

Minutes of the Meeting of Biddenham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th February 2019 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, and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 12 members of the public.

In attendance: B Cllr R Rigby.

92. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllrs F Slade, K Osuch & J Warren.

93. Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations made.

94. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2019:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

95. Public Open Session:

1. *Query regarding responses to the Lavender Lodge planning application: the resident felt that there should be no reason why the PC should not reject the application the second time around. He felt it would destroy the village vista and impact badly on the middle of the village. It is such a beautiful village and we have little left.* The PC objection last time was very much on those grounds. The Borough objected on the grounds of light or lack of.

2. *Concern about the hedge which was removed outside Lavender Lodge / The War Memorial continues to be expressed.* The Chairman said that the PC had only asked for it to be tidied up, not ripped out and that he had sought the advice of statutory authorities and appropriately experienced experts on what should be re-planted. The landowner has offered to plant the hedge and look after it as he is the landowner. It was agreed the hedge should be replanted during March.

Earlier lifting of the crowns had to be done on the public side not on the private side, at the PC's request.

The Chairman's plan for planting a new hedge was accepted.

3. *In April 2018 the pathway in Main Road was going to be re-surfaced but hasn't been. Why was this?* The reason why this was not done in the school holiday was that the contractor delayed it so long it was too late and the school term began. The contractor said they said they were waiting for permission from the Borough to close Gold Lane which wasn't forthcoming. It had then been agreed to carry this out this summer but the money which was to be used for this may be needed to fight the planning application for 160 houses in Gold Lane. There are over 600 objections on the Borough website. Borough are still catching up with the backlog of objections so they are not all showing as yet.

4. *Would it be possible to list the War Memorial?* The Chairman asked why this might be necessary or what this would achieve.

5. *Concern was raised regarding the traffic lights at Biddenham Turn (narrow exit/sequence/change issues).* It was explained that Borough has now put in a dropped kerb which cyclists should follow. It was agreed it may be a good idea to include this information in The Loop. The Chairman will also ask about painting a cycle sign at this point.
Action: PC

6. *The verge in the vicinity of No 10 Biddenham Turn hasn't been repaired.* This is to be reported to Highways.
Action: LL

96. **Planning:**

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

New Applications

19/00051/Ful Lavender Lodge, 42 Main Road. This is a revised application. The previous PC objections will be re-iterated. We have had further representations from residents which should not be dismissed. B Cllr Gambold will call the application to Committee.
Action: PC

Sewage Pumping Station: It had been agreed to object to this application. Cllr Warren had written the letter of objection which the Clerk had forwarded to Borough.

Pending Applications

18/2677/Ful 12 Main Road. Cllr Gambold has called the application to Committee.

Country Park: The bridge may now be built in metal not wood.

Primary Care Building - new GP Surgery: A representative was going to attend this meeting but as he is on annual leave he offered to meet with Cllrs if required. It was agreed that Cllrs Bates, Jacobs and Platt should organise to meet Nicky Barnes and attend.
Action: GB, AJ & TP

A bottle bank is in the process of being installed at present. It was agreed to keep a eye on this, as the one installed at Great Denham was too large.

97. **Community Governance Review:**

Although it was agreed we do not want to change the size/shape of the village, in view of the new houses being built at present/due to sheer size, do we need to have more Councillors? It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive Philip Simpkins asking where we stand and the way forward. We would then be able to keep this in mind when looking at planning sub-committees at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.
Action: LL

98. **Financial Matters:**

i) **Accounts for payment:** After discussion these were accepted. The Clerk agreed to list all paid invoices since the last meeting.
Action: LL

ii) Spend against budget for the Parish Council and The Pavilion: The expected income up until the end of the year was explained. After discussion these were accepted.

All figures were accurate to the end of January.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has suggested if any parish wants their own PCSO they could finance one which would cost around £31,000 for 12 months. Although the parish might pay for a PCSO, if required they could be called to something more urgent. After discussion, for various reasons, it was agreed this could not be sustainable as we would not have control over keeping the PCSO if we were to finance one. The PCC is to be advised this will not be taken further. **Action: LL**

99. **Reports:**

Clerks Report:

Regarding the Pavilion being used as an emergency centre by Borough, Jessica Jeffery – Bedford Borough Emergency Planning Officer has confirmed that “Bedford Borough Council has equipment and resources that would be used at an Assistance Centre, however, if the Centre had a supply of cups, beakers etc we may ask to use these as we, along with other Local Authorities do not have a supply of these for emergencies as they are frequently available in village halls etc. Once our need for the premises is over, we endeavour to leave the village hall in the same condition as we found it in. However, in the unlikely event that damage had been incurred, claims supplemented with evidence can be passed onto the Resilience Team at the Council for remuneration as appropriate”. Borough are to be advised that the Parish Council agree to the Pavilion being added to the emergency use list. **Action: LL**

Borough Cllrs Report:

BB Cllr Rigby: Regarding rough sleepers, Borough Officers go out and talk to them and try to help where they can although some prefer to carry on as they are. There is also a local charity that helps too.

Single-way running on the Bromham Rd railway bridge will start in March, until mid April. It will be fully closed from June until early 2020.

New statistics have been found regarding the Bromham Road Bridge and the view is now to do nothing.

CB Cllr J Gambold: Although the number of rough sleepers had doubled the previous year, the Borough has now managed to halve the number. This is still not good but is better than it was.

Nothing further has been found out about the Sports Centre.

100. **Matters in Progress:**

The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Gold Lane speeding: Cllr Gambold had information regarding a permanent speed indicator device (SID). The cost would be in the region of £7,000 which is a lot of

money if it may not work successfully. Andy Prigmore came up with the comments after speaking to residents who had complained to the Mayor.

Lack of street lights and the site line issues are stopping installation of pinch points / chicanes etc. The situation is also complicated by side roads. People tend to drive out in the middle of the road for safety so it is not necessarily the speed they are driving at but the road positioning.

3 lime trees outside Biddenham House which need crown lifting: These are owned by Winfield but planted by the PC and the PC can do the work. New forms are required so Cllr Bates agreed to take this forward. *Action: GB*

101. **Parish Concerns:**

There has been a report regarding drug issues by the church barn in Church End. A car was damaged and the Police have made arrests.

Parking on Saturday mornings in the vicinity of the Pavilion is really bad with further complaints having been received.

102. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 13th March 2019.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.