

**Minutes of the Biddenham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham starting at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs P Chase – Chairman, G Bates, S Briggs, C Gee, H Fowler, A Jacobs, F Slade, J Warren and Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk). In addition there were 4 members of the public.

**In attendance:** Borough Cllrs J Gambold and R Rigby.

**68. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from: Cllr K Osuch.

**69. Declaration of Interest regarding items on the Agenda:**

No declarations received.

**70. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019:**

The Minutes of the Parish Council previous meeting were unanimously accepted and duly signed.

It was noted:

61 The Local Plan comes out tomorrow and will be discussed at the Borough Council meeting next Wednesday.

64 VE Day Celebration – Cllr Slade agreed to contact the Remembrance Day Bugler and invite him to perform. He will be offered the same rate as the Remembrance Day.

*Action: FS*

64 It was noted that this year's Christmas Tree was not as tall as normal. The Clerk agreed to query this with the supplier.

*Action: LL*

**71. Public Open Session:**

There are a lot of potholes on Bromham Road which Cllr Chase has reported to Highways. B Cllr Gambold will follow this up.

*Action: JG*

There is a lot of litter on Bromham Road and a lot of litter/graffiti in the underpass which B Cllr Rigby will report and follow up.

*Action: RR*

**72. To consider planning:**

The updated list which had been circulated was discussed.

Cllr Chase said that when checking planning on the Borough website, he often sees decisions although not all applications have appeared. Cllr Chase will collect evidence and share with B Cllrs.

*Action: PC/RR/JG*

It was noted that if the Parish Council is making objections to a planning application, Cllrs comments should be marked as an objection and sent to the Clerk who will send the objections to Borough in the required pdf form.

Thorpe Close Residents Assoc has written to the developers and others to ask about the possibility of a second access road, off Deep Spinney, into the 250 house development west of Gold Lane. They have said they will keep Cllr Chase updated.

B Cllr Rigby said that the application for the Doctors' Surgery and care home has been granted. The parking area for the care home is very small and doesn't appear to have enough spaces which will ultimately cause problems for residents.

There is no bus service as the 41 bus stops in Deep Spinney. B Cllrs Rigby and Gambold will start the process of trying to get the 41 to go further so that visitors don't necessarily need to drive.

18/03253/FUL: The Old Pumping Station application for a five-bed house has gone to appeal.

**73. To Agree Financial Matters:**

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

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

Query: We appear to have returned more deposits than we have received income. Cllr Chase will follow this up with the Pavilion Manager. **Action: PC**

iii) Budget and Precept for 2020/2021: Following discussions regarding the budget, it was **RESOLVED** to keep the Precept request the same as last year £43,000.

**74. Reports:**

**Clerks Report:** was circulated previously.

It had been agreed to purchase a Christmas Tree for the new housing estates on the opposite site of Bromham Road if the developers would agree to a site. They did finally agree but when asked if they could agree a site where an electricity supply would be available, they did not come back in time to order the tree.

The Clerk suggested that maybe we should get all agreements in place this time so that there should be no issues next Christmas. It was agreed we should take this further for Christmas 2020.

The Open Spaces Society is looking for donations toward their Open Spaces Society's Legal Fund appeal in connection with defending commons, green spaces and paths. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100. **Action: LL**

Bedford Borough is looking at their grass cutting contributions for 2020 and would like a copy of our plan so that they know if there are any extra areas. They are to be asked to consult their plans as we do not have any extra areas to add.

Hospice Care would like to organise a street collection with their Santa sleigh between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December, possibly in the Biddenham Turn/Deep Spinney area. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk will advise accordingly.

**Action: LL**

**Borough Cllrs Reports:**

**B Cllr Rigby:** Confirmed that there are a lot of residents living in St Mary's Gardens now and that B Cllrs speak to them regularly.

The speed activated sign on Bromham Road is being moved to a different site.

Executive Meeting preparing for budget.

Boundaries and The General Election were discussed.

**B Cllr Gambold:** Nothing further to add.

**75. Matters in Progress:**

Traffic Calming / SID interim report which had been circulated was discussed.

- North bound traffic appears to be more susceptible to speeding violations on Gold Lane. The unit will be turned round at the end of the month.
- Information from the SID is to be downloaded once a month and batteries changed on a regular basis.
- It will be interesting to see the results over the next few months. Perhaps another SID could be purchased later in the year.
  
- At the Watch Scheme meeting it was agreed that 3 sites could be used: Biddenham Turn outside 25, Main Road west near Lavender Cottage and Bromham Road outside Grange House - 3 reference numbers will be allocated. 2 further sites were rejected. Stringent rules in place. A number of recommendations were suggested. General permanent Speedwatch signs need to be marked up on a map to be submitted to borough. £400 total for all signs at the edges of the village.
- The Police hold regular priority-setting meetings which Parish Cllrs/Clerks can attend. The latest meeting was being held this evening at Police Headquarters. It was suggested that the relevant form be obtained and completed. The main issue being speeding vehicles. **Action: LL**
- It was also suggested that Borough be approached for statistics on Bromham Road (which were possibly 2 years old). Bryan Gasper would do this if thought relevant.
- It could also be useful to have a poster campaign where posters could be erected in schools, pub, noticeboards etc.
- Hi viz clothing has been obtained.
- The group will go out as soon as they have got dates sorted out.

Coffin Path: Cllr Chase still taking this forward.

40 mph on Bromham Road: We were advised that this would be number 1 on the list when money was available but we are still waiting. (Craig Austin / Andrew Prigmore). Cllr Chase agreed to write to Craig Austin cc to Andrew Prigmore.

**Action: PC**

Double yellow lines in Deep Spinney: the plans are still sitting with Andrew Prigmore.

It was agreed to invite Andrew Prigmore to the next Parish Council meeting so that all the items he is responsible for can be discussed.

**Action: LL**

**76. Parish Concerns:**

The Clerk had been experiencing issues with the Parish Council website which appear to have been corrected now.

Three Tuns Public House – it is understood that it is being run by a Company on a rolling lease.

David Fraser as the new Chair of St James School Board of Governors, has asked to meet Cllr Chase. A meeting has been set up for next week.

**Action: PC**

Greg Lawrence has been asked to carry out work to trees in Darlow Drive and Church End/Manor Close. (Boro contact is Graham Court).

A resident thanked Cllr Chase for the articles he writes in The Loop.

**77. Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.01pm.