H Fowler, A Jacobs, K Osuch, F Slade, J Warren and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 10 members of the public.

In attendance: Borough Cllr J Gambold.

58. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from: B Cllr R Rigby.

59. Declaration of Interest regarding items on the Agenda:

Cllr Osuch declared an interest in planning application 19/02387/OUT 20 Bromham Road.

60. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2019:

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th October 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

61. Public Open Session:

Vegetation which has become overgrown on the corner of Main Road has reached the seat. A letter is to be written which Cllr Bates will deliver. *Action: LL/GB*

Thorpe Close Residents Assoc: Were concerned about the access for the planning application for the new homes Gold Lane / Deep Spinney. The entrance will not be off of Gold Lane as there is a ransom strip which is owned by Twigden Homes. The Assoc plans to contact interested parties and sought the support of the PC. Cllr Chase asked them to keep him informed of their ideas and he would see how the PC may help, if it can.

Obviously, a big chunk of open space is going to disappear when the houses are built. We must be vigilant on protecting land for the future. Various pieces of land around the village are looking to be developed.

Borough's housing figure needs to be re-set and land allocations sorted. Local Plan should be out around March time.

CIL funding is agreed between Borough and developer and the Parish Council has no influence.

The PC was thanked for organising the extra wooden bollard in Biddenham Turn although one has already been knocked over.

62. To consider planning:

The updated list which had been circulated was discussed.

The application for 2 new houses in Vicars Close has been called in.

Signage outside Biddenham Upper School is retrospective.

Outline planning application for up to 249 dwellings on land off Deep Spinney – the appeal has been granted, so the development will take place. It was considered should we write to the Mayor as we are unhappy with the Borough's performance and communication; residents are extremely aggrieved. Need to consider what the parish could get out of the application ie CIL money. Cllrs were asked to let Cllr Chase know of any ideas they had by the end of the week. *Action: All*

63. To Agree Financial Matters:

The cost of the Energy Generator was queried & explained that it had been paid for by the Ward Cllr Fund and was for pond use. They are to be reminded as we need a photo to send to Borough. *Action: JG*

As the Ward Funding has not yet been received toward the Village Hall Roof, the Clerk agreed to follow this up with Borough. *Action: LL*

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

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

It was confirmed that Alison Southern's employment with the Parish Council had come to an end on 31st October 2019.

64. Reports:

Clerks Report: was circulated previously.

The quote to carry out the work to the hedges on the playground at the Pavilion was duly accepted up to the value of £500. The Clerk is to give the go ahead to Greg Lawrence. *Action: LL*

V E Day Celebration: After discussion, it was agreed we should celebrate VE Day and involve as many residents as possible.

- B Cllr Gambold agreed to leave Tommy in place until after the celebrations.
- As there are no official bell ringers in the village, we have to rely on visiting bell ringers but there may be a possibility of some bell ringers living in the village so we may be able to raise a team.
- We could hopefully invite the bugler to play the Last Post at 2.55pm.
- Cllr Jacobs has a contact for a piper and he will invite him to play.
- Invite St James School to join in.
- VJ Day – maybe do something for that on 15th August 2020.

Christmas tree: Gary Creek and Dick Evans (for the lighting) are to be asked to agree a date at the beginning of December when they could receive the tree, this could then be agreed with Stagsden Nursery. *Action: LL*

A tree for the other side of the village was also discussed. It was agreed to ask the developer to do this. Cllr Osuch agreed to look to see where may be best to site the tree. Stagsden Nursery is to be advised that we may need a second tree.

Action: KO/LL

Borough Cllrs Reports:

B Cllr Rigby: No report available.

B Cllr Gambold: Spoke of the free flu jabs.

He was asked if the road works on Manton Lane are on schedule for completion.

He did say that the video which is on the Borough website regarding the Bromham Road Bridge is worth looking at.

65. **Matters in Progress:**

The speed indicator device (SID) has now been installed and has been run to test it. There is evidence that it is slowing traffic. It has monitoring speed in both directions but data is to be checked. As the next Parish Council meeting is not until January, the Chairman asked if an interim report could be circulated to Cllrs.

Speedwatch: there are now 3 in the group, ideally 4 would be better. A co-ordinator is required. The Speedwatch group would like to put a speed box (7 day survey) in Gold Lane. We would also like Biddenham Turn included too. There is a need to identify the various areas where speed monitoring will take place. Ideally permanent Speedwatch area signs are required at all the entrances to the villages. The chairman asked both Cllr Osuch and Bryan Glasper to report back to Parish Council.

66. **Parish Concerns:**

Cllr Jacobs reported that trees in the pavilion car park are rubbing on a resident's house. Greg Lawrence is to be asked to investigate. *Action: LL / AJ*

Cllr Gee asked if we could agree to take steps to make the Three Tuns public house an asset of community value? This was agreed and Cllr Gee agreed to take this forward.

Action: CG

B Cllr Gambold advised that there is a Redwood Tree in the back garden of the pub which doesn't have a TPO in place. Cllr Chase agreed to do this. *Action: PC*

Residents asked how long the temporary bridge over railway line is going to be in place as the area is very isolated and some people feel concerned using it. The answer is until April.

67. **Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 8th January 2020 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.