



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

This month's **Parish Council Meeting** was held on Wednesday 10th June 2015 in the upstairs meeting room of the Pavilion. Councillors Peter Chase (Chairman), Graham Bates, Jon Gambold, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt and Francia Slade were present; a number of members of the public attended together with the Clerk to the Parish Council, Alison Southern. Councillor Anna Crowther sent her apologies.

COUNCILLORS

The matter of who would act as the Council's chairman going forward was first on the agenda. Having considered the matter myself over the last month, I said I'd be happy to continue in the post (having acted as chairman at the last meeting) and this was agreed upon. I will try to do a good job!

In last month's update I made a plea for any villagers, especially if they lived in Deep Spinney, to consider joining the council. Two posts remained unfilled after the elections on May 7th. I was therefore delighted that Alan Jacobs, who is indeed a resident of Deep Spinney, got in touch. Alan duly came along to the meeting and was officially co-opted onto the council.

There being still one vacancy, if anyone else would like to join the Council please do get in touch with me or Alison.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – DEEP SPINNEY ROUNDABOUT FENCING

More members of the public attended this month than last, and it soon became apparent why – the new fencing at the enlarged Deep Spinney roundabout.

For anyone who has yet to see this (and how could you miss it?), Breheny have erected a two-and-a-half metre high fence, 72 metres long, on the north-east quadrant of the roundabout. There is also a much longer one of the same height on the north-west quadrant, descending away into the distance to the next roundabout. Of the two, the one that is most visually intrusive is the shorter one, as it is "in your face" as you drive around the roundabout towards town. I commented last month that this roundabout is the first impression many get of our village as they arrive from the west, and how important it is that it be a *good* first impression. I am absolutely at one with those members of the public attending, who consider it visually repugnant, and a shockingly bad addition to what had – up until now – looked to be a reasonably well landscaped junction.

Our resident Borough Councillors, Jon and Roger, were quick to assure us that they had already started conversations with the powers that be. It was unclear at the meeting whether the fencing was part of the Borough's agreed plans or something decided upon purely by Breheny. I was actioned to write a letter to the appropriate Borough Council officers, on behalf of the Parish Council and all residents, to add our voice to those representations already made by others. This was duly received the following morning, and a reply made which assured us that our concerns were noted and that a review was to be carried out. We are as yet unsure how long this review will take, but will keep you posted.

VILLAGE TRAFFIC

For some time we have been pondering the matter of traffic issues in the village, be that speeding, dangerous passing places or pedestrian hazards. Between the last meeting and this we had a special meeting to discuss solely this matter. From this it was agreed we should try to do something about the speed of traffic in both Gold Lane and Biddenham Turn. Options are now being considered, but we are not persuaded that a 20mph speed limit is the answer.

VILLAGE SIGN

The new village sign is now nearly finished, and we are turning our attention to its installation. It's been proposed that we build a stone base around the sign's post to match the Millennium sundial on the other side of the road. Alison, our Clerk, is working on this.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 8th July 2015 in the upstairs room of The Pavilion at 7.30pm**, all are welcome. Questions from the public will be taken at 7.30pm and the rest of the meeting will follow at 7.45pm.

Peter Chase, Chairman