

**Minutes of the Meeting of Biddenham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.**

**Present: Cllrs P Chase – Chairman, G Bates, J Gambold, C Gee, A Jacobs, K Osuch, T Platt, F Slade & J Warren and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 8 members of the public.**

**103. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from: B Cllr R Rigby.

**104. Declarations of Interest:**

No Declarations received.

**105. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019:**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

**106. Public Open Session:**

Southern end of Days Lane, gate to playing field is falling apart and needs repair. The Clerk will contact Gary Creek. *Action: LL*

There are two square of yellow paint on the footpath in front of the school but it is not known why they are there.

A branch has come down on Main Road / Gold Lane. A resident has agreed to clear it tomorrow for which he was thanked.

**107. Planning:**

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

B Cllr Gambold confirmed that the Planning Application for 160 houses to the west of Gold Lane is in the Local Plan. Two Planning Inspectors will review the plan at the end of May/June. Planning Policy 19 and 23 need to be contested. An experienced Planning Barrister could cost in the region of £200 per hour, so possible £4,000 cost. Do we need to find a barrister and obtain an approx. cost? Is the plan sound, we don't think so. How do we determine that there is a case? Straw poll of those residents present showed majority were in favour of spending the money.

This is a very important issue for the village. Do we need legal representation or not? It was suggested that sometimes a commoner gets heard better than a barrister.

It was suggested we pay to find out whether we have a case. The Budget of £4,000 to get this advice was set. A similar amount for representation was not approved at this stage. We will see what the advice given is first.

Instructing solicitor may be needed: Cllr Chase's wife can oblige. B Cllr Gambold agreed to take this forward. The proposal was agreed. *Action: JG*

108. **Financial Matters:**

i) Accounts for payment: After discussion these were accepted.

It was queried as to why are we paying Opus (Electricity) so often? The Clerk agreed to check this. (Npower is for the Christmas tree). *Action: LL*

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

All figures were accurate to the end of February.

Grasscutting – The Clerk agreed to enquire why the payment wasn't as much as last year. 2018 = £2,229, 2019 = £1,100.87. *Action: LL*

109. **Reports:**

***Clerks Report:***

The Clerk had attended a Clerk's drop-in session at Borough Hall recently regarding the forthcoming elections. She now has a number of Election Packs. These have to be completed by Cllrs and it is their responsibility to return them personally to Borough Hall so that they can be checked whilst you are there in case there are any errors to be amended. See item 114.

***Borough Cllrs Report:***

***BB Cllr Rigby:*** No report available.

***CB Cllr J Gambold:***

The road from The Black Cat Round about to Caxton Gibbet Roundabout is to be a dual carriageway and should be completed by 2021.

Unfortunately, due to the Bromham Road bridge rebuild, other improvements in town will not be completed until 2021.

110. **Dog Fouling – Deep Spinney:**

A complaint about dog fouling in Deep Spinney had been received. The Clerk subsequently asked for signage in the relevant area and has been advised that signage had already been erected so it was agreed to review this at a later date.

111. **Matters in Progress:**

The Gold Lane speeding issues are not on the bend before the junction. Andy Prigmore suggested cameras but no-one had seemed interested. No other ideas have been forthcoming. It was agreed to keep the item on Matters in Progress.

Regarding the entrance to the village – the group needs to have a further meeting.

Footpath along Main Road needs following up. Cllr Chase agreed to obtain up to date quotes.  
*Action: PC*

Tree crowning of three lime trees on Main Road needs to be carried out once we have received a response from Borough on the TPO. When we have the approval, we can advise Bidwells.

Lavender Lodge: A decision on the planning application should be known on Friday.

40 mph request on a section of Bromham Road – this needs to be followed up.

*Action: JG*

Cleaning the war memorial: A solution can be obtained to clean the moss etc from the memorial. Peter Culverwell will give what remains on a bottle of it to Cllr Chase. Gary Creek did this work last time so he is to be asked for a quote.

*Action: LL*

An invoice has been received for work carried out regarding SSSI but we haven't received an annual report on what they have done.

112. **Parish Concerns**

A traffic cone has appeared on the Bromham Road the end of Biddenham Turn (which is Wingfield Estate land).

Cllr Jacobs was going to follow up on the site for a GP practice at the Great Ouse Way but required Nicky Barnes contact details.

Cllr Bates had attended the recent Town & Parish Council network meeting.

113. **Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meeting. Including Chairman's Report and any presentations:**

The April meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.30pm and will be followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

Suggested speaks for the Annual Parish Meeting are: Cricket Club, Biddenham Society, Chris Jones, Debs Slade – Pavilion, Village Pond, Parish Council Chairman.

The May meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting and will begin at 7.30pm.

114. **Local Elections:**

The Clerk circulated Election Packs to all Cllrs.

Cllr Chase has been approached by two residents who may be interested in putting their names forward as candidates.

The latest date for forms to be received by Borough is 4pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April but earliest return would be appreciated.

Parish Council Election Recharges: Uncontested Election    £76.71

Contested Elections     £1,517

115.    **Date of Next Meeting:**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and will be followed by the April Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9pm.