



Biddenham Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday, 18th April 2022 at 7.00pm upstairs at Biddenham Pavilion.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

This was a meeting hosted by the parish council on behalf of the residents of Biddenham.

1 Welcome from the Chairman – Stewart Briggs

Cllr Briggs welcomed the following councillors and parishioners to the meeting: Cllrs Peter Chase, Kzrys Osuch, Harry Fowler, Aaron Melvin and Karen Cotton.

2 To receive the Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 19th April 2022.

It was agreed that these minutes accurately reflected this meeting.

3 Biddenham Pavilion – Report from Deborah Slade (Pavilion Manager) read by the Clerk

The full report can be found in the appendix.

4 Biddenham Parish Council – Chairman’s Report – Stewart Briggs

The full report can be found in the appendix.

5 Any Other Group or Individual

A member of the Biddenham Conservation Group shared a number of updates, including:

- They had completed the replanting of the hedge on Bromham Road that had become sparse. More renovation is required.
- Wildflower/butterfly surveys are planned for the summer
- The group planted trees at the Cowslip Meadow that were provided by the Forest of Marston Vale
- Access to the Manor Road gate onto the footpaths has now been provided by Bidwells, allowing work to be carried out by the group
- Biddenham Turn/Bromham Road corner: the group would like to maintain this area, which the Clerk believes is the responsibility of the borough council. Clerk to approach the borough but will need to know what type of work is intended to be carried out.
- There was a small fire started at the village pond – to be monitored.

Biddenham Pavilion Annual Report April 2023

Yet another year has passed and the pavilion has seen lots of activities throughout.

Oakley Football club had another very successful season with no complaints from local residents – I think the one age group tactic works and I will invite them again next year. Biddenham Cricket starts their season at the end of this month and we wish them every success.

Our income for each year was :

2019/2020

(pre covid - 12 months)

Regular Hirings £12,370.00

Car Park £6,300.00

One Offs £3,294.00

Total £21,967.00

(£1,830.58 monthly average)

2020/2021

(4 months – covid year)

Regular Hirers £5,400.00

Car Park £2,325.00

Total £7,725.00

(£1,931.25 monthly average)

2021/2022

(post covid – 10 months)

Regular Hirers £11,703.00

Car Park £6,350.00

One Offs £4,065.00

Total £21,118.00

(£2,111.80 monthly average)

2022/2023

(12 months)

Regular Hirers £18,589.50

Car Park £6,325.00

One Offs £3,045.00

Total £27,959.50

(£2,329.95 monthly average)

We are currently on target to get an income of £29,000 for the year April 2023 – March 2024, this excludes potential income for August 23 – March 24 for one offs as we currently do not have any bookings for this period. Therefore, I would hope that our average income for 2023/2024 would be £2,800 per month which is slightly higher up to last year.

Our income has been increasing and we are now earning £6,000 more than we did pre covid, this is a £2,000 per year increase. Hopefully our costs are going down e.g. staff/heating so the pavilion should be paying its way and making a nice profit. However I am aware that there are some big costs coming in e.g. the roof repair.

Maintenance

Work carried out:

- Doors Closers for internal doors – October 2022
- Shrubs annual trim - October 2022
- Hall/Lobby repainted – November 2022
- Tado Automated Heating Controls Installed – December 2022
- CCTV Installed – December 2022

Work awaiting to be completed:

- New sign to be added to the gate stating 'gate locked when pavilion not in use' – approved
- Change of lighting to be more energy efficient and automated – quotes given – awaiting approval
- Awaiting a new Thermostat to be fitted to hot water tank together with a timer – currently the hot water is not on as it cannot be controlled by the timer unit – awaiting electrician.

You may or may not have noticed that the lobby has now been converted into a 'reception area'. The coat stands have been reformatted to create a small reception desk as we found that hirers were using a table/chair in the lobby area – hopefully this has been helpful.

The new Automated Tado Heating controls are working well, I can be more specific as to when the heating comes on for users as this can be changed remotely. Hopefully this will show in the heating bills going forward. Plus entering the warmer weather there may now be such a need for it.

We are having slight problems with the CCTV whereby we lose remote connection on a regular basis (every 2 weeks). This does not affect the working of the CCTV just the remote connection – this entails a manual 'reboot' of the system each time it happens. The engineer is due to visit the pavilion for a second time on Tuesday 18th April and I await the report.

The solar panel quotation has been agreed and I attach the quote for the new roof felt which will need replacing prior to the solar panels being fitted.

Weekly Defibrillator checks are being carried out regularly using the online system by our caretaker Kate Horton along with the other weekly fire alarm and lighting checks. Our cleaner is carrying on with her duties as required.

Although brief I hope this has been an informative report.

Thank you 😊

Biddenham Parish Council – Chairman’s Annual Report

Good evening to all and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

This is my second report as Chair of Biddenham Parish Council. It has been a great honour to preside as Chair.

Parish Councils are a third tier of local government and as such I believe we are closest to our community. We always try to ensure our decisions are the right ones, on balance, for our community. I believe the Parish Council has been an effective voice for residents. We listen and pay attention to the needs of our community and seek to add our voice to help to resolve problems. This may, on occasion, appear to be non-action and progression may, at times, prove to be slow. Usually this is because the resolution of the problem lies with a third party – commonly this is the Borough Council.

Reflecting on the year past has recorded some significant events. The War between Russia and Ukraine was prominent in our minds in 2022/23 and we recognised this by flying the Ukrainian flag as a show of support, notwithstanding the appalling behaviour of an unnamed parishioner(s) to steal the flag, which was quickly replaced by the Council.

It was with great sadness Biddenham Parish Council heard of the demise of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022; the Council and its parishioners were united in their grief.

The Parish Council was also truly grieved to hear of the loss of Parish Councillor Graham Bates. We lost a much-valued member of our Council and have planted a tree in Kings Corner to recognise his service to the Parish.

In looking back the Parish has been actively involved in working to resolve issues raised with it by our residents. These include

- Traffic problems with the Gold Lane development during the last year.
- Enduring a summer of disruption as the new roundabout on Bromham Road was built; with the Parish receiving many reports of excessive speeding on Main Road and Biddenham Turn, large vehicles ignoring the diversion routes, the inadequacy of the signing erected and the increased rat running through the village. We successfully persuaded the police to attend and do multiple speed checks during the roadworks period.
- A further 27 trees were planted following consultation with residents in addition to the 40 trees planted last year as part of Trees for Streets initiative.
- 20mph speed limit in Deep Spinney was introduced by the Borough Council following pressure from the Parish Council.
- Grants of nearly £3,000 were made to local Groups and organisations.
- A further speed indicator device was purchased and installed in Gold Lane.

- Improvements were made to the to the Pavilion with new CCTV provided, upgrades to the heating, a new commercial oven installed, an induction loop provided and a new website with online booking system introduced.
- Money has been put aside to develop further the Biddenham Heritage trail.

Another significant piece of work by the Parish has been the development of a policy for allocating the additional funding coming to the Parish (via the Community Infrastructure Levy as a result of new developments in the Parish). The additional funds are a significant sum in terms of the Parish budget and it is important we spend it on projects that benefit the community. This remains a work in progress and will feature in this coming year's deliberations!

As this is the last Annual meeting before the local elections, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for all their efforts during their term of office. I also want to recognise the work and support provided to the Parish Council by David Brough, Parish Clerk, who has ensured all the aspects of running the Council were completed accurately, on time and despite many pressures maintained a professional and cheerful outlook to all. Thanks also go to Deborah Slade and her team who look after all the facilities at the Pavilion.

The next municipal year will see several Councillors stepping down and it would be remiss of me not to personally thank Krzys Osuch, Karen Cotton and Irina Madan-Sau for their input, help and attendance! I hope they all got as much from being involved as we did from their involvement.

Finally, as we move to a one Councillor Ward it is only right to thank our Councillors, Roger Rigby and Jon Gambold, for their support over the year. Roger Rigby is leaving the area so a particular thank you to him for his sterling support over many years. His effectiveness at getting things done by the Borough will be missed.

Thank you

Stewart Briggs
April 2023