

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

Present: Cllrs Norris (Vice Chairman), 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**

Cllr Graham Bates and Cllr Roger Rigby - the apologies were accepted

2. **Declarations of interest**

None

3. **To approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 7th January 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**

Increased traffic in the rush hour going though the village – this was probably due to the road works but the parish council should be aware of this.

John Esam joined the meeting

Thanks to the Borough Councillors for getting the footpath extended at either side of Day's Lane on the Bromham Road.

St James's school – ivy on the wall is now encroaching onto the pavement – could the parish council write to the school to ask for it to be cleared?

Clerk

Hampden Court no through road sign was faded and not legible. It is not known if this road is adopted by Highways but if it is could a replacement sign be installed?

J Gambold

6. **Correspondence**

The Parish Council had received a request to provide a link from the parish council website to the Biddenham Village Diary. The diary has been set up by a local resident to co-ordinate activities taking place within Biddenham. **It was resolved** to grant permission for the link to be added to the parish website with an advisory note that the parish council do not maintain the calendar and are not responsible for its content.

Clerk

7. **Speeding to consider:**

- i) the results of the recent speed survey (presented at the January 2015 meeting)

Members debated the findings of the recent speed survey and the following points were raised:

What exactly does the parish council think the problem is – is it rat running, excessive speeding, accidents/hot spots or non compliance with speed limit near the schools?

The survey indicates there is a proportion of people travelling too fast. What can the parish council do to achieve lower speed limits? When will the remaining speed surveys be carried out?

If the speed limit were lowered to 20mph would this have an impact given that drivers are not complying with the current 30mph limit?

If the speed limit were reduced to 20mph surely this would have a negligible effect on residents' journey times so why not support an initiative to do this?

What exactly does the 85th percentile represent and how is this obtained?

The parish council had received a letter from one of the school governors at St James's School. The school was concerned about motorists failing to slow down

outside the school and would support any proposal to lower the speed limit outside the school. In addition the governor had written to the Headteachers at St Gregory's Middle School and Biddenham Upper who also voiced concern regarding excessive speeding outside their schools and would support an initiative to reduce the speed limit to 20mph outside the schools.

From the survey results based over 1 week, the following data was produced:

Biddenham Turn survey site – total no of motorists 11,103 of which 4,338 were exceeding the speed limit (39%)

St James's school site – total number of motorists 11,716 of which 2,805 were exceeding the speed limit (24%).

Members asked what the actual speed was for these motorists; if it is only 31 or 32 miles per hour then this is less than the 5% threshold over the existing speed limit.

Members all had different viewpoints regarding the data and therefore **it was resolved to:**

Understand the first set of data (Cllr Chase offered to review the data)

The Clerk would ask for confirmation from the Borough regarding the 85th percentile, what this actually means and how it is obtained. The meeting was told that this is the criterion that Bedford Borough uses to establish if anything needs to be done.

Wait for the second set of data from other surveys throughout the parish (Gold Lane, Deep Spinney and Church End)

Define what the problems are once these surveys have been discussed

Look at the solutions offered by the Borough to establish if any of the proposals are suitable for Biddenham

All members voted in support of this proposal with 1 objection from Cllr Norris

Since the above proposal had been agreed the second part of this agenda item would be discussed in the future. This item would now be added to matters in progress until the surveys have been completed.

8. **Local Green Spaces – to consider and approve the draft submissions to Bedford Borough Council for Local Green Spaces status**

Members were asked to support the applications prepared for the parish council by Cllr Gambold and residents from Church End. These related to 7 parcels of land which are important local green spaces within the parish. Unfortunately not all members had received the applications prior to the meeting and it was resolved to email all members all the applications and members would respond to the Clerk by Monday 16th February. The Clerk would write to the landowners to inform them the parish council was submitting an application to the Borough.

P Chase

Clerk

Clerk

ALL

Clerk

9. **Planning**

The report was noted.

Land north of Bromham Road design guide – no comments were made regarding this

14/02814/MAR – **it was resolved** to write to the Borough regarding the lack of parking provision for visitors using the playing fields and pavilion building. The planned provision of only 20 spaces plus 2 coach spaces would be inadequate and councillors were concerned about the inevitable parking overspill within the new housing development. In addition the design of the community building was, in the opinion of the parish council, of poor quality and uninspiring and members felt the building's appearance could be improved.

14/02980/MAR – members discussed the proposed traffic scheme associated with this development. Cllr Gambold informed the meeting that a staggered junction with traffic lights would be necessary to allow safe entrance and exit to the new school from the Bromham Road. At the current time this would be the only route into the school.

Members also asked Cllr Gambold if he would provide an update regarding the Deep Spinney/Gold Lane roundabout. One member queried whether there would be a Doctors Surgery near the roundabout? Cllrs Rigby and Gambold had met with Breheny contractors and have requested a no right turn for lorries entering the site off the Bromham Road. Instead lorry drivers should drive up and round the roundabout by the Frank Branston way and then turn left into the site. At the end of March (a confirmed date has not been agreed yet) it would be necessary to close the roundabout at Deep Spinney/Gold Lane and introduce a 3 way traffic light system. This is to enable the contractors to remove the old roundabout and it is hoped the work will be carried out over one weekend. In addition the road between the Branston Way roundabout and Deep Spinney/Gold Lane roundabout would be closed for one weekend to enable resurfacing of the carriageway. Traffic would be diverted onto the Bromham Bridge to gain access to the A428/A6 heading North. If the Bromham Bridge was going to be used as the diversion route then perhaps traffic lights would be required to prevent two lorries attempting to cross the bridge at the same time and becoming stuck? Cllr Gambold offered to raise with Highways and Breheny.

How will members of the public be told about these road closures? Cllrs Rigby and Gambold are awaiting confirmed dates from Breheny then they will ensure every household receives a leaflet containing road closure information and also useful website links so they can stay informed. There would also be a Public Meeting.

Clerk

J Gambold

J Gambold

R Rigby

10. **Financial Matters**

- (i) Accounts for approval – **it was resolved to approve the accounts for payment** and members noted the payments that had been made since the date of the last meeting paid by BACS as below:

Ch	Payee	£	Description
BACS	R T Machinery Ltd	5080.52	Replacement lawnmower
BACS	Red N Security	65.00	Repair to key code lock for Pavilion
BACS	DCS Ltd	480.00	Legionnaires risk assessment report
BACS	Gary Creek Ltd	885.60	Supply and fit new gate post at the

			Pavilion including new stay to gate
	TOTAL	6511.12	

Accounts approved

	Payee	£	Description
BACS	Gary Creek Ltd	900.00	Erection and dismantling of Christmas tree including hire of cherry picker
BACS	F C Horner & Son	216.00	Haulage of Christmas tree
BACS	Smiths Fire LLP	58.20	Fire Extinguisher service
BACS	Smiths Fire LLP	144.00	Replacement fire extinguishers
BACS	Evans Electrical	226.90	Repairs and lighting at Pavilion
BACS	Evans Electrical	200.00	Christmas tree lighting x 2 visits
BACS	SLCC	149.00	SLCC clerks membership
BACS	A Southern	87.78	Expenses, mileage, car parking charges, pavilion cleaning materials and Norton Anti Virus fee for Clerk's PC
BACS	Viking Direct	138.95	Stationery, cleaning materials for Pavilion
BACS	Viking Direct	19.90	2 x H&S signs for Pavilion
BACS	T Horton	55.00	Quarterly descale of showers at Pavilion
BACS	H Stebbing	120.00	2 nd colour drawings for village sign
	Total	2315.73	

Clerk

(ii) Monthly spend against budget including current bank balances held – the report was noted.

11. To note the Clerk's report and consider any matters arising

The report was noted and the clerk was asked to chase Harry Stebbing for a delivery date for the new village sign

Clerk

12. Matters in Progress

The report was noted.

The Clerk would chase the Borough regarding the replacement bus timetable for the wooden bus shelter on Main Road. In addition the Pavilion cleaner would be asked to clean the inside of the bus shelter.

Clerk

The Oak Trees on Main Road had been cut back but the parish council were still unaware of the results of the tree survey and this would be chased again with the Borough

Clerk

Flooding outside no 4 Main Road remained a problem – Cllr Norris reported that the owner was already in discussion with the Highways Dept regarding this matter

Flooding on footpath near to St James's School – Cllr Gambold to chase

J Gambold

Had the parish council received any suggestions regarding street names for the new development off the Deep Spinney/Gold Lane roundabout? The clerk confirmed none had been received and one of the councillors suggested "St James" might be a good name for this area of Biddenham. Members asked the Clerk to contact St James's PCC to seek their views prior to contacting the Borough with this suggestion.

13. **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 11th March 2015

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Approved by Chairman 11 March 2015

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