**Minutes of the Meeting of Biddenham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th November 2018 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.**

**Present: Cllrs P Chase – Chairman, G Bates*,* J Gambold*,* C Gee,A Jacobs*,* T Platt*,* F Slade**, **J Warren** **and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 9 member of the public.**

**In attendance: B Cllr R Rigby*.***

70. **Apologies for Absence:**

 Apologies were received from: Cllr K Osuch

71. **Declarations of Interest**:

 No declarations were made.

72. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2018:**

 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th October 2018 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

73. **Public Open Session**:

How long should Tommy be in position, maybe as long as the wreaths are in place. Cllr Bates said that the War Memorial Trust recommends the Parish Council should decide when the wreaths should be removed. After discussion it was agreed to remove the wreaths and Tommy at Easter. Matt Haggar of Heritage Drives is going to build a concrete under base to bolt Tommy onto.

The memorial stone needs cleaning as it is getting shabby & mossy. Get it done before the anniversary in May 2022. It was noted that care must be taken as the stone is quite soft. Maybe clean it at Easter when the wreaths are taken away and Tommy stored. Gary Creek did it last time.

Footpath 4: the gates/fencing by the pony paddocks are all broken away. This is at Biddenham Turn/Bromham Road. Wingfield Estate own the land so ask them to effect repairs. (Jack Hawksworth is the agent). Cllr Chase will make contact. ***Action: PC***

Borough are to be asked if they will provide litter bins on the green by the bend on the road. (Opposite the post box and notice board) as lots of rubbish has been dumped. There is a bin by the bus stop. Cllr Gambold will enquire. ***Action: JG***

The meeting agenda’s and minutes once accepted need to be put on the website. The Clerk said she would like further help with this. ***Action: JW/LL***

Recently there have been queues in the morning back up to Darlow Drive because traffic can’t get out of Biddenham Turn. Vehicles are often stopping inside the yellow boxes. Highways could paint the yellow line but the Police should be policing it. B Cllr Rigby agreed to follow this up. ***Action: RR***

The traffic lights are not synchronised properly on Biddenham Turn. B Cllr Rigby will raise this again. ***Action: RR***

74. **Planning**:

 ***To note and comment on any new applications***. Cllr Chase had circulated the planning list.

18/02589/Full: Lavender Lodge: The parish council are going to object. The tree officer is also unhappy with it. TPO’s have been applied for but not for all of the trees which will be affected. Trees will also be damaged if the new dwelling goes ahead. Also the proposed site is next to the war memorial which could be damaged by building. Cllr Chase agreed to draft the objection. The pc are installing a mature hedge instead of the fence which the home owner has agreed to upkeep. ***Action: PC***

18/02618/Full 24 Bromham Road: planning officer is visiting tomorrow. An Objection is over development of the site. Cllrs Gambold, Slade & Warren are the planning officers for this area.

***Pending decisions***: Refusal has been noted for the large planning application. Gold Lane junction/Deep Spinney is highly congested. If it comes to appeal, statistics need to be amended and Highways evidence needs refreshing.

Consultation re Local Plan timetable: 5th December executive and full council meetings are being held on the same day. Policies AD 22 & 23 may need re-instating. The parish objected to Policy 19.

75. **To discuss pavilion matters:**

Debs Slade would like to discuss various matters concerning the Pavilion.

The website is to be updated with a ‘plug in‘ system regarding booking forms and an update on availability of pavilion bookings is needed.

Security of cars in car park – maybe have some more lighting; Lots of discarded litter / paraphernalia; Undesirables park in the car park at times - Police are not doing their drive bys at present.

A variety of deterrent idea’s were discussed - Solar panels will give storage for lighting. It was suggested seeing what Bromham Parish Council use. It is not clear where the light switch to the 200 watt flood light is. It was suggested asking Dickie if it is wired up and if he can find a switch.

Mower repair: the latest bill will be £300 bill. Budget for mower repair has been agreed previously - £3,000 2017/18 - £2,048 has already spent out of £3,000. Cllr Chase will establish the facts. ***Action: PC***

After discussion it was agreed the Clerk would ask HSBC if we can have a second fob so that Debs Slade could log into the Current Account to enable her to check whether pavilion booking deposits have been received. ***Action: LL***

Patt testing and legionnaires disease testing is taking place next week.

Forum 31: stores a large cabinet in the pavilion which is in the way. It is now in the storeroom downstairs but it needs to be moved during the summer months. This is not a parish council matter. Cllr Bates declared an interest.

Cllr Chase thanked Debs for her hard work on what she is doing.

76. **Financial Matters:**

i)It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment. The salary situation has been double checked. Bedford Borough pay salaries on the PC’s behalf.

 ii) Spend against budget for the Parish Council and The Pavilion was accepted.

77. **Reports:**

 ***Clerks Report***:

1. When does the Borough operate their Precept Requests? The budget is set around Christmas and the Precept Request returned to Borough in January.

***Action: PC/LL***

1. I attended the Bedford Borough Partnership Meeting last night to network and to get to know a bit more about Bedford Borough. Cllr Bates reported on the presentations: Great Ouse way work will be starting and then stop whilst the bridge is completed then started again.
2. Regarding the 3 Lime trees on west end of Main Road which have TPO’s. I now have the relevant forms but as they are rather involved, I would appreciate some help in completing them please. Cllr Bates took the forms. ***Action: GB/LL***

***Borough Cllrs Report:***

***BB Cllr Rigby –*** spoke of budget changes which have happened in the past, and the impact of business rates. Budget will be published after Christmas. To be taken into consideration: there will be an election year next year.

 ***CB Cllr J Gambold***

**Government Budget:** The Chancellor presented the Government’s Budget to the House of Commons on the 29th October. The following announcements are of particular relevance to the Borough Council:

* Small retailers will benefit over the next 2 years from a 1/3 cut in their business rate bills.
* A £675m Future High Street Fund will be established. Councils will be encouraged to bid for funds to support urban regeneration.
* The Council is to receive £620k in the current year to assist with adult social care pressures. The Council will also receive a share of an additional £410m for adults’ and children’s social care next year.
* £20m has been committed to accelerate planning for the East West Rail link between Bedford and Cambridge.
* English councils will receive £420m this year to repair potholes.

**Urgent Treatment Centre**

Bedford Hospital’s new Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) opened its doors on the 1st October 2018. The UTC provides same-day appointments for minor illnesses over a 12 hour period, 7 days a week via referrals from A & E and the 111 phone service as a means of reducing pressure on the Hospital’s A & E function.

The UTC saw 250 patients in its first week. The Council’s Adult Services & Health Committee will review the performance of the facility in the coming months.

**Visitor Information Centre**

On the 17th October a new Visitor Information Centre opened at St Paul’s Church, Bedford. Opening initially on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 10.30am – 4pm, it has been established by volunteers wanting to promote the Borough a tourist destination.

**Covanta**

On the 10th – 11th October the High Court heard a Judicial Review of the decision of the Environment Agency to grant a permit to US firm Covanta to build a waste incineration plant at Stewartby. The case was brought by the campaign group Bedfordshire Against Covanta Incinerator. It was announced at the beginning of November that the case was dismissed, meaning the incinerator will, as it stands, go ahead.

**National Adoption Week**

The Council marked National Adoption Week in October by urging people who are interested in adopting a child in care to get in touch. The Council’s Adoption Team can provide more information via 01234 718718 or adoptionandfostering@bedford.gov.uk.

**Flu Vaccine**

The Council has issued a reminder to parents and guardians that 2 and 3 year olds are eligible to receive the flu vaccine to protect them in the colder months. Children aged 4 are also eligible if they were 3 years old on the 31st August 2018.

The Mayor wants the finance that is raised in speed camera. Fines go to central government. Council are allowed to site a camera but not receive the finance. Bedford Borough do keep bus lane fines.

Sports Centre is being left in a state and it could become a white elephant as it is not being used at the moment. Rugby, American footpath and soccer were amalgamated which hasn’t worked and it all disintegrated. The developers wanted it to be called Kingsfield and not Biddenham. But it has a Biddenham postcode, hence being called Biddenham. The Parish do not want it being given to them. It was agreed to leave it at the moment and see what ensues.

A possible Gypsies & Travellers site has been proposed at Bromham. There is currently an appeal to the Secretary of State.

78. **Matters in Progress:**

The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Traffic survey thought not to have been done. Cllr Gambold will follow this up.

 ***Action: JG***

All hedges round pavilion have been cut back but not the path.

Chris will take on the grasscrete.???

79. **Parish Concerns:**

 A street lighting column which has not been alight since it was installed is to be followed up with the Borough by Cllr Gambold. **Action: JG**

The ground on the roundabout on Bromham Road is in a terrible state. It needs weeding. Not agreed as to what action needs to be taken.

Boundary hedges to the bypass, who is responsible for cutting the grass etc? The splays are overgrown. Cllr Gambold agreed to follow this up. **Action: JG**

Alan raised the concerns about yellow lining Deep Spinney. Cllr Gambold will chase this up. ***Action: JG***

Cllr Osuch queried the list of planning sub-committee list. The split of 21 is due to Deep Spinney and the other groups have less. This is to be checked next April when sub-committees are discussed.

80. **Date of Next Meeting:**

 Wednesday 9th January 2019.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.