

BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on 20th April 2021 at 7.30pm using Zoom.us video conferencing.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Peter Chase (Chairman), Graham Bates, Chris Gee, Stewart Briggs, Harry Fowler, Francia Slade, Krzys Osuch, Alan Jacobs.

In attendance: Borough Councillors Roger Rigby and Jon Gambold, David Brough (Clerk), and four parishioners.

1 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Joe Warren (Vice Chairman).

2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None

3 **To approve the Minutes of the parish council meeting** held on 16th March 2021.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting as an accurate record.

4 **Public Open Session**

- Parishioner requested information on potential traffic issues on Gold Lane expected to be caused by the new development – the parish council have put forward a new road layout to both Highways and the developer and are pursuing this with the former.
- Parishioner raised the perceived poor state of the hedge alongside the new development on Gold Lane.
- To receive and discuss speed data from the Speed Indication Device (SID): Parishioner presented the speed data, which is available in full on request to the Clerk. 45% of vehicles are breaking the speed limit and top speeds in excess of 70mph.

5 **Correspondence (requiring council attention):**

- *Parishioner emailed in relation to alleged drug dealing off Darlow Drive.* Email circulated to councillors with a request to the parishioner to report this activity to the police.
- *Parishioner emailed in relation to planning application 21/00641/FUL.* Email circulated to councillors – planning application is on the agenda.

6 **Clerk's report on matters in progress**

Detailed Action Tracker available on request. Specific progress from this meeting:

- St Mary's Xmas tree and noticeboard: Cllrs Osuch and Rigby will research a suitable location for both items. Costs are to be added to the next agenda for approval.
- Removal of Main Road bus stop slabs: It was agreed that due to ownership of this land this was outside of the parish council's influence.
- Graffiti on underpass: Cllr Rigby to source painting equipment and then arrange for volunteers to carry this out.
- Manor Road verge parking issue: It was noted that Bidwells did not want to proceed with barriers to restrict parking on this verge, which the parish council accepted.
- Kings Corner bench: Clerk to seek costs for replacing the broken bench and to confirm with Biddenham Society that they approve of moving the plaque to the new bench.
- Conifer at The Paddock: It was confirmed that the parishioner who requested the cutting back of this tree contacts the landowner; this was deemed to be under private ownership.

7 Financial Matters:

- The following payments were approved:

| Date | Method | Payee/Payer | Description | Amount £ | VAT |
|------------|--------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|
| 25/03/2021 | DD | Bedford BC | Payroll - Mar 21 | -3808.3 | |
| 25/03/2021 | DD | Dial9 Comms | Mobile phone | -5.99 | 1.00 |
| 25/03/2021 | DD | TSO Host | Website hosting | -3.59 | 0.60 |
| 29/03/2021 | DD | Opus Energy | Pavilion Electricity | -102.87 | |
| 01/04/2021 | CR | Wingfield | Grass Cutting Contribution | 2000 | |
| 01/04/2021 | DD | Greenthumb | Greenthumb grass | -21.83 | |
| 13/04/2021 | CR | Bedford BC | Pavilion Grant (Confirming) | 8000 | |
| 15/04/2021 | CR | Bedford BC | Precept - 1st half | 23750 | |
| 19/04/2021 | BACS | Chris Horne | Grass cutting | -817.20 | 136.20 |
| 19/04/2021 | BACS | KTJ Services | Pavilion Descaling | -105.00 | |
| 19/04/2021 | BACS | Heritage Arb | Tree works | -2760.00 | 460 |
| 19/04/2021 | BACS | Interflora | Flowers/chocs | -77.00 | |
| 19/04/2021 | BACS | KTJ Services | Playground gate latch fix | -32.00 | |
| 19/04/2021 | BACS | Whites ES | Mower service | -160.08 | 26.68 |

- Update on the decision to select Red Shoes as the new payroll provider*
Clerk updated the council that the handover was complete
- Update on the decision to create a Unity Trust bank account*
Clerk updated the council that this application had been submitted

8 Grants

- To adopt a new Grants policy for the parish council – circulated to councillors*

Resolved to adopt the Grants policy. Clerk to place this on the council website.

9 Highways

- To review a proposal from Bedford BC Highways for a roundabout application on Bromham Road close to the junction with Day's Lane*

Resolved to comment with the following, and to request a meeting with Highways for Cllrs Fowler and Briggs:

- Council largely approved of the scheme, but with reservations over the cycle lane to the south of the roundabout; concern expressed as cyclists will merge back in with the traffic
- Noted that cyclists are already being directed to use the northern cycle path so the southern route seems disconnected – request to know the purpose of this cyclepath
- To consider the response from Bidwells in relation to a request for a low hedge to resolve the issue of verge parking on the junction of Manor Rd/Church End (March 2021 meeting)*

Noted that Bidwells do not wish for barriers to be placed on this land, in part due to underground utilities. Council agreed that this cannot be pursued further.

- To consider in further detail the parish council's application to Bedford BC for average speed cameras on Bromham Road.*

Resolved to request average speed cameras for Bromham Road based on the levels of speeding recorded by the SID device. Clerk to contact Highways requesting these and sharing the speed data.

10 Planning applications

- APPLICATION NO: 21/00788/FUL, PROPOSAL: New and replacement render, replacement weatherboarding, fascias, soffits and rainwater goods to main dwelling and garage. LOCATION : 32 Darlow Drive*

Resolved not to object.

- APPLICATION NO: 21/00641/FUL, PROPOSAL: Erection of a 2.5 storey detached dwelling with integral garage, external works and a front boundary wall with gates. LOCATION : Land Between 60 And 64 Bromham Road*

Resolved not to object: potential privacy issues are expected to be considered by Planning, and the proposal is not considered to be overbearing in nature due to similar-sized properties on the street.

- APPLICATION NO: 21/01032/ADV, PROPOSAL: Erection of 14 flagpoles with flags (already in place) LOCATION : Advertising Hoarding On The Roundabout At Bromham Road And Gold Lane*

Resolved not to object.

Noted:

- APPLICATION NO: 19/00973/MAF, PROPOSAL: Erection of Doctors Surgery (Class E(e)) and Nursing Home (Class C2), LOCATION : Land Off Bromham Road.
The application for the above proposed development is included in the Agenda for the next Planning Committee on 26.04.2021. The officer Recommendation is to Permit subject to a Planning Obligation.

11 Deep Spinney affordable housing

*To consider the response from Bedford BC Legal team outlining reasons why the removal of restrictions on owners of affordable housing on Deep Spinney buying 100% of their homes will not be supported.
Response available on request.*

Noted that Bedford BC Legal team's response did not allow any possibility of negotiation and that this could not be taken further.

12 Physical meetings

To consider the options for holding meetings when the legislation allowing remote meetings ends on 7th May 2021.

Extraordinary meeting proposed to be held on 4th May to adopt a Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk, allowing remote meetings to continue. **Edit:** It has since been decided that this meeting will not happen as there are items on the Annual meeting that cannot be delegated to the Clerk. Next meeting to be a physical meeting at the Pavilion on 18th May 2021 (Annual Parish Council meeting).

13 Borough Cllr Reports

Borough Councillor report circulated to councillors and is available on the parish council website.

14 Biddenham Pavilion

- *To note the Pavilion Manager report.* Detailed annual summary provided for the Annual Parish meeting previously – report available on request.
- *Update on internet access, a new door lock, defibrillator checks, booking site and new radiators.* Internet access is imminent following progress with BT. Defibrillator checks are now being carried out at the Pavilion and recorded. Quote has been received for a booking site – additional online payment capability has been requested to be added to the quote. Second/third quotes are being sought for new radiators following receipt of the first quote.
- *To consider creating a Pavilion committee to deal with urgent issues between meetings, and approve reimbursement of hirer deposits.*
Cllrs Briggs, Gee, and Bates (including Chairman) proposed for this committee – to be finalised at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.
- *To consider three quotes for cutting the hedge behind the cricket nets at the pavilion, as requested by the cricket club – quotes circulated to councillors.*
A one-off quote by JSS Gardening Services was accepted and will be carried out in September following the bird nesting season – Clerk to instruct.

15 Coronavirus update

To consider the parish council's response to support of parishioners during the pandemic.
No changes to be made to the current approach (Dedicated phone line and whatsapp group).

16 Any other business for future agendas (No actions can be taken on items not on the agenda)

None

17 Date of next meeting: 18th May 2021 (Annual Parish Council meeting) starting at 7.30pm – at the Pavilion