

Minutes of the Biddenham Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs P Chase, G Bates, S Briggs, H Fowler, C Gee, A Jacobs and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 6 members of the public.

In attendance: BB Cllrs J Gambold & R Rigby.

1. Election of Chairman:

Cllr Chase was nominated by Cllr Bates. This was seconded by Cllr Jacobs with all in agreement. There being no further nominations, Cllr Chase accepted the position, signed the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance form and took the chair.

2. Declaration of Acceptance Forms:

All Cllrs completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

Following the uncontested election, there are 2 Parish Councillor Vacancies. It is known that Krzys Osuch and Joe Warren are happy to be co-opted. Alan Edmunds is happy to assist with planning as a non-Parish Cllr.

Cllr Chase proposed Krzys Osuch and Joe Warren be co-opted to fill the vacancies. All were in agreement. The Clerk is to send them declaration of interest forms and copies of the Code of Conduct. *Action: LL/KO/JW*

3. Apologies for Absence:

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

4. Declarations of Interest regarding items on the Agenda:

No Declarations made.

5. To allocate areas of responsibility within the Parish Council:

Election of Vice-Chairman: It was agreed to defer until the next Parish Council meeting, but that Cllr Chase would ask Cllr Warren if he was happy to continue.

Town & Parish Network Representative: Cllr Bates

Play Area Inspections (weekly visual inspections): Mrs Karen Chase

Street Furniture: Cllr Slade

Notice Boards (updated weekly): Cllrs Bates & Jacobs. Two on Bromham Road need allocating.

Website: Cllr Warren

Borough Highways Representative: Cllr Fowler

Planning Biddenham Turn etc: Cllrs Bates, Chase & Gee.

Planning Bromham Road (inc Bromham New Road): Cllrs Briggs, Slade & Warren.

Planning Deep Spinney: Cllrs Fowler, Jacobs & Osuch.

Planning Central Co-Ordinator: Cllr Bates

GDPR Controller: Cllr Warren.

Personnel Committee: Cllrs Chase, Gee & Briggs.

Informal Review of the Accounts: Cllr Gee or Osuch.

6. **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on**
10th April 2019: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th April 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.
24th April 2019: The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 24th April 2019 were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

7. **Public Open Session:**

Mr Bryan Glasper spoke about the Speed Camera trials. Impressed by the unit which was tested and its flexibility and need were appreciated. Everything was very positive. The unit was quoted as £2,500 approx +VAT. The preferred area is Hampden Court/Duck End Lane/Gold Lane area and the middle of the village if possible. The battery should last 3 to 4 weeks. It can be attached to a lamppost. Cllrs Bates & Jacobs were present and they were also impressed, and think the unit will make a useful impact.

Suggest getting just one and see how it goes. It need not advise of the speed but could advise of the blind corner coming up or show “slow down”. It was agreed to speak to Highways regarding installation and obtaining their permission. Would be good to have them mains operated to see how much they would be used and how long the battery does actually last. It was suggested we should ask if there is a solar panel available.

Biddenham Turn has two schools where the concern is speed, but Gold Lane is hazardous.

Investigate the solar option and purchasing just one unit with a view to maybe purchasing more in the future if it has proved successful. Single unit for southbound would be an advantage and maybe could move it round for both directions.

After discussion, it was proposed to buy one unit (battery operated). Mr Glasper will get the further quote to include or not the solar panel (£250 approx) then the Clerk will purchase. There would need to be a form of agreement to put unit on Borough owned property. It was agreed that Cllr Briggs should enquire in principle. Mr Glasper will obtain the quote and risk assessment.

Action: SB/B/LL

8. **Planning:**
To note and comment on any new applications.

Gold Lane Development:

WSP wrote an excellent report/response £2,000 allocated for cost.

B Cllr Gambold had had a conversation with the Borough Officer who said the Borough is still recommending the application to go through. B Cllr Gambold advised him that the PC may consider a judicial review. Road safety, trees, education etc are all to be raised. B Cllr Gambold will request a site visit to highlight road safety, trees and hedgerow etc.

Re the judicial review – Cllr Chase asked exactly what this covers and what we have to say. Borough appear to be making their decisions possibly unlawfully. It was wondered whether we should have a letter written by a solicitor – we need to couch the letter positively, but say we could go to judicial review. It was noted that this could cost in the region of £30,000 upwards. Cllr Chase agreed to write a letter to the Borough chief executive this evening. **Action: PC**

(It is known that the developers have gone to appeal on the earlier application for 250 houses).

Local Plan Planning Inquiry on 4th June - the whole day will be devoted to sites at Biddenham. It was noted that a Barrister could cross-examine. Cllr Chase and B Cllr Gambold will attend and put the parish's case.

9. **Financial Matters:**

i) To approve accounts for payment: The statement of expenses had been circulated.

ii) To note spend against budget for the Parish Council and the Pavilion. The statement had been circulated.

All figures were accurate to the end of April.

The annual insurance premium invoice has been received for £2,568,33.

10. **Reports:**

Clerks Report:

The full amount of the grasscutting contribution for last year has now been received from Borough.

Regarding possible reclamation of sickness pay paid to Alison Southern, the insurance company have said

“the cover provided by the policy is for the costs the PC incur to replace the Clerk (a key person), rather than her sick pay. Cover is provided up to £250 per week for these expenses, up to a maximum of £2,500. The excess of £250 is applicable to this claim”. In order to process the claim they need answers to some questions. After

discussion it was agreed this should be sorted out by Cllr Chase together with the Clerk.

Action PC/LL

A quote has been obtained from Metrosigns for replacement notice boards at the cost of £1,050.00 each. This quote includes the cabinet, d clips and removal of old cabinet and fitting of new. After discussion, it was agreed to go ahead and purchase 2 following agreement with Borough Highways (Andy Prigmore). These are to replace the 2 on Bromham Road. Cllr Osuch can advise the Clerk where they are to be erected.

Action: LL

A letter has been received from Oriel Services Limited on behalf of Mr & Mrs J Wilson regarding tree related subsidence damage to 26 Franklyn Gardens. It was agreed to refer them back to the Borough as the PC do not own any trees in that area.

Action: LL

A resident living adjacent to the recreation ground has complained about residents letting their dogs roam free on the grass. He understands that dogs should be on leads in this area. He is worried for children's safety and would like to see more signage and it adhered to. It was agreed to ask Borough to patrol the area occasionally and make sure the signage is in place. (Paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk).

Action: LL

Green Thumb rescheduled the Nutragreen treatment for 23rd April 2019.

Borough Cllrs Report:

BB Cllr Rigby: Following the elections, Mayor Hodgson has been re-elected and B. Cllrs Rigby and Gambold retained their seats.

A bid (£15m) has been submitted for the Prebend Street relief road.

Borough will have a consultation on Council Seats / boundaries and population will be looked at over the next 4 years.

Borough Councils website has been updated and should be improved.

B Cllr Gambold left the meeting.

11. Matters in Progress:

No response has yet been received regarding the governance review from Bedford Borough Chief Executive. Possibly wait until the Election process has been completed. See B Cllr Rigby's report above.

Deep Spinney Roundabout – as the money is being used for other issues, it was agreed to take this off the report. Do we still want to have any signs? We are using our money on other issues.

Andy Prigmore has assured increasing the 30 mph speed limit on Bromham Road to 40 mph is top of the to-do list. Cllr Rigby will check with Andy as to when this will be.

Action: RR

Biddenham Turn: queues to exit Biddenham Turn are still being made worse by people stopping in the yellow box at the traffic lights. B Cllr Rigby agreed to follow this up. *Action: RR*

It was agreed to invite the Police to a Parish Council meeting. *Action: PC*

Crime statistics were discussed and the Clerk will follow this up. *Action: LL*

Deep spinney double-yellow lines diagram approved and consultation is on the way.

Deep Spinney roundabout – B Cllr Rigby agreed to follow up the poor state of the upkeep on the roundabout *Action: RR*

12. **Parish Concerns**

Cllr Jacobs has received a response from Nicky Barnes regarding the new surgery. She would like to address the Parish Council at the June Meeting. This was agreed.

Action: AJ

Cllr Fowler said there are two leases relating to land the PC oversees in the village, one for the cricket club and one for the SSSI. He would like the leases to be checked and updated. It was agreed Cllr Fowler should take this further. *Action: HF*

Cllr Chase spoke about the wooden posts along Biddenham Turn. The owner of number 10 would like ones outside his property, and perhaps more should be erected to bridge the gap between the two schools. Andy Prigmore (Borough) is to be asked if this can be done, then we will obtain a quote to spruce up/make good what is there and purchase new ones. B Cllr Rigby has a contact who he will ask and come back to us. *Action: LL/RR*

13. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 12th June 2019 starting at 7.30pm.

Nicky Barnes will attend this meeting.

Nomination of Vice-Chairman.

Meeting closed at 10 pm.