

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at the Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham

Present: Cllrs Graham Bates (Chairman), Bryan Norris, Peter Chase, Anna Crowther, John Esam, Jon Gambold, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt, Francia Slade, and the Clerk were in attendance. In addition there were 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Bates declared an interest in item 8 Planning item relating to the Ouse Valley Golf Club site due to the close proximity of his son's property to the proposed roundabout on Bromham Road

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 11th February 2015

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

None

5. Public Open Session

Sports provision in new development

The new development at the top of the Deep Spinney roundabout has provision for several adult and junior football pitches. What evidence is there that these will be available and of benefit to the residents in Biddenham when what is really needed are more tennis courts?

The Chairman responded that the Borough has outlined a need for more playing field facilities and it will be the Borough who will manage these facilities not the parish council. However, if the tennis club wishes to write to the planning department to put in a request for more tennis courts they can do so although any new courts would again be run by the Borough and not become the responsibility of the Biddenham Tennis Club.

Road Markings/Parking Problems in Deep Spinney

The white triangles have faded away along Deep Spinney. In addition between no 55-83 Deep Spinney there are 5 speed humps which need repainting.

JG

Car parking outside the Only You beauty salon is causing an obstruction to passing motorists – is there anything that can be done about this?

The Chairman responded this has been a longstanding problem and the owner of the salon does pay a small monthly sum for her clients to park at the Pavilion and to try to dissuade clients from parking along Deep Spinney when the salon's car park is full. However, not all clients choose to use this facility, there are no restrictions on parking on this section of the highway and it is a matter for the Borough Highways department to look into.

JG

Observer Close Plaque

Had the clerk heard from the resident in Observer Close yet? The clerk responded that she had not.

The wooden bus shelter could do with a coat of wood preserver – can the parish council arrange for this to be done?

Clerk

Ivy outside St James's School on Main Road

Please can the council write to the school to ask for all the ivy to be removed from this section of stone wall? Unless it is all removed (as in previous years) it will start to

damage the wall and this will become impossible to remove.

Clerk

6. To receive a report regarding arrangements for the local elections in May 2015

The Clerk had circulated information relating to the process of nominations for parish councillors. Members were advised if they wished to have their forms checked by a member of staff from Election services they would need to phone to make an appointment. Nomination forms would be accepted between 16th March and 9th April. If more than 9 nominations are received then this would be contested election and members of the parish would need to vote for its councillors. If anyone needed the electoral roll number for their proposer and seconder they could contact the Clerk, the Chair or the Borough Council. Nomination packs and guidance notes were distributed to all members of the council.

7. Planning – to note the report and comment on any new applications

The report was noted

15/00397 Ouse Valley Golf Club development of new roundabout on Bromham Road - would the new roundabout be too close to the new junction proposed as part of the planning application for the Harpur Trust land? The Golf Club site had already been granted outline planning permission in 2001 and this new proposal was to alter the access onto the Bromham Road from a T-junction to a roundabout. Some members felt that a roundabout might add to the problem with rat running through Biddenham allowing motorists to turn left out of Biddenham Turn drive around the roundabout and still beat the waiting motorists on Bromham Road heading into town. After much consideration **it was resolved** not to object to this application.

15/00398/REM – **it was resolved** to make no comments on this application as outline planning permission had already been granted and the link road would provide an additional exit from the development as an alternative to the Bromham Road exit.

Gypsy & Traveller site at Bromham Nurseries had been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. However, the appeal regarding the Gypsy & Traveller Site at Bletsoe was still ongoing.

8. Financial Matters

- (i) Accounts for approval – **it was resolved to approve the accounts for payment** as below:

Clerk

Ch	Payee	£	Description
BACS	G Lawrence	1200.00	Tree works at Pavilion and Play Area for 2014
BACS	EoN	14.63	Christmas Tree electricity (S137)
BACS	Smiths Fire LLP	168.00	Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting inspection
BACS	Beds Fire & Rescue	100.00	Defibrillator training
BACS	Viking	71.88	H&S posters, signs and stationery
BACS	Viking	11.99	Stationery
	TOTAL	1566.50	

Accounts approved

- (ii) Monthly spend against budget including current bank balances held – the report was noted. One member asked whether the current level of reserves was too much. The clerk responded that councils are permitted to hold up to 1.5 x the Precept level in reserves and the current levels were well within

permitted threshold. In addition the council had already agreed at its budget meeting to use £5K of undesignated reserves towards the new toddler play area and £2K towards earmarked reserves for the Pavilion for future repairs and redecorating costs in 2016-17. There were no other questions arising from the report.

(iii) To approve the revised Asset Register

The asset register had been amended to reflect the disposal of 2 lawnmowers and the old village sign and the purchase of 1 new lawnmower.

Clerk

9. **To note the Clerk’s report and consider any matters arising**

The report was noted.

10 **Matters in Progress**

Flooding outside St James’s school – Cllr Gambold would contact Highways again

JG

Planting scheme on the roundabout at Deep Spinney – the Clerk had written to Highways and asked to be consulted regarding the planting scheme for the new roundabout. Members did not want the new roundabout to be a concrete structure like the old roundabout but a landscaped scheme. Members also discussed the possibility of planting on the grass verges but resolved to leave this until the roundabout was complete and then seek permission for the parish council to plant spring flowers of their own choice.

Trees on Kings Corner – these had been cut back and this item would be removed from matters in progress. The Clerk would contact the Borough to see whether a survey of the trees did take place.

Clerk

Flooding outside no 4 Main Road – Anglian Water had located a leak in the middle of the road and had been in touch with Highways. The owner of no 4 Main Road and the Borough Highways department are in discussions regarding filling in and piping the ditch outside no 4 Main Road. Cllrs Rigby and Gambold offered to raise this matter with the Borough Highways team to see if there was a way forward.

JG/RR

Speeding

At the February parish meeting members asked at what speeds were motorists travelling at if over 30mph. Cllr Norris provided the following breakdown:

Location/Speed	No of motorists
Biddenham Turn	
30-35mph	1175
40-45	342
45-50	78
50-55	22
55-60	10
60-65	2
65-70	2
Main Road	
35-40	568
40-45	100
45-50	22
50-55	7

Cllr Chase had provided a detailed breakdown of the data presented for Main Road and Biddenham Turn and what the 85th quartile actually represented. Members thanked Cllr Chase for his work on producing this information and were satisfied they now understood what the data meant.

Cllr Norris asked if the local schools applied directly to the Borough for a 20mph zone outside the schools would the council support this. Members responded they did not know at the moment as they were still awaiting the results of the remaining 3 speed surveys. Once this data had been received then members would analyse these to understand what the problems are in the parish i.e. speeding, rat running, road safety outside schools etc.

It was noted that the SLOW road markings on Gold Lane had virtually worn out and could this be repainted? Cllr Gambold offered to speak with Highways.

JG

11 **Parish Concerns**

Did we know when the SSSI board would be completed? The clerk responded that she had contacted the Beds Wildlife Trust several times regarding this but they had not responded. In addition they had not provided the council with a management report as per the conditions of the agreement and the council would not make its £500 contribution to the trust until this is completed.

12 **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 8th April 2015

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Approved by Chairman 8th April 2015