

Minutes of the Biddenham Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2020 starting at 7.30pm.

In line with emergency Coronavirus Government legislation, the Parish Council will not be holding face-to-face meetings for the foreseeable future so this meeting was held by Zoom Conference facility.

Present: Cllrs P Chase – Chairman, G Bates, A Jacobs, S Briggs, C Gee, H Fowler, F Slade, K Osuch, J Warren and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 2 members of the public.

In attendance: Borough Cllrs J Gambold & R Rigby and Debs Slade (Biddenham Pavilion).

114. Election of Chairman:

Cllr Chase was nominated by Cllr Bates. This was seconded by Cllr Osuch with all in agreement. There being no further nominations, Cllr Chase accepted the position, but explained that although he would remain a Parish Councillor, he was taking up the position of Chairman of a Charity relating to Imperial College next year and would not have the time to continue as Parish Council Chairman after next April.

115 Declaration of Acceptance by Chairman:

Cllr Chase will sign the Declaration of Acceptance when possible.

116. Apologies for Absence:

No apologies were received.

117. To allocate areas of responsibility within the Parish Council:

Election of Vice-Chairman: Cllr Warren

Town & Parish Network Representative: Cllr Bates

Play Area Inspections (weekly visual inspections): Mrs Karen Chase

Street Furniture: Cllr Slade

Notice Boards (updated weekly): Cllrs Bates & Jacobs

Cllr Bates: Biddenham Turn, Main Road (opposite the Three Tuns) and Church End

Cllr Jacobs: Deep Spinney, Pavilion Car Park, Bromham Road (spur to Bromham) and Bromham (close to Windmill Hill)

Website: Cllr Warren

Borough Highways Representative: Cllr Fowler

Planning Biddenham Turn etc: Cllrs Bates, Chase & Gee

Planning Bromham Road (inc Bromham New Road): Cllrs Briggs, Slade & Warren

Planning Deep Spinney: Cllrs Fowler, Jacobs & Osuch

Planning Central Co-Ordinator: Cllr Bates

GDPR Controller: Cllr Warren

Personnel Committee: Cllrs Chase, Gee & Briggs

118. **Declaration of Interest regarding items on the Agenda:**

No Declarations of interest declared.

119. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2020:**

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were unanimously accepted. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face Parish Council Meeting.

120. **Public Open Session:**

A resident stated that various footpaths around the village have become overgrown by bushes and trees. These include the lime trees at Biddenham House, Main Road, both ends of Gold Lane, 9 Darlow Drive & Deep Spinney. If we advise Borough Cllr Rigby, he will report it to Garry Gardner at Borough.

Action: LL/RR

Cllr Chase said he would approach 9 Darlow Drive about the weeds growing from under their boundary onto Elger Close. *Action: PC*

It had been suggested that Tommy stays in position until VJ Day but as this would be fairly close to Remembrance Day, it was agreed to leave him up through to next year.

The wreaths are still on the war memorial and as they are still in good condition they can stay there until VJ Day.

It was noted that the Memorial bench still needs varnishing so the Clerk will contact Gary Creek again. *Action: LL*

The bus shelter had been painted recently but the bench inside the bus shelter needs re-varnishing so the Clerk will ask Gary Creek to do this too. *Action: LL*

Cllr Osuch had painted the outside of the bus shelter for which he was thanked.

The sundial base needs weeding. Gary Creek has been asked to do this so he is to be chased up again. *Action: LL*

The St Georges flag on the flag pole has become damaged by the spring clip. It was agreed to Clerk should order a new flag. *Action: LL*

Bryan Glasper reported that there had been a massive reduction in the volume of traffic in Gold Lane and the level of violations has gone down during the Coronavirus lockdown. The battery has been lasting a whole month before needing to be re-charged.

Bryan asked for clarification of the speed limit on Bromham Road as the Speedwatch group are unable to carry out checks in a 40mph limit area. Borough Cllr Rigby has been trying to obtain official confirmation from Andy Prigmore although it is unofficially understood to be staying at 30mph. The Police have to provide a site number for Bromham Road both on the east and west of the roundabout.

It is also understood we should be getting visits from the camera van on Bromham Road soon.

121. **Coronavirus Measures:**

Cllr Chase said that we have been supporting the local community with lockdown and the WhatsApp groups have been very useful.

Debs Slade explained the actions which have been taken regarding the pavilion. When the Pavilion was temporarily closed, the majority of bookings were cancelled although some transferred their dates to later in the year. Staff have been working less hours but checking that the building is ok.

The Car Park gate is being checked but it seems to be being opened and left open a lot. Debs asked what we should do:

- Should the car park gate be open as people can now use the outdoor areas?
- Could change the lock code, and keep the gate locked or keep the gate shut but unlocked.
- Taekwondo sessions are taking place with clients using the green outdoor space on a one to one basis. They are happy to park their cars outside of the car park and use the small gate for access.
- Quite a number of Tennis players are parking outside the gates.
- The hospital has not been using the car park since lock down for safety reasons.

It was agreed to change the lock code and keep the gate locked. This could be reviewed regularly. *Action: DS*

Debs has asked the cleaner to use her hours to deep clean the pavilion in readiness for opening up again as it could come back into use from 4th July depending on Government regulations. We may have to purchase sanitizing fluid to do this which was agreed. Also, it was agreed to purchase sanitizers to put on the walls and side/front entrances. *Action: DS*

Debs will do her best to re-establish bookings for the Pavilion.

122. To consider planning:

The updated list which had been circulated was discussed.

Cllr Chase has been producing the Planning Lists every month and he said he would appreciate it if someone else would now take this on.

123. To Agree Financial Matters:

i) To approve accounts for payment: The statement of expenses which had been circulated was accepted bar one typo relating to supplier SGD / SDG.

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

iii) Cllr Chase said that, as the Cricket Club have not been able to play so far this year, could there be a possibility of waiving their dues this year? They normally pay in the region of £1,300 annually.

It is believed they will not play much this year so it was agreed that if they do not play, they need not pay. If they play, the charge will be pro-rata. Cllr Chase will write the current Cricket Club chairman advising of this decision.

Need to look at the full year financial forecast with reference to lock down. Need to review the forecast column regularly.

The Clerk had checked the Business Interruption insurance Cover which states:

*Whilst we do give cover up to the policy limit for interruption to the business caused by Murder, Suicide or Disease we only give cover for the diseases specified under this cover. Coronavirus or COVID-19 is **not** one of these specified diseases, so there is **no** cover provided under this extension of cover.*

Borough may be able to allow claims of up to £25,000 for loss of earnings but the legislation is to be checked. Biddenham Pavilion is a subsidiary body of the Parish Council. Borough Cllr Rigby agreed to send the relevant form to the Clerk and Cllr Fowler offered to assist the Clerk in completing the form if required. **Action: LL**

124. To Accept Reports:

Clerks Report: was circulated previously.

With regard to the website domain renewal: we used to own three domain names as below:

- biddenham-pc.org.uk was due for renewal on 8th May. This needs to be renewed ASAP if we wish to keep this domain.
- It looks like we nearly lost Biddenham.org because we were 2 months overdue with renewing last year as no invoice had been received
- biddenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk does not seem to exist on the public records anymore so it looks as though we may have lost this.

Domain name	Expiry Date	Last renewed	Action
biddenham-pc.org.uk	08-May-20	08-May-19	This needs renewing
biddenham.org.uk	27-Jul-20	05-Sep-19	Schedule to renew beginning of July
biddenhamparishcouncil.g	???	???	Confirm whether we still own

ov.uk

Borough Cllrs Reports:

B Cllr Gambold & B Cllr Rigby spoke of the email B Cllr Gambold had sent to the Clerk this afternoon which updates the actions Borough are taking regarding Coronavirus. This is to be circulated to all Cllrs.

125. Discuss the preparation for Annual Parish Meeting:

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting later in the year once the Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted and face to face meetings can be held.

126. Matters in Progress:

The new replacement 30mph speed sign has been erected on Main Road.

Biddenham welcomes careful driver signs: The sites for the signs were discussed again and the following positions were suggested:

1. At the first roundabout after leaving the bridge over the railway on the Great Ouse Way.
2. On the approach to the Deep Spinney Roundabout.
3. Bromham Bridge as soon as you leave it on the left by the white house.

Cllr Chase and the Clerk to finalise the request/locations.

Action: PC/LL

The two existing Biddenham “Festival of Britain” signs need restoring. The Clerk is trying to confirm who can do this. The sign before Biddenham Turn hides in the verge and it was wondered whether it could be re-sighted so that it was more visible.

A 20mph speed limit is being established along Bromham Bridge.

Waste/Dog Bins: Cllr Briggs suggested the following two locations for consideration:

1. As you head west out of Bedford on the southern side of Bromham Road by the pedestrian crossing that leads into Deep Spinney on the Deep Spinney estate.
2. In the turning head of the Bromham Road service road.

Both locations can be easily reached so should be convenient for the Council to empty as part of their normal schedule. Normal waste bins are to be requested. ***Action: LL***

Verges in Vicars Close: Cllr Chase will speak to the owners/builders asking them to re-instate the verges. ***Action: PC***

Days Lane verge: Cllr Chase will check but the issue may have gone. Subsequently is was confirmed the issues have gone..

On the short cut to Great Denham by Manor Hospital, people are hanging bags off the side of the waste bin because it is full most of the time. The Clerk is to write to Paul Pace – Borough copying to B Cllrs Rigby and Gambold. ***Action: LL***

127. Parish Concerns:

There is a damaged bench by The Pond which needs replacing. The original one was purchased from The Biddenham Show profits in 2006. Jane Knight is the Biddenham Show Treasurer. A new bench will cost in the region of £300/400.

It was resolved that the Parish Council could purchase a replacement bench and put a plaque on it in remembrance of Alison Southern. B Cllr Gambold and Cllr Chase will take this further. *Action: PC/JG*

No-one is able to use the bottle bank at Great Denham as it was damaged as it was being emptied recently. It has been tied up and fenced off for the time being.

Manor Hospital – a complaint had been received regarding the noisy machinery near the Village Pond. Cllr Chase will follow up to see what can be done. *Action: PC*

The last edition of The Loop was delivered either by email (200 copies) or by kind volunteers (100 hard copies). It was explained that at present it is not sure how to go forward. Subscriptions and advertising pay for the printing.

The Loop is on the website but is currently three months in arrears. More recent editions are to be uploaded. *Action: JW*

128. Date of next meeting:

10th June starting at 7.30pm – using the Zoom conference facility.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.